

# ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018 TOWN of RIPTON, VERMONT

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Robert Frost Cabin. Photo Credit BE

**Town Meeting: March 4, 2019, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Election Day Voting: March 5, 2019, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Ripton Community House**

**Please bring this Report with you to Town Meeting**

Please bring this report with you to the

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**Monday, March 4, 2019**

**7:00 p.m. Ripton Community House**

**PRE-MEETING SUPPER**

**Soup and bread provided  
beginning at 6:00 p.m.**

**If you wish, bring a dessert to share.  
(finger foods only please)**

Call Barry King at 388-4082 for more information.

**Babysitting for children in pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade at  
Ripton Elementary School from 6:00 p.m. until the meeting ends**

Call the School at 388-2208 for more information.

**ELECTION DAY**

**Tuesday, March 5, 2019**

**7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Community House**

**Vote for town officers, school budgets, and other ballot items**

**VOTER INFORMATION**

If you are not registered to vote in Ripton, you may register at the Town Office or online at <http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>.

You may vote early or request an absentee ballot at the Town Office Mon 2-6, Tues/Thurs 9-1.

You may also request an absentee ballot at <http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us>.

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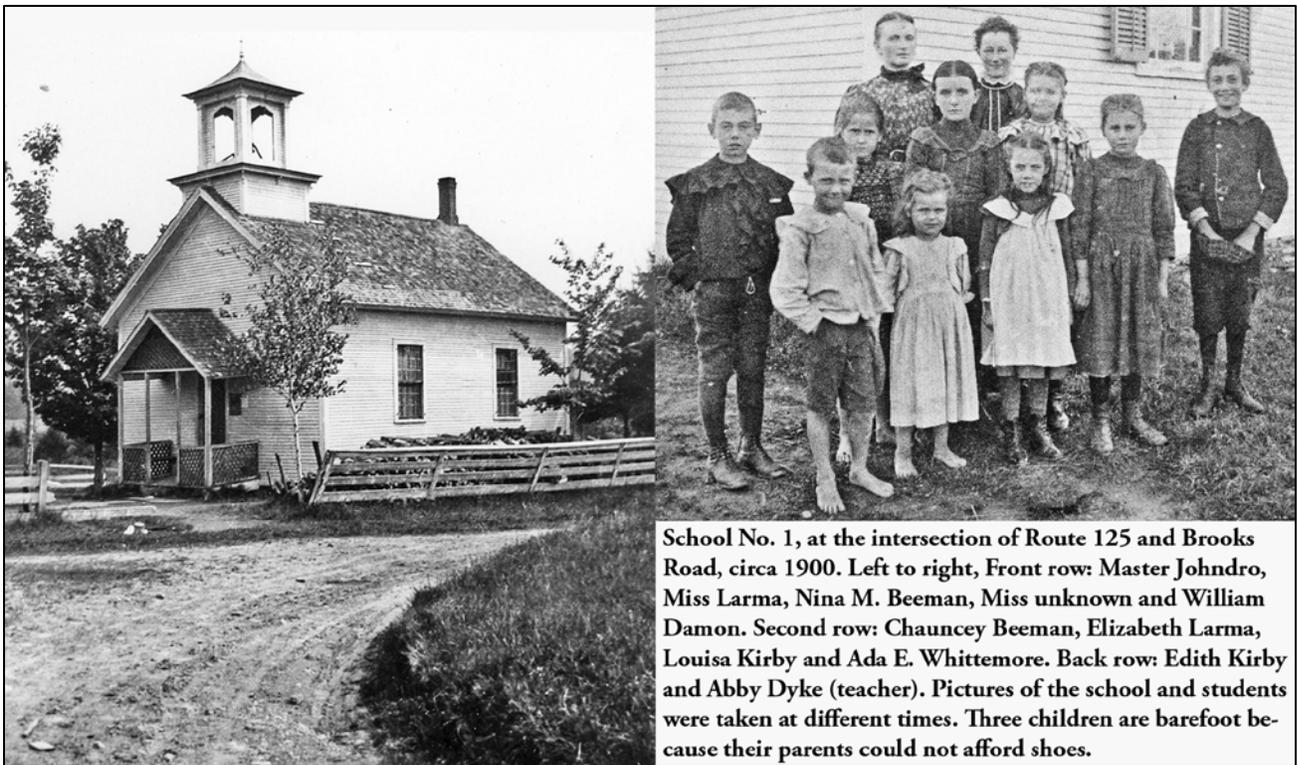


Photo courtesy of Charles Billings

# Warning - Town of Ripton Annual Meeting

March 4, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Ripton Community House

The legal voters of the Town of Ripton are warned to meet at the Ripton Community House, Monday, March 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. to transact the following business:

- Article 1:** Will the Town vote the sum of **\$650,270** to pay General Fund and Highway Fund expenses for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020, divided as follows:
- General Fund \$253,170                  Highway Fund \$397,100
- Article 2:** Will the Town vote to apply \$50,000 from the 2017-18 General Fund surplus to the Town Building Fund?
- Article 3:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$41,000 to the Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department to pay expenses for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020?
- Article 4:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$6,000 to the Ripton Cemetery Commission to pay expenses for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020?
- Article 5:** Will the Town vote to have current property taxes collected by the Treasurer with a tax due date of November 1, 2019, postmarks not accepted?
- Article 6:** Other Business
- A. Sand/salt shed project
  - B. Trash & Recycling
    - Locked shed
    - Additional drop-off hours
  - C. Ripton Elementary School & FORS
  - D. Any other business

**The Meeting will recess until 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2019**

**Polls in the Ripton Community House are open 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2019 to vote Article 7: Officers and Article 8: Funding Requests by Australian ballot.**

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

Laureen Cox, Chair  
Ripton Selectboard, January 28, 2019

Perry Hanson

Ronald Wimett

Article 7:

# Annual Town Meeting Ballot

MARCH 5, 2019

Instructions to voters: To vote for a person who is on the ballot, mark (X) in the square to the right of the name. To write-in a vote for a person who is not on the ballot, write the person's name on the blank line.

<p><b>Selector</b> for a 3-year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>Timothy Hanson-----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Giles Hoyler-----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>	<p><b>Constable</b> for a 1-year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>Tom Cabot-----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Perry Hanson-----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>
<p><b>Moderator</b> for a 1-year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>Molly Witters -----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>	<p><b>Cemetery Commissioner</b> for a 5-year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>Bonnie Swan -----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>
<p><b>Delinquent Tax Collector</b> for a 1-year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>Kathleen B. Sullivan-----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>	<p><b>Lister</b> for a 3-year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>Erik Eriksen-----<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>
<p><b>Town Agent</b> for a 1-year term Vote for no more than one</p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>	

**Article 8: Mark YES or NO with a check or X to approve or disapprove the following allocations from the General Fund, total \$23,816.00.**

<b>Requested by</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Addison Central Teens (ACT)	\$ 1,900.00		
Addison County Home Health and Hospice	\$ 750.00		
Addison County Parent/Child Center	\$ 600.00		
Addison County Restorative Justice Services	\$ 170.00		
Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative	\$ 400.00		
Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR)	\$ 1,901.00		
Age Well (formerly Champlain Valley Agency on Aging)	\$ 750.00		
Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO)	\$ 1500.00		
Charter House Coalition	\$ 1,600.00		
Counseling Service of Addison County	\$ 1,400.00		
Elderly Services	\$ 600.00		
Green Up Vermont	\$ 50.00		
Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects (HOPE)	\$ 3,000.00		
Homeward Bound	\$ 750.00		
Hospice Volunteer Services	\$ 500.00		
John W. Graham Emergency Shelter	\$ 1,600.00		
Middlebury Regional Emergency & Medical Services	\$ 1,470.00		
NeighborWorks of Western Vermont	\$ 300.00		
Open Door Clinic	\$ 1,500.00		
Otter Creek Child Care Center	\$ 1,000.00		
Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District	\$ 50.00		
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	\$ 475.00		
Vermont Adult Learning	\$ 300.00		
WomenSafe, Inc.	\$ 1,250.00		

**WARNING  
ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**ANNUAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 26, 2019**

**Member Districts are Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Weybridge**

The legal voters of the Addison Central School District are hereby warned to meet at the Middlebury Union High School in Middlebury, Vermont on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 7:00 PM, to transact the following business:

**ARTICLE 1:** To elect the following officers: a) A Moderator b) A Treasurer c) A Clerk

**ARTICLE 2:** To hear and act upon the reports of the school district officers.

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the voters of the Addison Central School District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors, under 16 VSA 562 (9), to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year.

**ARTICLE 4:** To do any other business proper to come before said meeting.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING  
FEBRUARY 26, 2019**

The legal voters of the Addison Central School District are hereby warned to meet at the Middlebury Union High School in Middlebury, Vermont on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 7:00 PM, for a Public Information meeting to discuss Australian Ballot articles warned for vote on Tuesday, March 5, 2019.

Hearing will take place immediately following adjournment of the Annual Meeting of said Addison Central School District.

Linda J. Barrett, Clerk  
Addison Central School District

Peter Conlon, Chair  
Addison Central School District

**The 2018 Addison Central School District Annual Report will be available in the following manner: <http://www.acsdvt.org/domain/30> (Departments/Finance) or call 802-382-1274 to request a copy.**

**WARNING**  
**ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**MARCH 5, 2019**

**Member Districts are Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Weybridge**

The legal voters of the Addison Central School District are hereby warned to meet at the following polling places on March 5, 2019 to vote by Australian Ballot on the following article(s) of business:

<u>District</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Polling Hours</u>
<b>Bridport</b>	<b>Bridport Community/Masonic Hall</b>	<b>7:00 AM-7:00 PM</b>
<b>Cornwall</b>	<b>Cornwall Town Hall</b>	<b>7:00 AM-7:00 PM</b>
<b>Middlebury</b>	<b>Middlebury Town Office (77 Main St)</b>	<b>7:00 AM-7:00 PM</b>
<b>Ripton</b>	<b>Ripton Community House</b>	<b>7:00 AM-7:00 PM</b>
<b>Salisbury</b>	<b>Salisbury Town Office</b>	<b>8:00 AM-7:00 PM</b>
<b>Shoreham</b>	<b>Shoreham Town Office</b>	<b>7:00 AM-7:00 PM</b>
<b>Weybridge</b>	<b>Weybridge Town Clerk's Office</b>	<b>7:00 AM-7:00 PM</b>

**ARTICLE 1:** Shall the voters of the Addison Central School District vote to authorize the ACSD school board to expend **\$37,794,916** which is the amount the ACSD school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of **\$17,473.81** per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 3.35% higher than spending for the current year.

**ARTICLE 2:** Shall the voters of the Addison Central School District vote to authorize the ACSD school board to appropriate **\$123,801** of the FY 2018 Unassigned Fund Balance (estimated at **\$123,801**) to the ACSD Capital Reserve Fund?

**ARTICLE 3:** To elect five (5) school directors from the nominees to serve on the Addison Central School District Board for the following terms:  
 Three (3) who are residents of Middlebury for a three-year term.  
 One (1) who is a resident of Ripton for a three-year term.  
 One (1) who is a resident of Weybridge for a three-year term.

Ballots shall be commingled and counted at Middlebury Union High School by representatives of the Boards of Civil Authority of the member town school districts under the supervision of the District Clerk of Addison Central School District.

Linda J. Barrett, Clerk  
 Addison Central School District

Peter Conlon, Chair  
 Addison Central School District

**For the full Annual Report please use the following link.**  
<https://tinyurl.com/pahccannualreport19>

## **WARNING**

### **PATRICIA A. HANNAFORD REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 13 and MARCH 5, 2019**

**Member Districts are Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Panton, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham and Weybridge.**

The legal voters of the Regional Technical School District are hereby warned to meet at the Hannaford Career Center, Middlebury, Vermont in said district on February 13, 2019 at **7:00 P.M.**, to **transact and vote on the following business:**

**ARTICLE 1:** To elect the following officers:

- a) A Moderator      b) A Treasurer      c) A Clerk

**ARTICLE 2:** To hear and act upon the reports of the Treasurer and Auditors of the District.

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to borrow money, pending receipt of payment from member districts, by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date for the purpose of paying the sum approved by the voters.

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to use funds in the Building and Equipment Reserve Fund for capital improvements and program equipment.

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the voters of said district will vote to authorize its board of directors to place **\$53,000** of the FY18 reserve in the Health Reserve Fund.

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to use funds in the Health Reserve Fund for expenses related to Health Care Coverage.

**ARTICLE 7:** To do any other business proper to come before said meeting.

**The meeting will then be recessed to March 5, 2019 on which date member district voters are further warned to vote on the article listed below by Australian ballot at their respective polling places:**

**ARTICLE 8:** Shall the voters of the Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District approve the school board to expend **\$3,468,337.65** which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending at the Patricia A Hannaford Career Center to be \$22,102.00 per full-time equivalent student. This projected spending per full-time equivalent student is 2.96% higher than spending for the current year.

The legal voters and residents of the Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District are further warned and notified that an informational meeting will be held on the above-listed Australian ballot article on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at the Hannaford Career Center in the Town of Middlebury, Vermont immediately following the Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District's annual meeting which begins at 7:00 pm.

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019 at Middlebury, Vermont.

Suzanne S. Buck, Chair  
PAHRTSD

## Elected Town Officers

	<b>Name</b> (term expires)	Phone	
Selectboard	Laureen Cox, Chair (20) Perry Hanson (19) Ronald Wimett (21)	388-7820 388-9977 388-7346	<a href="mailto:lcox@riptonvt.org">lcox@riptonvt.org</a> <a href="mailto:phanson@riptonvt.org">phanson@riptonvt.org</a>
Justices of the Peace	Anza Armstrong (18) Richard "Kim" Kimler (18) Warren King (18) Perry Hanson (18) Tim Hanson (18)	388-3646 388-0083 388-4082 388-9977 388-2546	Newly elected JPs for 2019 are: Aaron Coburn, Amy McGlashan. Re-elected are: Kimler, King, T. Hanson
Board of Listers	Alison Joseph, Chair (20) Erik Eriksen (19) Beth Eliason (21)	388-2266	<a href="mailto:listers@riptonvt.org">listers@riptonvt.org</a>
Cemetery Commission	Elizabeth Walker, Chair (22) Carole Cummings (21) Samantha Smith Lau (23) Bonnie Swan (19) Marlene Thompson (20)		Contact Chair Liz Walker at 388-1634
Moderator	Tim Hanson (19)	388-2266	
Delinquent Tax Collector	Kathleen B. Sullivan (19)	388-3471	
Constable	Chris Smith (19)	388-0337	
Town Agent	Chris Smith (19)	388-0337	
Town Grand Juror	Richard "Kim" Kimler	388-0083	Position eliminated for 2019

## Meeting Schedule

**All meetings are open to the public.**

Selectboard: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m., Town Office

Ripton Fire & First Response: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, 9 a.m., Fire Station

Planning Commission/ZBA/Historic District Commission:

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., Town Office

Cemetery Commission: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m., Town Office

Conservation Commission: Times will be posted

## Appointed Town Officers

	<b>Name</b> (term expires)	Phone
Selectboard Administrator	Alison Joseph Dickinson	388-2266
Town Clerk	Alison Joseph Dickinson	388-2266
Assistant Clerks	Paula Scott, Carolyn Smith	388-2266
Treasurer	Carolyn Smith	388-2266
Assistant Treasurers	Paula Scott, Alison Joseph Dickinson	388-2266
Zoning Administrator	Jonathan Heppell	388-2266
Road Commissioner	Ronald Wimett	388-7346
Animal Control Officer	Alex Cox	388-2266
Conservation Commission	Mark Nelson, Chair (21) Zapata Courage (20), Warren King (21), Judy Kowalczyk (20), Becky Purdum (18), Barry King (19), Jay Harrington (19), Martha McCaughin (19)	Chair 388-2857
Zoning Board of Adjustment, Planning Commission and Historic District Commission	Warren King, Chair through 2018 (20) Michael J. Cummings (19), Jorene Doria (20), Marlene Harrison (21), Marty Kulczyk (20), Chair 2019	Chair 388-4606
Zoning Board, Alternate Members	Alison Joseph (19), Amy McGlashan (20) Leonard Tiedemann (19)	
Health Officer	Tim Hanson	388-2266
Emergency Management	Erik Eriksen	388-3629
Emergency Shelter Director	Mark Nelson	388-2857
Fire and First Response Chief	Erik Eriksen	388-3629
Fire Warden	Erik Eriksen	388-3629
Recycling Committee	Warren King, Barry King, Mac Cox, Mark Nelson, Steve Zwicky	
Regional Planning Delegates	Jeremy Grip; Marty Kulczyk, alternate	
Regional Transportation Delegate	Norm Tjossem; Jonathan Heppell, alternate	
Solid Waste District Delegates	Steve Zwicky; Jay Harrington, alternate	
Addison County Transit Delegate	Susan Prager	
Town Energy Coordinator	Warren King	
Tree Warden	Freeman Allen	
Fence Viewers	Gary Whitman, Bill Ford, Andi Lloyd	
Weigher of Coal	Richard Collitt	
Inspector/Lumber, Shingles & Wood	Tom Cabot	

## Selectboard Report

This past year was a time of transitions in the town; some obvious, some more subtle. Notable was the passing of **Hilda Billings**, the town's oldest resident. While certainly others of advanced age have died in previous years, it is unlikely any had lived so much of their life in our community, nor been able to stay as actively involved to the very end of life. As something of a counter-balance, we welcome an increasing number of younger people and families moving into our community.

We were awarded several grants for a variety of road related projects (see the roads report), and the largest one is a grant from the Vermont Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program to **relocate our sand pile and construct a shed to enclose it**. This grant amounts to \$356,000, a sizeable sum for a town our size! The town's current location for our sandpile is much too close to the riverbank, and also has flooded from upstream on more than one occasion. We are actively seeking a new location that is fairly near the center of town with decent road access and reasonable topography. Ideally, it will fit well into the landscape. This new shed will be on a concrete slab and be fully covered, so the sand (and the small amount of salt mixed with it) will be fully contained. Present plans do not include re-locating the recycling shed.

Speaking of **recycling**, there are some changes brewing there, also. The large doors on each side of the shed will be replaced, and the shed will be locked between recycling days. Additional time to drop off materials, early evening mid-week, will be added. People unable to access during any of the open times may call one of the volunteers to arrange to meet them and open the facility briefly. Far too many things continue to be brought to the shed that are not recyclable, perhaps left with the idea that someone else will want them. Such items may be taken to the Transfer Station, HOPE's re-sale shop, or placed for "Free" on Front Porch Forum. Also, please be aware of which items can and cannot be included in our recycling container. Plastic bags, for instance, may never be included as they clog the machinery at the recycling plant. If you need assistance with recycling or other trash disposal questions, check out the Recycling report in this Town Report or contact a member of the Recycling Committee, all of whom are listed in this report.

We discussed plans for the **Town Office building** last year and have taken steps to move this project forward. In April, a structural analysis of the building was done to identify issues to be addressed and, hopefully, to eliminate any surprises. Bill Ford agreed to act as our consulting coordinator during these early stages. He arranged for an architectural firm to put together an initial plan of changes so costs can be estimated. Ideally, we would like to see both levels of the building be handicapped accessible, although the upstairs room is small enough that this is not a requirement. Alison arranged for an environmental study to see if there were concerns such as asbestos (fortunately, no signs). During the structural analysis, a few problems were identified that we were able to get repaired immediately. When a design proposal is completed, which will include raising the building above flood level, and potential costs are clearer, we will seek grant funding, monies from our Town Building fund, and individual donations to reduce the impact on taxpayers. All of this will be presented to the town when we have the relevant information.

At last year's Town Meeting, the question about **donations** to the town or the Fire Department arose. In either case, the donations are tax deductible.

A lot has happened and is happening at the **Community House**. A new deck was built on the rear of the building, the septic system was pumped, and the generator, purchased through a grant, was installed and is up and running to serve both this building and the Town Office during a power outage. The biggest event, however, occurred just after New Year's, probably a result of the heavy rains and high-water event on January 1. The sump pump failed, the furnace failed, the pipes froze and burst, and significant water soaked the floors. Flooring in the bathrooms, kitchen, entryways, and the first part of the main room all had to be removed, as well as plumbing fixtures and some cupboards. Fortunately, it was caught relatively soon and most of the cost should be covered by insurance. Given the need to do significant work, our plan is to have the interior separating walls in both bathrooms removed, making one handicapped accessible and moving the mop sink into the other. (Currently that sink is directly below the electrical panel, which is not up to

code.) While the pine flooring in the main room will be replaced, a more durable flooring will be laid in the entryways. We hope to have the flooring in and at least one functional bathroom by Town Meeting. The kitchen, which had the most damage, is being evaluated for possible re-design as the old arrangement was not particularly user-friendly, so that project will be addressed later. New plans may not be fully covered by the insurance reimbursements, but the Town Building fund is a possible source to make up the difference. Nothing fancy is planned; just basic function. Related to this situation, we have decided to once again have a building manager, and Robin Whitman, who has been doing some of the maintenance work, has agreed to take this on.

The last item relating to town property is that the **transfer of the land** from the school district in the area around the Fire Station was finalized. This was necessary after the school property came under the ownership of the larger district following the school district merger.

Periodically, **noise** arises as an issue within neighborhoods. Even though our community is rural, most of us do have neighbors. We can all be more aware of how noises from our properties (dogs, guns, motors, etc.) might impact our neighbors and do our best to avoid issues. That said, the best way to get along in a neighborhood is to get acquainted and talk with each other when there are not problems. It then is much easier to address issues when they do arise. Most of these things are not going to be dealt with by any sort of legislation, so developing a sense of community with our neighbors is going to be your best option. One area that has improved, however, is Sparks Pit. At the town's request, the National Forest Service moved the gate out to the road. Since then, the pit has seen diminished shooting activity, lessening both the noise and the possibility of stray shots leaving the area.

Following the vote at last year's Town Meeting, the positions of **Town Clerk** and **Town Treasurer** became appointed. The change was not noticeable to most people, as both Alison Dickinson and Carolyn Smith continued in those jobs. They, along with their assistant, Paula Scott, keep the town business running smoothly, including the administration of the many FEMA and grant-related projects within the town. As a community, we are lucky to have such competent and dedicated people taking care of what is all of our business.

**Town Meeting** is the time we all get to participate in the business of the town. Further, it is a great opportunity to meet new people or catch up with your neighbors. Last year was the second time in recent years when a supper was provided during the hour preceding the meeting. While the damage to the kitchen in the Community House may necessitate some changes, we will again provide the **supper and dessert**, so come early, get some food, and have a chance to be sociable!

And don't forget, there are many ways you can **be involved** in our community so don't be shy. If you have an area of interest, let any of us, whether in elected, appointed, or committee positions know. We would welcome your involvement.

Laurie Cox, Selectboard Chair

## Road Commissioner Report

Another year and more work to report. The summer of 2018 started as a wet and rutty one. We spread crushed gravel on all wet or rutted roads.

With four road grants we were able to make some much needed improvements to areas on the Lincoln Road. The first grant was to remove berms from the road shoulder. This was done from the Lucky Seven water tub to Norton Farm Road. This grant was from the Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation through the Addison County Regional Planning Commission.

The other three road grants came from VTrans Better Roads funds. Any road work within 300 feet of a river or stream now requires a permit, which we were able to get for the projects. Two of the Better Roads grants were for Lincoln Road projects. With one, we were able to bring the Lincoln Road from the end of the pavement to Bent Bridge up to road standards. The second grant was for the area at the intersection of North Branch, Lincoln, and Pearl Lee Roads. Ditching, stone-lined ditches, and tree removal improved visibility, prevented erosion, and improved water quality. The third Better Roads grant let us upgrade a 24' culvert on North Branch Road. The culvert was between Robert Frost Cabins and the Livingston camp (Lost Acres). This had been a narrow spot and made worse with snowbanks. The new culvert and removal of banks has improved this area greatly.

As I'm writing this report on January 26<sup>th</sup> the winter has been very cold with rain falling. The below zero temperatures have made road work very icy. The sand pile at this time looks like it should be April.

This year the town got some very good news. We were granted a large sum to build a new sand-salt shed. At this time we are looking for a parcel of land to locate it.

So, with a new roadwork year coming fast, we are looking to do more ditching, gravel, and maintenance, and improve rideability on all our roads.

Ronald Wimett

Road Commissioner



Dry hydrant installation - Fire Brook Rd. Photo credit Chris Pike

## Selectboard Budget Narrative

This report addresses the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2018, a look at the current year's budget progress, and an overview of the proposed budget for July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020.

**Financial Status:** At the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2018, the town had a combined fund balance of \$692,814 compared to \$515,739 on June 30, 2017.

### General Fund and Highway Fund

**Past Year (7/1/2017 – 6/30/2018):** In the General Fund, most areas of income were at or above the budgeted amount. In particular, the Middlebury College payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) was higher. Most areas of expenses were lower than budgeted, substantially less in a few areas, leaving the General Fund with a surplus of \$86,855.

The Highway Fund's income also came in above the budgeted amount, and expenses were also up, mostly due to a pair of storms for which we ultimately have received reimbursement of many of the costs, thanks to FEMA and the hard work of town office and road workers. There is a surplus of \$64,046 in this fund, which will be rolled over into the Major Project fund.

**Current Year (7/1/2018 – 6/30/2019):** Revenues for the current year appear to be in line with what was budgeted, both for the General Fund and the Highway Fund. Expenses in the General Fund are running appropriate to the budget, with the exception of "Buildings and Grounds", where the water damage to the Community House, which occurred in early January, will require unplanned repairs. Insurance reimbursement will offset this, but none of those figures are in at the time of this writing. Highway expenses are in the expected range, although the rather early and ongoing winter weather we have been experiencing this year may increase expenses in the areas of plowing, sanding, and winter storm damage.

**Proposed Budget (7/1/2019 – 6/30/2020):** On the revenue side, we anticipate similar income to the current year, although it appears slightly different because we are now splitting the income from the Current Use/Land Use program between the General Fund and the Highway Fund. We have a number of grants in the pipeline, some we have been awarded and are in the middle of, some completed and awaiting reimbursement, and some for which we have applied or will apply. That leaves some of that income and expense up in the air, but in the long run it is a major gain for the town when we are able to accomplish projects while paying at most a quarter of their costs. There are four areas of town property that will necessitate funds during this budget year or two. The renovations of the Town Office building, the repairs to the Community House, and new doors on the Town Shed will all impact our buildings and grounds budget. To help fund these efforts, we are proposing moving a large amount of the General Fund surplus from the 2017-18 fiscal year into the Town Building fund. The fourth project is the relocation and construction of the new sand/salt shed, for which the town has been awarded a substantial grant. Monies from the Major Project fund will be used to pay the town's share of this project. Most areas of expense in the Highway Fund budget are similar to the current year, with the exception of increases in the areas related to storms and winter weather in general.

Laurie Cox, Chair

Ronald Wimett

Perry Hanson

Selectboard for the Town of Ripton

<b>General Fund Budget</b>	<b>Budget FY18</b>	<b>Actual FY - 2018</b>	<b>Budget FY19</b>	<b>Budget FY20</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Current Year Tax	132,300.00	108,351.00	113,324.00	120,127.00
Delinquent Taxes	50,000.00	102,973.00	55,000.00	55,000.00
Interest: Delinquent Tax	1,200.00	10,202.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Penalty: Delinquent Tax	5,000.00	5,437.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Legal Fee: Delinquent Tax	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Ed Tax Adjustment Credit	4,000.00	13,089.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Recording Fees	7,000.00	6,657.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Copier & Vault Time	2,000.00	2,024.50	2,000.00	1,500.00
Dog Licenses	1,000.00	576.00	800.00	600.00
Liquor Licenses	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Zoning Permit Fees	1,500.00	2,055.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Recycling Donations	1,500.00	2,091.13	2,000.00	2,000.00
Sheriff Fines	7,000.00	6,612.54	7,000.00	6,500.00
Marriage Licenses	100.00	25.00	100.00	30.00
Land Posting	0.00	35.00	30.00	25.00
Green Mountain Pass	0.00	8.00	10.00	10.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	124.41	0.00	50.00
Reappraisal	3,500.00	3,595.50	3,500.00	3,500.00
State Funds for Listers	400.00	423.00	800.00	430.00
Current Use/Land Use	28,000.00	27,305.22	27,000.00	16,000.00*
*to be split with HWY Fund FY20				
Interest	413.00	596.93	314.00	414.00
Insurance RVFD reimb	5,000.00	0.00*	1,000.00	0.00*
*Insurance moved to RVFD				
Rent: Community House	1,500.00	2,250.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
College PILOT	73,000.00	86,842.72	84,000.00	89,000.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>325,213.00</b>	<b>381,573.95</b>	<b>325,678.00</b>	<b>323,986.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
Selectboard Stipend	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00
Selectboard Administrator	18,000.00	22,335.00	22,000.00	22,600.00
Town Clerk	15,000.00	15,165.00	16,000.00	16,500.00
Town Treasurer	14,000.00	13,167.50	16,000.00	16,500.00
Assistant Town Clerk	17,000.00	17,204.00	17,000.00	17,500.00
Elections	500.00	275.79	1,000.00	400.00
BCA Hearings	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Delinquent Tax Collector	5,000.00	7,014.04	7,000.00	5,000.00
Listers	8,000.00	8,832.50	8,000.00	8,500.00
Lister Training	1,000.00	135.00	500.00	500.00
Planning Commission	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
Zoning Administrator	3,000.00	2,832.50	3,500.00	3,500.00
Animal Control Officer	400.00	0.00	400.00	800.00
Officers Training	2,000.00	150.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Facilities	2,000.00	1,265.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Emergency Mgmt Coord.	300.00	300.00	400.00	400.00

<b>General Fund Budget</b>	<b>Budget FY18</b>	<b>Actual FY - 2018</b>	<b>Budget FY19</b>	<b>Budget FY20</b>
Payroll Taxes	10,000.00	7,647.23	8,000.00	8,000.00
Office Supplies	1,000.00	1,072.70	1,000.00	1,000.00
Office Equipment/Furnish	1,000.00	377.98	1,000.00	1,000.00
Photocopier	1,500.00	1,460.79	1,500.00	1,500.00
Computer/IT	5,000.00	1,930.99	5,000.00	5,000.00
Telephone	900.00	869.88	900.00	900.00
Internet	650.00	1,145.09	900.00	1,200.00
Website	400.00	353.65	400.00	400.00
Postage	1,000.00	659.63	1,000.00	800.00
Legal Notices	400.00	4.17	400.00	400.00
Document Preservation	2,000.00	2,390.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Clerk & Treasurer Expense	200.00	75.00	200.00	100.00
Listers Expenses	1,000.00	811.48	500.00	500.00
Planning & Zoning Expense	1,000.00	629.29	1,000.00	1,000.00
State Treasurer (now automatic)	700.00	0.00	300.00	0.00
Property Insurance	16,500.00	10,767.00	16,000.00	14,000.00
Workers Comp Ins	1,200.00	782.75	1,000.00	1,000.00
RVFD Ins (moved to RVFD)	600.00	557.50	1,000.00	0.00
Town Report	1,500.00	1,423.59	1,500.00	1,500.00
Legal Services	7,000.00	2,985.78	5,000.00	5,000.00
Audit	7,710.00	7,710.00	8,250.00	8,500.00
Generator	0.00	334.00	350.00	400.00
Recycling	12,000.00	9,724.79	11,000.00	11,000.00
Animal Damage	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Pay to Reappraisal	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
Bank Fees	0.00	45.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	104.88
Buildings & Grounds	19,500.00	10,450.30	17,000.00	17,000.00
Town Office Fuel	2,200.00	2,058.60	2,000.00	2,000.00
Town Office Electric	700.00	730.18	800.00	800.00
Community House Fuel	4,200.00	2,923.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Community House Electric	800.00	988.15	800.00	800.00
Pay Town Buildings Fund	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	10,000.00
Public Telephone	600.00	585.00	630.00	630.00
Streetlights	1,300.00	1,102.20	1,100.00	1,100.00
Waste Disposal	600.00	682.82	800.00	1,000.00
VLCT Dues	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,685.00	1,726.00
Regional Planning Dues	732.00	731.85	747.00	758.52
Addison County Sheriff	12,000.00	9,047.54	11,000.00	11,000.00
Addison County Tax	2,800.00	2,721.16	3,000.00	2,950.60
Animal Holding Facility	400.00	450.00	400.00	400.00
Tax Mapping	950.00	950.00	950.00	950.00
NEMRC -programs/fees	1,800.00	1,936.96	2,000.00	2,500.00
VT Bond Bank 2008 Flood	28,705.00	27,267.96	27,400.00	26,000.00
<b>Total General Fund Expense</b>	<b>250,947.00</b>	<b>218,960.34</b>	<b>255,362.00</b>	<b>253,170.00</b>

<b>General Fund Budget</b>	<b>Budget FY18</b>	<b>Actual FY - 2018</b>	<b>Budget FY19</b>	<b>Budget FY20</b>
<b>Voted Items</b>				
Ripton Fire Department	40,000.00	40,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00
Cemetery Commission	13,000.00	13,000.00	7,000.00	6,000.00
Funding Requests	21,266.00	21,266.00	22,316.00	23,816.00
<b>Total Voted Item Expense</b>	<b>74,266.00</b>	<b>74,266.00</b>	<b>70,316.00</b>	<b>70,816.00</b>
<b>Total General Fund + Voted</b>	<b>325,213.00</b>	<b>293,226.34</b>	<b>325,678.00</b>	<b>323,986.00</b>
General Fund	250,947.00	250,947.00	255,362.00	253,170.00
Highway Fund	323,600.00	323,600.00	359,400.00	397,100.00
Sub-Total	574,547.00	574,547.00	614,762.00	<b>650,270.00</b>
plus voted items	74,266.00	74,266.00	70,316.00	70,816.00
<b>Total Municipal Expense</b>	<b>648,813.00</b>	<b>648,813.00</b>	<b>685,078.00</b>	<b>721,086.00</b>
<b>Tax Summary - actual</b>				
General & Highway Funds	267,300.00	243,351.00	282,185.00	
Education Tax		936,130.00	970,242.38	
minus Education Tax credit		-13,089.00	-7,960.09	
<b>Total Tax Collected</b>		<b>1,166,392.00</b>	<b>1,244,467.29</b>	

### Grant Reimbursement FY 2018

\$ 10,490.92 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: Emergency generator for town buildings

\$ 119,961.00 VTrans Class 2 Road Paving Grant: Lincoln Road (TH1)

\$ 5,300.00 DEC Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid FY18

Total: \$ 10,490.92 for Buildings

Total: \$ 125,261 for Roads

Funds were committed for FEMA DR4330 June 30-July 1, 2017 storm and FEMA DR4356 Oct. 29- 30, 2017 storm. These will reimburse roadwork and selectboard administrator costs.



Ripton Fire Department Breakfast, 2018. Photo Credit Mark Nelson

<b>Highway Fund Budget</b>	<b>Budget FY18</b>	<b>Actual FY18</b>	<b>Budget FY19</b>	<b>Budget FY20</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Property Tax - Roads	135,000.00	135,000.00	168,861.00	183,545.00
Overweight Permit Fees	250.00	355.00	300.00	355.00
State Aid to Highways	55,300.00	48,205.27	48,204.00	48,200.00
College PILOT Roads	73,000.00	86,842.73	84,000.00	89,000.00
USFS PILOT Payment	60,000.00	60,033.00	58,000.00	60,000.00
Current Use/Hold Harmless				16,000.00
Interest - Major Project*	50.00	68.56	35.00	0.00
*moved out of GF revenue per audit				
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>323,600.00</b>	<b>330,504.56</b>	<b>359,400.00</b>	<b>397,100.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
Ditching	17,000.00	2,522.15	19,000.00	19,000.00
Grading	15,000.00	13,172.50	16,000.00	16,000.00
Chloride	8,000.00	4,774.68	8,500.00	8,500.00
Sweeping Roads	8,000.00	7,567.50	8,000.00	8,000.00
Culverts	5,000.00	4,043.86	5,000.00	7,000.00
Guardrails	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Gravel	31,000.00	33,712.06	32,000.00	32,000.00
Storm Damage	4,000.00	6,284.69	5,000.00	7,000.00
Road Signs	1,000.00	538.44	1,000.00	1,000.00
Cutting Brush	5,000.00	405.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Mowing: Roadside	5,000.00	4,972.50	5,000.00	5,000.00
Mowing: Boom	2,500.00	1,935.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Road Commissioner	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
Training	500.00	0.00	300.00	500.00
Class IV Road Work	5,000.00	4,398.51	5,000.00	5,000.00
Paving	40,000.00	41,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Major Road Reconstruction	25,000.00	540.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
Grant Match Fund	10,000.00	13,382.07	10,000.00	10,000.00
Pay to Major Project Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Roads-Grants-in-Aid	0.00	5,300.00	0.00	5,300.00
Misc. Summer Work	1,000.00	545.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Buy/Screen Sand	29,000.00	36,971.38	35,000.00	37,000.00
Truck Sand	12,000.00	21,661.25	18,000.00	22,000.00
Salt	6,000.00	7,065.93	7,000.00	7,200.00
Sanding Roads	33,000.00	38,132.50	35,000.00	40,000.00
Plowing Roads	35,000.00	52,402.50	40,000.00	55,000.00
Winter Storm Damage*	5,000.00	25,577.50	5,000.00	7,000.00
Culvert Thawing	4,000.00	230.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Misc. Winter Work	2,000.00	2,105.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>323,600.00</b>	<b>342,840.02</b>	<b>359,400.00</b>	<b>397,100.00</b>

\*Winter storm damage to be reimbursed in part by FEMA

## Statement of Town Indebtedness

### Vermont Bond Bank 2010-2019 (for 2008 flood expenses) \$275,000 at net 3.047251% interest

	Payment Date	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Payment Due	Payment Made
Loan Amount	7/21/09	\$275,000.00				
	11/15/09		1.391%	\$2,605.02	\$2,605.02	\$2,605.02
	5/15/10			\$3,606.95	\$3,606.95	\$3,606.95
	11/15/10	\$30,000.00	1.391%	\$3,606.95	\$37,213.90	\$37,213.90
	5/15/11			\$3,398.32	\$3,398.32	\$3,398.32
	11/15/11	\$30,000.00	1.691%	\$3,398.32	\$36,796.64	\$36,796.64
	5/15/12			\$3,144.69	\$3,144.69	\$3,144.69
	11/15/12	\$30,000.00	1.801%	\$3,144.69	\$36,289.38	\$36,289.38
	5/15/13			\$2,874.56	\$2,874.56	\$2,874.56
	11/15/13	\$30,000.00	2.201%	\$2,874.56	\$35,749.12	\$35,749.12
	5/15/14			\$2,544.43	\$2,544.43	\$2,544.43
	11/15/14	\$30,000.00	2.651%	\$2,544.43	\$35,088.86	\$32,544.33
	5/15/15			\$2,146.80	\$2,146.80	\$2,146.80
	11/15/15	\$25,000.00	2.931%	\$2,146.80	\$27,147.00	\$27,147.00
	5/15/16			\$1,780.44	\$1,780.44	\$1,780.44
	11/15/16	\$25,000.00	3.201%	\$1,780.44	\$28,560.88	\$26,707.42
	5/15/17			\$1,380.33	\$1,380.33	\$1,380.33
	11/01/17	\$25,000.00	3.491%	\$1,323.99	\$26,323.99	\$26,323.99
	5/15/18			\$943.97	\$943.97	\$943.97
	11/01/18	\$25,000.00	3.691%	\$943.97	\$25,903.07	\$25,903.07
	5/15/19			\$482.61	\$482.61	\$0.00
	11/01/19	\$25,000.00	3.861%	\$482.61	\$25,965.22	\$0.00
	Totals	\$275,000.00		\$47,154.88	\$339,946.18	\$306,555.93

In FY18, we reduced debt and had positive fund balances. We will complete our bond payment in the proposed budget year, FY20.

Telling & Hillman, P.C. audited the Town's financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2018.

Accounting practices do not allow us to print a portion of their report in our town report. We are happy to provide the full report, available at the town office, upon request.

# Financial and Tax Reports

## Account Balances

### Account Balances June 30, 2018

Intermediate Account: includes General Fund & Highway Fund	\$223,567.39
Checking	\$11,737.43
Major Projects Highway Fund	\$195,108.56
Town Building Fund	\$91,346.28
Reappraisal Fund \$7,182.50 is due to this fund from the Intermediate Account. Total available for reappraisal \$29,948.53	\$22,766.03
Tax Sale Escrow Account – held until claimed, not for town use	\$90,359.86

## Statement of Taxes

### Tax Calculation for Year Ending June 30, 2018

Property Tax Rates	Tax Rate	Grand List	Total Raised
Non-Residential Education	1.7197	270,106.00	464,501.27
Homestead Education	1.7832	366,712.00	653,920.83
Local voted exemption	0.0097	636,818.00	6,177.16
Highway Fund	0.2106	636,818.00	134,113.87
General Fund	0.3315	636,818.00	211,105.20
Total municipal rate	0.5518		
Total non-residential rate	2.2715		
Total homestead rate	2.335		
Total education tax			1,124,599.26
Total municipal tax			345,219.07
Total Tax			1,469,818.30
Total State Payments			199,295.70

### Preliminary Tax Calculation for Year Ending June 30, 2019

The total may change for June 30<sup>th</sup> after a final education tax calculation.

Property Tax Rates	Tax Rate	Grand List	Total Raised
Non-Residential Education	1.7713	274,186.00	485,655.63
Homestead Education	1.7649	365,701.00	645,425.71
Local voted exemption	0.0099	639,887.00	6,334.81
Highway Fund	0.2398	639,887.00	153,444.97
General Fund	0.2632	639,887.00	202,012.25
Total municipal rate	0.5129		
Total non-residential rate	2.3367		
Total homestead rate	2.3303		
Total education tax			1,137,426.10
Total municipal tax			355,457.22
Total Tax:			1,492,883.30

## Delinquent Tax Report

As of June 30, 2018 delinquent tax was owed from the following property owners.

Joseph Charest & Carolyn Malzac  
Daniel Coughlan  
Peter Manning  
Raymond Paczkowski Jr.  
Ian, Brian, John Sr. Peck  
Pamela Randall  
Pamela Ryan (tax sale concluding in next fiscal year)  
Stanley Stahl  
Ronald Stevers  
James Thompson  
Eugene Warner

Total due June 30, 2018: \$17,759.57

As of February 1, 2019, delinquent tax was owed from the following property owners.

David Bralow  
Joseph Charest & Carolyn Malzac  
Daniel Coughlan  
Arnold & Roy Gover  
H. Larocque Trust - owner on April 1. New owner W. Howard & D. Whitney  
Justin Malzac  
Javier & Julie Marion  
Robert Moran  
Thomas Olson Estate  
Ian, Brian, John Sr. Peck  
Pamela Randall  
James Thompson  
Douglas & Margaret Tiedemann

Total due: \$28,095.06

## Report from the Town Office

Grant applications and management, document preservation, dogs, elections, and every day business kept us occupied. Thank you to all who greeted us cheerfully (even with tax payments), visited for licenses and permits, voted, helped at elections, served in a town office or volunteered. Thank you too, to my co-workers Carolyn Smith and Paula Scott for all you do!

**Grants:** Most of our grants are from state and federal funds and require a local match from town funds or in-kind services, noted as “match” in the descriptions below. We follow federal requirements for contracting, payment, record-keeping, and audits. In FY18 we were among the first to use the FEMA online grants portal.

### Grants completed in FY18

- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program - Emergency generator for town buildings: grant \$10,490.92, match from General Fund \$3,496.97, total project \$13,987.89
- VTrans Class 2 Road Paving Grant - Lincoln Road (TH1) paving: grant \$119,961, match \$39,112.47, total project \$159,073.47
- DEC Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid FY18 - This is a new program through the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and regional planning commissions for improvement of road segments that connect to a stream. FY18 grant for work on the Lincoln Road: \$5,300, match \$1,859.89, total project \$7,159.

### Grants ongoing from FY18, for FY19 and FY20

- FEMA DR4330 June 29 – July 1, 2017 disaster: road washouts, received \$50,867.76 for work completed; extended to Sept. 2019 for repair not yet completed
- FEMA DR4356 Oct. 29-30 disaster: storm debris, received \$23,955.30
- DEC Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid – for work on the Lincoln Road: FY19 grant \$6,100, match \$1,525, total project \$7,625
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) planning study grant - for the Old Town Road/Potash Bridge: FY19-20, \$12,000
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) FY19 - Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) funds have been committed but not released for repair and mitigation work on the class 4 section of Wagon Wheel Road: \$24,180 grant, \$8,060 match, total project \$32,240
- VTrans Better Roads BR0372 - Lincoln Road ditching and culvert replacement: awarded FY18, completed FY19; grant \$16,959.94, match \$4,239.98, total project \$21,199.92
- VTrans Better Roads BR0373 - North Branch Road ditching, stone, culvert: awarded FY18, completed FY19; grant \$5,334, match \$1,620.87, total project \$6,954.87
- VTrans Better Roads BR0518 Lincoln and Pearl Lee Roads - ditching, stone, drainage improvements: awarded and completed FY19, grant \$16,607.50, match \$4,151.88, total project \$20,759.38
- VTrans Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program FY19-20 - construction of a sand/salt shed: grant \$356,000, match \$89,000, total grant \$445,000

**Document Preservation:** Applause to Paula Scott who computerized our land records index from 1967 – present and is now working on the older records. Survey plats are scanned and indexed electronically. Grand lists from 1910-1929 have been preserved. Grand lists prior to 1910 are next.

**Dogs:** Vermont law requires dogs be licensed annually **by April 1** to ensure rabies vaccination and protect public health. Licenses are \$9 for neutered/spayed dogs and \$13 for non-neutered/non-spayed. A late penalty is added after April 1. We get a lot of calls about dogs. License numbers help us match dogs and owners. In 2018, **110 dogs** were licensed – thank you to their owners.

**Elections:** Participation at our three 2018 elections - town meeting, the Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> primary and a Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> general election - is summarized below. Residents may register to vote at the town office or online at <http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>. Every voter has a “My Voter Page” at <http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us> with information about absentee and early voting, poll locations and hours, voting history and more.

**Voter Participation**

Town Meeting			State & Federal Elections		
Year	Total Voters	Voted	Election	Total Voters	Voted
2019	430		General 2018	429	304 (71%)
			Primary 2018	414	167 (40%)
2018	408	134 (33%)	General 2016	429	313 (73%)
2017	415	119 (29%)	State Primary	419	128 (31%)
2016	406	216 (53%)	Pres Primary	406	216 (53%)
2015	424	118 (28%)	General 2014	458	245 (53%)
2014	456	135 (30%)	Primary 2014	455	69 (15%)
2013	460	143 (31%)	General 2012	472	337 (71%)

Land Records	FY18	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Property Transfers	45	44	36	35	34	31
# Pages Recorded	581	589	635	685	409	697

Vital Records	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Births	0	6	6	9	5	2
Marriages	3	4	6	4	1	2
Deaths	5	4	5	5	5	6

**Vital records:** As Laurie Cox noted in the selectboard report, it was a year with transitions. Hilda Billings was one of the first people many of us met here. Last winter she was still walking past the town office on her way to the store – amazing and missed. In addition to Hilda Billings, George Farr, James Kater, Winfield Manning, Robert Whittemore, and David Stewart are neighbors we lost in 2018.

Last year we reported that as of July 1, 2018 birth and death records would be in a statewide vital records system rather than town records, per Act 46. The date was changed to July 1, 2019.

**Taxes:** Please note the tax due date on the Warning for 2019 – **taxes due November 1, 2019**. Also, **postmarks are no longer accepted** because of problems with illegible or missing postmarks.

Alison Joseph Dickinson  
Town Administrator & Town Clerk

## Board of Listers Report

**Grand List:** The grand list shows property ownership and assessed value as of April 1st. Assessed values are based on the last town-wide reappraisal year, 2011. The 2018 grand list increased \$306,900 from 2017, up 0.5%. Values for 23 properties changed due to boundary adjustments, construction, or demolition.

**CLA and COD:** The common level of appraisal (CLA) is the ratio of the grand list value to an “equalized” 100% value determined by the State’s Division of Property Valuation and Review. As of December 2018, the CLA is 90.07%, up from 89.2% in 2017. The coefficient of dispersion (COD) is a measure of how fairly property tax is distributed. The 2018 COD is 9.18%, a good number and down from 9.53% in 2017.

**Current Use exemptions:** Thirty-seven landowners enrolled a total of 3,377 acres in the Current Use Appraisal Program. Current use land is assessed at its agricultural or forest use value as opposed to market value. In 2018 forestland was valued at \$136 per acre; if greater than a mile from a class 2 or 3 road at \$102 per acre. Current use exemptions totaled \$5,941,200 in land value. Owners saved \$33,003 in municipal tax. The state reimbursed the town \$27,305.22 for municipal tax for enrolled land.

**Homestead Declarations:** Vermont requires residents to file a homestead declaration by April 15<sup>th</sup>. The declaration determines classification in the grand list and eligibility for a property tax adjustment credit. In 2018, a credit was available to households with income below \$133,000. PLEASE FILE ON TIME.

### 2018 Homestead Property Tax Reduction Information

Number of homesteads:	179
Number of adjustment credits:	123
Adjustment coverage:	68.1% (% of homesteads receiving adjustment)
Average education tax adjustment:	\$1,447

Those with incomes below \$47,000 receive adjustments for education *and* municipal tax, called a circuit breaker or additional adjustment.

Number of circuit breaker recipients:	30
Average circuit breaker adjustment:	\$337

**Sales:** Property sales were strong in the spring and summer of 2018 – welcome new owners! The table below shows three years of sales data. Sales that are arms-length transactions determine the CLA.

Location	Description	Seller	Month	Sale Price	Grand List Value
Hemlock Lane	10.02 acres	McLaughlin	Dec-18	\$32,000.00	\$33,700.00
Pearl Lee Road	17 acres	N'Shaiha	Dec-18	\$55,000.00	\$54,600.00
395 Natural Turnpike	7.8 ac & house	Woodhams	Nov-18	\$90,000.00	\$116,600.00
1192 Route 125	0.5 ac & store	Collitt	Nov-18	\$175,000.00	\$154,700.00
Pearl Lee Rd	1 acre	Stahl	Oct-18	\$2,500.00	\$9,400.00
441 Maiden Lane	2.3 ac & house	Dunakin	Oct-18	\$240,000.00	\$213,800.00
220 Wagon Wheel Rd	14 ac & house	Read	Sep-18	\$275,000.00	\$180,000.00
113 Murray Lane	1.45 ac & house	Cornell	Sep-18	\$180,000.00	\$143,400.00
1207 Lincoln Rd	17 ac & house	Martin	Sep-18	\$187,500.00	\$191,800.00
Old Town Rd	87.4 acres	Cincotta	Aug-18	\$100,000.00	\$176,600.00
3087 Natural Turnpike	17.71 ac & house	Pike	Aug-18	\$385,000.00	\$254,000.00
2777 Route 125	1.4 ac & house	Ryan	Jul-18	\$100,000.00	\$157,400.00
498 Scott Rd	27.38 ac & house	Gray	Jul-18	\$201,825.00	\$180,300.00
2338 North Branch Rd	9.9 ac & house	Nikitin	May-18	\$400,000.00	\$369,700.00

Location	Description	Seller	Month	Sale Price	Grand List Value
3792 Lincoln Rd	1.5 ac & house	Larocque	May-18	\$65,000.00	\$117,800.00
301 Dugway Rd	10 acres	Cash	May-18	\$53,000.00	\$45,500.00
1078 Natural Turnpike	1 ac & house	Corbin	May-18	\$145,000.00	\$150,500.00
1797 North Branch Rd	2.5 ac & camp	Herringshaw	Apr-18	\$50,000.00	\$81,900.00
89 Wagon Wheel Rd	4 ac & camp	Haerle	Mar-18	\$90,000.00	\$83,200.00
4358 Lincoln Rd	2.8 ac & house	Manning	Mar-18	\$42,200.00	\$42,200.00
Eagles Nest Rd	11.25 acres	Harms	Feb-18	\$35,000.00	\$48,100.00
301 Dugway Rd	10 acres	Cash	Dec-17	\$48,000.00	\$45,500.00
701 Barrows Rd	10.1 ac & camp	Curler	Dec-17	\$35,000.00	\$49,800.00
2124 Route 125	3.64 ac & house	Murphy	Nov-17	\$275,000.00	\$182,700.00
471 Robbins Crossroad	10.9 ac & house	Beck	Nov-17	\$292,000.00	\$283,800.00
N Branch Rd	23.8 acres	Wisell	Nov-17	\$70,000.00	\$73,900.00
1426 Natural Turnpike	5.2 ac & camp	Gerow	Oct-17	\$50,000.00	\$67,400.00
1411 Rte 125	0.3 ac & house	Konopke	Sep-17	\$178,000.00	\$156,500.00
847 N Branch Rd	3.7 ac & MH	Clark	Sep-17	\$129,000.00	\$90,000.00
947 Lincoln Rd	5.6 ac & camp	Clark	Sep-17	\$63,000.00	\$53,600.00
344 Hemlock Lane	10 ac & camp	Lavalette	Sep-17	\$40,000.00	\$39,000.00
9 Lincoln Rd	0.3 ac & house	McElhaney	Aug-17	\$163,000.00	\$165,500.00
1049 Lincoln Rd	5.5 ac & house	Steinberg	Aug-17	\$223,125.00	\$227,700.00
1062 N Branch Rd	4.1 ac & house	Gerhart	Aug-17	\$305,000.00	\$274,100.00
639 Robbins Crossroad	3.5 ac & house	Christner	Aug-17	\$340,000.00	\$291,300.00
28 Fire Brook Rd	20.37 ac & house	Sampson	Jul-17	\$294,000.00	\$361,500.00
2000 Chandler Hill Rd	11 ac & camp	Farr	Jul-17	\$40,000.00	\$56,600.00
702 Maiden Lane	0.7 ac & house	Fisher	Jul-17	\$59,900.00	\$58,200.00
947 Natural Turnpike	1 ac & house	Gardner	Jul-17	\$245,000.00	\$221,000.00
Natural Turnpike	2.2 acres	McKenna	Jun-17	\$58,000.00	\$30,000.00
450 County Crossroad	1.5 ac & house	Rowe	Mar-17	\$167,000.00	\$144,600.00
1815 Route 125	1 acre	Jackson	Feb-17	\$25,000.00	\$35,800.00
1409 Lincoln Road	7.38 ac & house	Wolf	Dec-16	\$512,500.00	\$388,400.00
150 Wimett Lane	5 ac & house	Buteau	Oct-16	\$278,000.00	\$215,600.00
1583 VT Route 125	0.42 ac & house	Searle	Aug-16	\$125,000.00	\$110,700.00
1078 Natural Turnpike	1 ac & house	Harrison	Jul-16	\$165,000.00	\$150,500.00
320 Old Town Road	10.6 ac & house	Leeds Trust	Jun-16	\$320,000.00	\$324,600.00
301 Robbins Crossroad	1 ac & house	McIntosh, Disque	Jun-16	\$210,000.00	\$177,200.00
4120 Lincoln Road	10.1 ac & dwelling	Schlesinger	Apr-16	\$175,000.00	\$169,400.00
277 Robbins Crossroad	12.1 ac & house	Fannie May	Apr-16	\$127,500.00	\$198,600.00
55 Alder Brook Road	24 ac & camp	A Johnson	Jan-16	\$50,800.00	\$50,800.00

Key:

- Location: street address. If there is no street number, there is no building.
- Grand List Value: the property value in the town grand list as of April 1 of that year.

Board of Listers

Alison Joseph, Beth Eliason, Erik Eriksen

(Taxable properties only - State and Non-tax status properties are not listed below)

REAL ESTATE Category/Code	Parcel Count	Municipal Listed Value	Homestead Ed Listed Value	Non-Resi Ed. Listed Value	Total Education Listed Value
Residential I R1	112	19,255,300	14,825,000	4,430,300	19,255,300
Residential II R2	124	35,367,500	22,642,400	12,725,100	35,367,500
Mobile Homes-U MHU	1	72,900	0	72,900	72,900
Mobile Homes-L MHL	13	1,036,100	565,800	470,300	1,036,100
Seasonal I S1	18	1,089,000	23,100	1,065,900	1,089,000
Seasonal II S2	27	2,416,900	0	2,416,900	2,416,900
Commercial C	20	3,059,400	372,600	2,686,800	3,059,400
Commercial Apts CA	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial I	0	0	0	0	0
Utilities-E UE	1	955,300	0	955,300	955,300
Utilities-O UO	0	0	0	0	0
Farm F	0	0	0	0	0
Other O	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland W	14	3,030,000	0	3,030,000	3,030,000
Miscellaneous M	69	3,665,000	0	3,665,000	3,665,000
<b>TOTAL LISTED REAL</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>69,947,400</b>	<b>38,428,900</b>	<b>31,518,500</b>	<b>69,947,400</b>
P.P. Cable	0	0		0	0
P.P. Equipment	0	0			
P.P. Inventory	0	0			
<b>TOTAL LISTED P.P.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL LISTED VALUE</b>		<b>69,947,400</b>	<b>38,428,900</b>	<b>31,518,500</b>	<b>69,947,400</b>
<b>EXEMPTIONS</b>					
Veterans 10K	3/3	30,000	20,000	10,000	30,000
Veterans >10K		90,000			
<b>Total Veterans</b>		<b>120,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>
P.P. Contracts	0	0			
Contract Apprv VEPC	0/0	0	0	0	0
Grandfathered	0/0	0	0	0	0
Non-Apprv (voted)	1/1	267,100			
Owner Pays Ed Tax	0/0	0			
<b>Total Contracts</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>267,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
FarmStab Apprv VEPC	0/0	0	0	0	0
Farm Grandfathered	0/0	0	0	0	0
Non-Apprv (voted)	0/0	0			
Owner Pays Ed Tax	0/0	0			
<b>Total FarmStabContr</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Current Use	36/36	5,878,500	1,893,900	3,984,600	5,878,500
Special Exemptions	0		0	0	0
Partial Statutory	0/0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sub-total Exemptions</b>		<b>6,265,600</b>	<b>1,913,900</b>	<b>3,994,600</b>	<b>5,908,500</b>
<b>Total Exemptions</b>		<b>6,265,600</b>	<b>1,913,900</b>	<b>3,994,600</b>	<b>5,908,500</b>
<b>TOTAL MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST</b>		<b>636,818.00</b>			
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION GRAND LIST</b>			<b>365,150.00</b>	<b>275,239.00</b>	<b>640,389.00</b>
<b>NON-TAX</b>	<b>25 NON-TAX PARCELS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE 411</b>				

(Taxable properties only - State and Non-tax status properties are not listed below)

REAL ESTATE Category/Code	Parcel Count	Municipal Listed Value	Homestead Ed Listed Value	Non-Resi Ed. Listed Value	Total Education Listed Value
Residential I R1	113	19,542,100	14,809,700	4,732,400	19,542,100
Residential II R2	124	35,436,200	22,660,300	12,775,900	35,436,200
Mobile Homes-U MHU	1	61,200	0	61,200	61,200
Mobile Homes-L MHL	13	1,050,400	614,400	436,000	1,050,400
Seasonal I S1	17	912,300	0	912,300	912,300
Seasonal II S2	28	2,528,700	0	2,528,700	2,528,700
Commercial C	20	3,171,300	372,600	2,798,700	3,171,300
Commercial Apts CA	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial I	0	0	0	0	0
Utilities-E UE	1	972,000	0	972,000	972,000
Utilities-O UO	0	0	0	0	0
Farm F	0	0	0	0	0
Other O	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland W	14	3,030,000	0	3,030,000	3,030,000
Miscellaneous M	67	3,612,800	0	3,612,800	3,612,800
<b>TOTAL LISTED REAL</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>70,317,000</b>	<b>38,457,000</b>	<b>31,860,000</b>	<b>70,317,000</b>
P.P. Cable	0	0		0	0
P.P. Equipment	0	0			
P.P. Inventory	0	0			
<b>TOTAL LISTED P.P.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL LISTED VALUE</b>		<b>70,317,000</b>	<b>38,457,000</b>	<b>31,860,000</b>	<b>70,317,000</b>
<b>EXEMPTIONS</b>					
Veterans 10K	3/3	30,000	20,000	10,000	30,000
Veterans >10K		90,000			
<b>Total Veterans</b>		<b>120,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>
P.P. Contracts	0	0			
Contract Apprv VEPC	0/0	0	0	0	0
Grandfathered	0/0	0	0	0	0
Non-Apprv (voted)	1/1	267,100			
Owner Pays Ed Tax	0/0	0			
<b>Total Contracts</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>267,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
FarmStab Apprv VEPC	0/0	0	0	0	0
Farm Grandfathered	0/0	0	0	0	0
Non-Apprv (voted)	0/0	0			
Owner Pays Ed Tax	0/0	0			
<b>Total FarmStabContr</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Current Use	37/37	5,941,200	1,806,900	4,134,300	5,941,200
Special Exemptions	0		0	0	0
Partial Statutory	0/0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sub-total Exemptions</b>		<b>6,328,300</b>	<b>1,826,900</b>	<b>4,144,300</b>	<b>5,971,200</b>
<b>Total Exemptions</b>		<b>6,328,300</b>	<b>1,826,900</b>	<b>4,144,300</b>	<b>5,971,200</b>
<b>TOTAL MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST</b>		<b>639,887.00</b>			
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION GRAND LIST</b>			<b>366,301.00</b>	<b>277,157.00</b>	<b>643,458.00</b>
NON-TAX	27 NON-TAX PARCELS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE 411				

## Cemetery Commission Report

Boundary fencing was installed in 2018 distinguishing the new land at Galvin Cemetery donated by Middlebury College from the remaining college land on Route 125. Cutting dead trees and clearing along the stone wall at Galvin Cemetery is in process. Deeds and cemetery records have been copied and saved to digital media, with original documents located in the safe at the Town Office. Work continues with updates to the 1957 Cook Cemetery map, currently in use, and mapping the burials in the historic section of Cook. Ripton had three burials and sold one cemetery lot this year. Samantha Smith Lau was voted onto the Commission in 2018.

The Commission is asking for your support in the 2019/20 fiscal year to continue the work of operating, restoring and improving Ripton’s Town Cemeteries. Requested funds will pay for tree removal, trimming, landscaping and mowing, replacing degraded fencing posts and rails at Cook, open/closed signage, and work on monuments throughout the year. One Commissioner position is on the March 2019 ballot.

The Ripton Cemetery Commission is a Town entity established in 2014 to administer Ripton’s public cemeteries; Cook, Galvin, Gee & Cushman. The Commission meets every first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM, March through December at the Town Office. The public is welcome to attend. Members are Carole Cummings, Marlene Thompson, Bonnie Swan, Samantha Lau and Elizabeth Walker. The Commission welcomes volunteers to help clean monuments and clear overgrown shrubs and plantings throughout the year.

Elizabeth Walker, Chair

### Cemetery Commission Budget

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Budget FY18</b>	<b>Actual FY18</b>	<b>Budget FY19</b>	<b>Budget FY20</b>
From account balance	1,935.00	1,935.00	500.00	4,200.00
Donations	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Plots	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Town Payments	13,000.00	20,426.33*	7,000.00	6,000.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>16,935.00</b>	<b>23,861.33</b>	<b>8,500.00</b>	<b>11,200.00</b>
<i>*Actual FY18 Revenue includes deposit of the Cemetery Association Funds</i>				
<b>Expense</b>	<b>Budget FY18</b>	<b>Actual FY18</b>	<b>Budget FY19</b>	<b>Budget FY20</b>
Dues/Admin/Misc	150.00	25.00	150.00	150.00
Stipends	1,250.00	950.00	1,250.00	1,250.00
Sexton & Chair addtnl stipend	400.00	0.00	400.00	400.00
Mowing	2,500.00	1,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Tree cutting & removal	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,000.00
Trash & compost	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fencing	7,500.00	4,952.00	0.00	1,000.00
Repair	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Monument cleaning	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Survey & Site Design	2,000.00	486.00	0.00	0.00
Development-Cook	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Development Galvin	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
Landscaping	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	600.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>15,750.00</b>	<b>7,913.00</b>	<b>8,100.00</b>	<b>11,200.00</b>

Account Balance June 30, 2018: \$14,057.75

# Volunteer Fire and First Response Department Report

Last year was busier than most with more call volume (69) and more projects, the two main projects dealing with dry hydrants.

Our newest dry hydrant is on the Billings Bridge (B16) on the Natural Turnpike. It is the second bridge-mount hydrant in the state and provides a water source for the high occupancy residential and historic district of the town. The other hydrant work was on the Fire Brook Road hydrant. This hydrant was first installed in 1998 and was getting harder to draft from. We re-did the whole system as the original design led to the drafting problems. This hydrant now works as it should to provide coverage for the North Branch Road, which has no easy water access. The state dry hydrant program and a local match funded the projects.

We started a fund drive to replace two of our older vehicles, the utility and Engine-2, with a single unit. Both are showing their age maintenance-wise, and we feel they should be replaced with one newer vehicle.

We also, with the help of a grant from Neat Repeats, replaced our 20-year-old thermal imaging camera, which they do not make or have batteries for anymore.

We are always in the need of volunteers so please, if you can, volunteer! We thank you for all of your support! Remember, the RVFD open house cookout is the last Saturday in July. We hope to see you there.

Erik Eriksen, Chief

Roster January 2019

Chief: Erik Eriksen

Assistant Chief: Chris Pike

Captains: Ceredwyn Alexander, Ross Elliot, Jay Harrington, Will Mathis

Lieutenants: Mark Nelson, Alison Joseph (Admin)

Members: Justin Allen, Phil Bowman, Jake Coddling, Marty Kulczyk, Erica Mathis, Reid Peck, Gary Smith (of Salisbury)

Activity Report	# Calls	Hours
Fire calls	21	131
Medical calls	37	123
Motor vehicle accidents	7	110
Search & rescue	4	133
Fire training		455
Medical training		70
Maintenance		197
Meetings		110
Community Service		238
Total calls & hours (excluding admin)	69	1,567

Account Balances June 30, 2018	
Checking	\$2,437.70
Savings	\$25,271.74
Balance checking + savings	\$27,709.44
Vehicle Replacement Fund	\$23,567.16

**RVFD/TOWN PICNIC LAST SATURDAY IN JULY – JULY 27, 2019 NOON**

<b>2018 Vehicle &amp; Major Equipment Inventory</b>	
Pumper. 1993. KME/International	Ladders. 1-roof, 2-24', 1-8', 1-attic
Tanker. 2005. Freightliner	Chainsaw. Jonsered
Pumper. 1988. FMC with Hale pump	Fan, SuperVac GE
Utility vehicle. 1998. Ford	Thermal Imaging Camera
Pump, portable. Hale HPX400	CO monitors – 2
Pump, portable. Hale HP300	Air pump. Porter Cable
Portable pond. 1,000 gallons	Compressor. Porter Cable, 3 hp
Portable pond. 2,000 gallons	Defibrillator. Medtronic Lifepak 500
Generator & light, portable. Honda (2)	Defibrillator. 2 Medtronic Lifepak 1000
Generator, station. Honda	Defibrillator. Laerdal Heartstart
Generator, portable. Generac	

## RVFD Budget Report

<b>Account</b>	<b>Budget FY18</b>	<b>Actual FY18</b>	<b>Budget FY19</b>	<b>Budget FY20</b>
Town Payment	40,000.00	40,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00
Donations/Grants*	1,900.00	1,432.75	3,500.00	1,200.00
Prior year carry over			1,140.00	12,162.00
Interest - Savings	5.00	9.10	5.00	10.00
Interest - Vehicle Fund	5.00	7.24	5.00	8.00
	<b>41,910.00</b>	<b>41,449.09</b>	<b>45,650.00</b>	<b>54,380.00</b>
Gear/Tools/Equipment	11,000.00	3,248.78	11,000.00	11,000.00
Vehicle Repair/Main	5,000.00	2,736.80	5,000.00	6,000.00
Fuel	1,000.00	498.18	600.00	600.00
Admin	1,200.00	1,726.99	2,000.00	3,000.00
Insurance	3,860.00	4,620.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Training, Meetings	3,000.00	1,116.50	3,000.00	3,000.00
Computer & Internet	1,000.00	480.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Dispatch	2,000.00	2,096.81	2,500.00	2,500.00
Electricity	1,200.00	1,002.73	1,200.00	1,200.00
Telephone	1,000.00	1,328.55	1,100.00	1,300.00
Heat/Propane	5,000.00	2,548.64	3,000.00	3,000.00
Furniture & Equipment	200.00	99.98	500.00	500.00
Hydrants	0.00	2,964.63	4,000.00	500.00
Maintenance	200.00	4,066.58	500.00	3,000.00
Plowing	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
<b>Operating Budget</b>	<b>36,410.00</b>	<b>29,285.17</b>	<b>40,150.00</b>	<b>41,350.00</b>
Vehicle Replacement Fund*	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Carryover to add to savings /vehicle fund				7,530.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,910.00</b>	<b>34,785.17</b>	<b>45,650.00</b>	<b>54,380.00</b>

\* 2018-19 vehicle campaign fund donations are not yet included.

# Zoning Administrator's Report

**SUMMARY OF PERMIT ACTIVITY -**

**Calendar Year 2018**

New dwellings	
Permanent/seasonal houses.....	1
Camps.....	1
Apartments/accessory dwellings.....	0
Mobile homes .....	0
Replacements .....	3
Renovations/additions.....	4
Accessory outbuildings/structures .....	5
Exempt agricultural outbuildings.....	0
Access drives/roads/work in right-of-way .....	0
Ponds/dams/other land development .....	0
Renewable resource uses (wind turbines, solar panels) .....	0
Temporary uses.....	0
Signs .....	0
Subdivisions	
Single-lot .....	1
Multiple lot.....	0
Boundary adjustments.....	1
Planned unit developments (PUDs) .....	0
Renewals of permit .....	0
Conditional uses.....	1
Certificates of occupancy .....	21
Verifications of compliance.....	11
Notices of Violation.....	1
Hearing applications	
Zoning Board of Adjustment	
Conditional use .....	1
Site Plan Reviews.....	1
Variances/Waivers .....	0
Appeals.....	0
Planning Commission	
Subdivisions/PUDs .....	1
Site plan reviews .....	0
Historic District Commission	
Historic District developments.....	1

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan C. Heppell, Zoning Officer

# Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment, and Historic District Commission Report

The Ripton Planning Commission (RPC) provides land use planning for the Town. The Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) considers conditional and non-conforming use applications, rules on applications for variances and waivers from the Unified Development Bylaw, and serves as an appeal body for decisions by the Zoning Administrator. The Historic District Commission (HDC) provides guidance on external changes to properties in the Historic District. The Town Plan, Unified Development Bylaw, and state statutes guide the decisions of these commissions.

In January the Planning Commission approved a subdivision and boundary adjustment of two parcels on Route 125. In June the Historic District Commission approved construction of a fence around a yard in the Historic District. In August the Historic District Commission approved construction of a lighted sign and removal and replacement of a walkway at the Chipman Inn on Route 125. In August the Planning Commission heard a request for subdivision of a parcel on Old Town Road. The subdivision hearing was continued in September and October and was approved. In October, Warren King, chair of the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment and Historic District Commission, resigned as chair and was replaced by Marty Kulczyk. Warren expressed his willingness to continue as a member through the end of his term in 2020.

The RPC began a revision of the Unified Development Bylaw early in 2016. Following a duly warned public hearing on September 11, 2018, the Planning Commission approved the revision and sent it to the Ripton Selectboard for approval. The Selectboard approved the Revised Unified Development Bylaw at a duly warned hearing on October 8, 2018.

Marty Kulczyk, Chair, November 2018

Warren King, Chair, 2002 - October 2018



Photo credit unknown

## Energy Coordinator's Report

The Ripton Energy Assistance Program (REAP) provides firewood or payments for fuel oil, kerosene or propane for households that qualify under criteria provided by HOPE, with which REAP has a collaborative arrangement. Wood can be made available in an emergency or to avert a likely emergency. The winter of 2017-2018 saw requests for 6 cords of firewood and one request for propane. Volunteers are needed from time to time to cut, split and stack firewood at the REAP woodshed beside the Ripton Fire Station. Contact Mac Cox at 388-7820 or [millardcox@gmail.com](mailto:millardcox@gmail.com) if you know of someone in need of firewood or who needs help paying for fuel oil, kerosene or propane.

The June 2016 Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan calls for an ambitious Vermont target of 90 percent renewable energy use by 2050. Governor Scott reconfirmed this target. Act 174, passed in 2016, provides standards and guidelines for regional and municipal energy planning that are consistent with the state goals of the Comprehensive Energy Plan. Ripton has drafted an energy plan that we believe conforms to ACRPC's and Vermont's plans. The draft has been approved by the Energy Committee and is being submitted to the Planning Commission for approval.

Warren King

## Conservation Commission Report

Highlights of 2018 activities for the Ripton Conservation Commission:

Conservation Speaker - On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Conservation Commission hosted a speaker event where Mark Breen presented about "Vermont's Weather: Past, Present, and Future". This informative presentation was attended by about 40 people.

Addison County Conservation Commission Summit – Conservation Commissions across Addison County convened a summit to share stories about the Conservation Commission work in their town. In addition, a representative from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department spoke about current issues with opportunities for attention from Conservation Commissions, how town policies or initiatives fit in with state-level policy-making, and resources available to help with these and other projects. The Ripton Conservation Commission presented their work to address invasive species, participate in the Town Planning process, and protect wetlands and streams in Ripton.

Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions Annual Summit – Members of the Ripton Conservation Commission attended this summit. The summit was focused on protecting Vermont's waters.

Stream Reclassification Project – On September 26<sup>th</sup>, the Ripton Conservation Commission held a Public Meeting to review a project to have three streams in Ripton reclassified from B(2) to A(1). The Ripton Conservation Commission is petitioning the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to reclassify the Alder Brook, Blue Bank Brook, and Goshen Brook streams from Class B(2) streams to Class A(1) streams. These streams are representative of some of the highest quality waters in Vermont. They support a multitude of native plants and animals that depend on undisturbed high-quality waters. The reason for requesting the reclassification of these streams is to ensure that the current conditions of excellent aquatic and fish habitat, and biological and chemical health are protected and preserved for the future.

Invasive Species:

- May 21<sup>st</sup> – pulled garlic mustard plants
- June 4 – pulled narrow-leaf bitter cress
- June 8 – pulled chervil
- July 2 – pulled wild parsnip

Mark Nelson, Chair

# Recycling Report

Cleaning up nonrecyclables left in the open town shed on Peddler's Bridge Road has put an excessive burden on volunteer help. The shed will undergo repairs in 2019, following which it will be locked. Recycling and trash drop-off will continue from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on the first and third Saturdays of each month. After repairs the shed will also be open for recycling on a trial basis on the first Wednesday of each month from 5 to 7 p.m. And in a pinch you can contact one of the recycling committee members. We know this will not be as convenient, but unfortunately, the continual disposal of large amounts of nonrecyclables requires restricted, supervised access. Recycling drop-off is free. A contribution of \$3 will help offset the cost of hauling. Trash disposal is \$3-5 per bag depending on weight. Trash drop-off ends at 11:45 a.m. on recycling Saturdays. **Burning household waste in burn barrels is illegal**, subject to a fine. The fumes pose a serious danger to downwind neighbors.

## BIG RED ROLL-OFF

Note: No items smaller than 2"x2". All should be clean.

- Metal food or beverage containers, preferably flattened
- Aluminum foil, pie and baking tins
- Glass bottles and jars, all colors, no caps
- Plastic bottles that are non-redeemable; can have caps screwed on if dry
- Plastic containers/lids with triangular recycling symbol (number 1-7), **but not styrofoam**
- Paper:
  - newspaper, magazines, catalogs, boxboard
  - paperback and telephone books
  - office paper, junk mail, construction paper
  - paper towels, un reusable paper bags or egg cartons
  - paper-lined (not plastic-lined) grain sacs
  - wrapping paper (except metallized paper)

## BROWN DUMPSTER OUTSIDE SHED

- Corrugated cardboard only, broken down and flattened

## ELSEWHERE INSIDE THE SHED

- BATTERIES: ALL household batteries ONLY should be placed in container labeled batteries (no car or industrial batteries, these should be taken to the transfer station)
- REDEEMABLE cans and bottles (proceeds go to Friends of Ripton School)
- EGG CARTONS: Whole and clean cardboard egg cartons
- METAL: Scrap metal of all shapes and sizes (into the labeled barrels)

## NO, we cannot take the following

- *Plastic bags of any kind!* However, you can now recycle many kinds of plastic bags and wrap by bringing them to the Transfer Station yourself. For information go to [AddisonCountyRecycles.org](http://AddisonCountyRecycles.org) or ask for a flyer at the town office.
- Containers with food residue
- **No Styrofoam** peanuts, blocks, chunks, sheets or trays, even with a recycling symbol
- Plastic containers without the recycling symbol
- Loose bottle and jar caps
- Sheet glass, dishware, goblets and drinking glasses, Pyrex, light bulbs

- Coated cardboard milk or juice containers, waxed, carbon or metallized paper, ribbon, plastic-lined grain sacs, or other compound materials
- Car batteries (take to Transfer Station).
- Fluorescent bulbs (take to Transfer Station)
- Paint cans, even if the paint is dry (Transfer Station takes full or largely full paint cans .)
- **No books, personal or household items!** (Bring to Transfer Station, donate to HOPE or another organization)

**Questions?** Call Barry or Warren King 388-4082 or the Town Office 388-2266.

We accept leaf and yard waste including grass clippings and leaves but not branches or twigs larger around than a pencil. Leaf and yard waste is \$5 per bag. Clean wood (branches larger than 1 inch, stumps, roots, clean lumber) accepted at the Transfer Station.

Under assumptions similar to those made since 1994, Ripton’s total waste stream in 2018 was 234.51 tons, an increase from 216.7 tons in 2017. Recyclables comprised 44.2 percent of the total, well above 2017’s amount, a satisfactory percentage.

Ripton’s residents support recycling through their use of the service and their willingness to volunteer three hours every couple of years to keep it running. Contact the Town Clerk (388-2266) or the recycling coordinator (388-4082) to help.

Recycling Committee

Millard Cox    Barry King    Warren King    Mark Nelson    Steve Zwicky

## Green Up Day

**GREEN UP DAY**, the first Saturday in May, is a special day in Vermont when thousands of volunteers come out in their communities for a massive spring clean-up of litter. It is the largest statewide volunteer event in Vermont with over 22,000 taking part, and the only statewide Green Up Day in the United States.

In 2019 Green Up Day is Saturday, May 4. Contact Steve Zwicky (388-2301) or Warren King (388-4082) to find out how you can participate.



## Report from the Ripton Post Office

To make things more clear (or more complicated) here are my rules of the post office:

**Hours:** My hours are Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. We are closed all federal holidays. If the mail volume is such that I need to stay longer, I will stay until all the mail is up.

**Packages:** Believe it or not, I have been getting anywhere from 25-60 packages a day, even after the holidays! I only have 14 parcel lockers – so here is my system of package delivery:

1. **A key!** - You have parcels in the parcel locker. Each key is numbered to a corresponding locker. The key goes in the chrome lock not the gold one. The key stays in the lock after you retrieve your parcels.
2. **Peach slip** - If you find a peach slip in your box that means I took your packages to East Middlebury and you can pick them up during their hours.
3. **Yellow card** - If you find a yellow card in your box, the parcel is in the Ripton Post Office. Either the parcel is too large for the lockers or you have to sign for something. Please come in during my hours or leave me a note to take it to East Middlebury.
4. **No key, but tracking says it is here** - and you have no peach slip or yellow card – it is probably sitting on the shelf awaiting a parcel locker. We operate on 1<sup>st</sup> in 1<sup>st</sup> out, and our goal is that packages will only wait 24 hours - however, sometimes that doesn't happen.

Please make every attempt to pick up parcels in a timely manner. If you will be going out of town or will not be able to pick up your mail regularly, please let me know so that lockers are not tied up. If you do not want to wait for a parcel locker, please let me know and I will put your name on a list to take your packages to East Middlebury on the day they arrive.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks for your cooperation!

Laurie Bertrand  
Ripton Postmistress



Photo Credit: New York Times, 2018

## Ripton Community Coffee House Report

The Ripton Community Coffee House is a nonprofit concert series held at the Ripton Community House at 7:30 PM on the first Saturday of every month (except August). It has been going since May, 1995. Concerts start with an open mic set followed by the featured performer. Everything is over before 10:30.

We hosted only ten concerts in 2018 instead of our usual eleven. Our January concert was canceled due to bad weather. The concerts we did have had an average attendance of about 115 people. Four of our featured acts had members from Vermont including two Ripton residents. We had forty open mike performers, including people from Ripton. We continue to encourage anyone interested in performing for the open mic to sign up. We have four 12-minute open-mike slots at each concert. You only need twelve minutes of talent, and it might lead to (very) unexpected fame and fortune!

Our organization is completely volunteer-run. The refreshment sales at our concerts are fundraisers for nonprofit organizations. In 2018 the beneficiaries were the Friends of the Ripton School, Friends of the Ripton Church, the Ripton Fire Department, Friends of the New Haven Library, Otter Creek Daycare, Immigrant Justice, and the Ripton Community Coffee House. If you are interested in running the refreshment sales to make money for your nonprofit organization, please contact Andrea Chesman at 388-9782.

If you haven't been to the coffeehouse, or haven't been for awhile, please come by for a friendly, all-ages evening and hear some great music. Our website is [www.rcch.org](http://www.rcch.org).



Photo Credit: RCCH, 2018

## Historical Society Report

Ripton Historical Society was re-established in April 2014 and currently has about 15 members. Monthly meetings are held in members' homes, the Town Office or at Ripton Community Church. RHS seeks to collect, preserve and restore Ripton's diverse history, and to present that history to the community. Members also seek out and enjoy different aspects of our regional and Vermont history.

For the year, Ripton Historical Society engaged in a range of activities. Ten monthly meetings were held, two door sections from the old CCC Camp Ripton were received from Chuck Herrmann and put into the archive, and a mailing to Ripton residents was made to inform Ripton residents of RHS activities. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, Hilda Billings presented "The Ripton Post Office and Recollections of Robert Frost." In May, RHS members met with Eileen Corcoran, Vermont Historical Society's Community Outreach and Media Coordinator, to review archiving procedures. This was followed up by a visit to the Leahy Library of the Vermont Historical Society in Barre for a meeting with Paul Carnahan, Librarian, and Marjorie Strong, Assistant Librarian to view their resources, discover the status of their online digitalization and to discuss possible ways for RHS to present digital materials online. In September, the East Middlebury Historical Society was invited to an RHS presentation of Ripton's early history, its oldest homes, taverns, inns and village mills which included a display of Charles Herrmann's collection of mill artifacts. Following this presentation at the church a field visit was made to the site of the Huntley butter tub mill, Calvin Pier's tavern [the first framed building in Ripton], and CCC Camp Ripton on Natural Turnpike. Paula Scott was elected as Curator and Ian Malin as Webmaster, succeeding Patti Gray and Bryan Alexander, respectively. Ian Malin has started the development of a new website for RHS—see <https://riptonhistoric.org/> (still under construction).

There is now a Ripton Historical Society Archive room in the Town Office. After consulting the Curator at Sheldon Museum and other sources RHS Curator, Patti Gray, established a protocol for archiving photographs and documents in the Archive room. Paula Scott in her new position as Curator has continued to archive items presented for preservation. A Lenovo ThinkPad P71 computer was purchased for RHS to archive, store and present RHS history.

RHS has initiated a new fundraising drive to continue its work to present and preserve our history. Acid free storage folders, boxes, sleeves and pockets are expensive but necessary for long term preservation. A scanner, printer and backup drive are needed to digitalize, copy and preserve photographs and documents in the archive.

RHS invites anyone interested in Ripton history to attend meetings, join RHS, be included in the RHS email announcements, or make a donation to contact Charles Billings by mail at Ripton Historical Society, P.O. Box 140, Ripton VT 05766, by phone 388-1634 or by email to [charlsbillings@gmail.com](mailto:charlsbillings@gmail.com).

## 2019 Funding Requests

Many organizations request funds from taxpayers. The requests will be voted by ballot March 5, 2019. Summary information for organizations, with service to Ripton residents if provided, is below. Full reports are available at the organization website or at the town office.

**Addison Central Teens (ACT)** “provides a safe and welcoming place for teens to socialize after school and throughout the year.” An estimated 5 Ripton teens received services in 2018. **Request: \$1,900**

**Addison County Home Health and Hospice** “is a community-focused non-profit home healthcare agency. ACCH depends on and greatly appreciates funds received from the town of Ripton.” **Request: \$750**

**Addison County Parent/Child Center** “provides parenting education classes and workshops, community playgroups, home visits, pregnancy prevention programs, job training, academic classes, transportation, and childcare.” An estimated 39 Ripton residents received services in 2018. **Request: \$600**

**Addison County Restorative Justice Services** “provides a community restorative justice response focusing on the “balanced approach” in meeting the needs of the victim, the community and the offender.” Ripton residents received services from the following programs in FY 2018: 2 court diversion, 1 youth substance abuse safety, 1 driving with license suspended, 2 pre-trial services, 1 Safe Driving. **Request: \$170**

**Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative** requests funds to support water quality testing in the Middlebury River. Several residents assist with sample collection. A Ripton test sample site is in the Middle Branch of the Middlebury River near Natural Turnpike. **Request: \$400**

**Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR)** During the past year, your support helped us provide 1,140 free Dial-a-Ride trips for Ripton residents... In addition, the Snow Bowl Shuttle provided 1,702 rides through Ripton in the last year. **Request: \$1,900**

**Age Well** provides services and support that allow seniors to stay independent and remain healthy at home. Programs include Meals on Wheels, community meals, wellness programs, social activities, transportation, and a helpline. **Request: \$750**

**Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO)** provides emergency housing, fuel, and food assistance, financial counseling, and free tax preparation. **Request: \$1,500**

**Charter House Coalition** offers Community Meals and Emergency Shelter Programs. **Request: \$1,600**

**Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC)** provided 9,781 hours of service to residents of Ripton who had mental health, substance abuse, or developmental disability needs in 2018. **Request: \$1,400**

**Elderly Services** served 214 elders at Project Independence Adult Day Center in 2018, including 4 from Ripton. Also in 2018, Ripton residents received 2,114 hours of care, 822 hot meals, 842 van rides, which cost the agency \$34,029. Ripton seniors participated in the ESI College Lifelong Learning Center, 8 family caregivers received respite, residents volunteered and are on the staff. **Request: \$600**

**Green Up Vermont** coordinates Vermont’s annual spring clean-up on the first Saturday of May. **Request: \$50**

**Homeward Bound** is a “private, open-admission animal shelter.” Programs include education, Pets in Crisis, Pets Eat, Too!, investigations, microchipping, lost and found, Trap-Neuter-Return. Three animals were adopted by Ripton residents last year. **Request: \$750**

**Helping Overcome Poverty’s Effects (HOPE)** requests funds to help defray the costs of providing Ripton residents with heat, housing, food, clothing, medical items, and more. HOPE assisted 49 Ripton residents in 2017. **Request: \$3,000**

**Hospice Volunteer Services (HVS)** provides free hospice programs and bereavement support services. Twelve residents received services in 2017. HVS is merging with Addison County Care Home and its name

will change to End of Life Services, Inc. Information is available at their new website endoflifeVT.org.

**Request: \$500**

**John Graham Shelter** provided more than 16,000 bed nights of food, shelter, services and hope to more than 250 people at our shelter; provided rapid re-housing, counseling, case management and support services. **Request: \$1,600**

**Middlebury Regional EMS (MREMS)** provides ambulance and heavy rescue service; responded to 29 calls from Ripton at an average cost of \$535 per call. **Request \$1,470** (\$2.50 per capita)

**NeighborWorks of Western Vermont** promotes safe and affordable housing, focusing on sustainable homeownership. In 2018, 1 resident had an energy audit and 1 resident completed energy improvement projects. **Request \$300**

**Open Door Clinic** provides access to high quality dental and healthcare, free of charge, to those who are uninsured or under-insured in accordance with 24 VSA § 2691. **Request: \$1,500**

**Otter Creek Child Care Center** supports young children and families in achieving their goals by providing high quality early care and education. **Request: \$1,000** to support tuition assistance

**Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District** provides free technical assistance to landowners; programs include workshops, Conservation Field Day, green stormwater infrastructure, scholarships, Tree Sale, and the Envirothon. Two residents purchased trees from the tree sale. One resident helps organize the Envirothon. **Request: \$48.84; rounded by the selectboard to \$50.**

**Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** is a volunteer management program that coordinates volunteers for their programs and local non-profit organizations. Through RSVP, Ripton residents volunteered over 500 hours last year. Service to Ripton residents in 2018 included free income tax return preparation, osteoporosis prevention classes, and food and clothing distributed through the elementary school. **Request: \$475**

**Vermont Adult Learning** “offers a variety of learning opportunities to help adults achieve their educational goals and enhance their quality of life. We are grateful to the townspeople of Ripton for supporting the services we provide.” 2018 Ripton service: 2 residents. **Request: \$300**

**WomenSafe** offers a 24-hour hotline, transitional housing, advocacy and outreach services, support groups, supervised visitation and monitored exchange, and education. Ripton service: at least 16 residents including parents of at least 17 children received direct services; provided presentations to 49 students and 7 adults at the Ripton School; provided presentations at MUMS and MUHS. **Request: \$1,250**

# Green Mountain National Forest Town Meeting Report

*The report that follows is condensed for Ripton. The full report is available upon request.*

The employees of the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) depend heavily on support from many municipalities, volunteers, partners and contractors. The support the Forest receives helps to accomplish an extremely robust program of work. The Forest would like to take this time to thank you and your community for the support and interest that you have shown in helping with the management of the approximately 400,000 acre GMNF. Receiving several million outdoor recreation enthusiast visits annually, these visitors seek enjoyment in a natural setting while providing critical benefit to the local economies. The GMNF is proud to be a part of Vermont and your town. It is truly one of Vermont's treasures and the largest contiguous public land area in the state. Forest staff work hard to achieve quality public land management under a sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of the people -- people in your town as well as all of the visitors who come to Vermont every year. Below is a brief summary of what happened in your National Forest throughout the past year:

## Environmental Analysis and Decision Making

In Fiscal Year 2018 the Forest Service as a whole set a goal of decreasing the time and cost of our environmental analysis and decision-making process. Locally, GMNF employees worked in conjunction with many partners to identify opportunities to better serve the public through internal and external efficiencies. In March of 2018, dozens of partner organizations met with the Forest Service at a roundtable meeting where we discussed working together to better meet the needs and interests of the general public. Since that meeting, we have taken critical steps to apply information that was highlighted at the meeting and we have worked internally to incorporate several suggestions into our daily efforts. These creative ideas have helped us enhance our processes at the local level and replaced obstacles and barriers with common sense solutions. We are in the early stages of setting the date for another partner meeting in March of 2019 where we hope to give partners an up-date on specific efficiencies that have been incorporated, offer a chance to discuss what we can be doing to support our partners and what our partners can be doing to support us and have an open dialogue about the concept of forming a "Friends of the Green Mountain National Forest" group. It goes without saying that each and every one of our partners brings something different to the table and we appreciate every organizations contribution to our work.

## Road, Dam, & Facility Construction & Maintenance

In cooperation with federal, state and local governments, private contractors, and non-profit organizations, the GMNF Engineering staff repaired and maintained many roads, bridges and other facilities throughout the Forest. Some highlights are as follows:

Forest Facility Improvements & Maintenance: Completed on-going routine maintenance and repairs of administrative buildings and other infrastructure including maintenance to HVAC systems and upgrades to restrooms. The Forest completed annual condition and safety inspections of all administrative facilities as well as out-year planning, design, and preparation for facility improvements.

Forest Road Improvement Projects: Improved 2.0 miles of National Forest System roads in [several] Towns [including] Ripton. This work included the replacement of culverts, stabilization of embankments, repairing storm damage, and resurfacing of roads.

Forest Road Maintenance: Maintained 78.14 miles of National Forest System roads in [several] Towns [including] Ripton. This work included grading, ditching, culvert cleaning, mowing and brushing.

## Recreation Programs

The following accomplishments highlight 2018 Recreation and Trail Program successes in acknowledgement of the outstanding collaborative effort exhibited between Forest Service employees, partner organizations, volunteers, State and local government representatives, and local businesses. The Forest Service relies on a community of collaboration and wishes to thank all of our partners, such as: Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST), Vermont All-terrain Vehicle Sportsman's Association (VASA), Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC), Rochester / Randolph Area Sports Trail Alliance (RASTA), Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA), Green Mountain Club (GMC), Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Student Conservation Association (SCA), Town of Killington, Vermont Huts Association, Catamount Trail Association (CTA), Counseling Service of Addison County, Middlebury High School Diversified Occupations Program, Moosalamoo Association, Vermont Trail Trotters (VTT), Vermont Horse Council, and many more – including our dedicated campground hosts!

With the help of the many hard-working volunteers and organizations we are able to provide a quality recreation experience in alignment with a strong environmental stewardship ethic. The following highlights capture large program accomplishments but represent only a portion of the annual work that is completed to develop, improve and maintain recreational opportunities on the GMNF:

#### Wilderness:

The GMNF continued to implement the national Wilderness Stewardship Performance measures. The Forest Service conducted a Wilderness Awareness Training for staff and partners. A Wilderness Education and Interpretation Plan was approved and many activities in the plan were accomplished including: the installation of new kiosk panels at Bristol Cliffs Wilderness; the erecting of signs to inform the public of the rare plants in the Mount Horrid area of the Battell Wilderness in order to prevent the trampling of plants; implementing a closure order to prevent tree cutting on Monastery Mountain and improving Wilderness web site content.

#### Forest Vegetation Management

Below is a list of accomplishments for calendar year 2018:

- The Forest awarded contracts for timber stand improvement and crop tree release work on 100 acres of young forest in the towns of Pownal, Stamford and Ripton.
- Permits were sold for approximately 245 cords of firewood, 400 (estimated) Christmas trees, 840 pounds of wild apples, 2 tons of boughs and 400 pounds of wild mushrooms.
- Staff continued work in restoring native trees (including butternut, American chestnut and beech) with research partners. GMNF employees located “challenged” beech trees that appeared to be resistant to beech scale insect in order to test their resistance.

#### Watershed Improvement

The Forest Service and partners completed 3 Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) projects in 2018. The [third] AOP project occurred on Forest Road 59 (Steam Mill Road) in the town of Ripton. This project removed and replaced an undersized culvert helping to protect the road way and provide native trout upstream access to the Middle Branch of the Middlebury River.

#### Wildlife Habitat Improvement

Wildlife habitat was improved and maintained through the creation and maintenance of early successional habitat important to many species. Approximately 600 acres of permanent upland openings were maintained by prescribed fire, mowing, or mastication in [several] towns [including] Ripton.

In partnership with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, GMNF staff have instituted a long-term program to monitor the federally-threatened Canada lynx through the use of camera traps. This program began in response to two confirmed lynx sightings in 2016 near GMNF lands. The goal is to determine if a breeding population occurs on the GMNF while also collecting valuable data on other carnivores. Camera traps were monitored across the GMNF in [several] towns [including] Ripton.

#### Long-term Ecosystem Monitoring

Between 2008 and 2011, twenty Long-term Ecosystem Monitoring Plots (LEMPs) were established on the GMNF in order to measure change in key ecosystem parameters over the next fifty years. The GMNF worked with partners to review and refine methods and identify opportunities for additional collaboration in gathering and processing monitoring data.

During 2015, a group of collaborators from the RSENR, the Vermont Department of Forests Parks and Recreation and the FEMC developed a state-wide network of forest health monitoring plots, building on past and existing forest health monitoring initiatives, including plots on the GMNF associated with the GMNF LEMP project, the Forest Service’s Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, and the State’s Hardwood Health Survey. This partnership led to the inclusion of a total of 12 plots on the GMNF as part of this network, in [several] towns [including] Ripton. Monitoring at these locations will provide insight into long-term changes occurring in relatively undisturbed forest ecosystems in response to stressors such as atmospheric deposition, climate change, and invasive pests. These plots were monitored in 2017 and 2018.

### Wildfire and Prescribed Fire Activities

Fire management personnel on the GMNF were very active this past season accomplishing twenty prescribed fires while suppressing or assisting in the suppression of two GMNF wildfires. Prescribed fire treatment objectives were focused on reducing hazardous forest fuels, improving wildlife habitat and reinvigorating native blueberry patches.

In addition to the work that was done here in Vermont, 20 individuals were involved with providing support directly or indirectly for wildfire season here in Vermont and nationally. This support was in the form of assisting in the mobilization of resources or by directly responding to wildfires and all hazard incidents throughout the nation. These 20 individuals collectively spent approximately 732 days on these efforts.

The fire management staff would also like to thank the dedicated firefighters from the Volunteer and Municipal fire departments that responded to and assisted in the suppression of the wildfires that occurred this past year on the GMNF.

### Conservation Education

Employees of the GMNF were invited to attend the 2018 Addison County Fair and Field Days in Addison, where they were asked by passersby to answer many questions from the public about management efforts on the 400,000 acre National Forest. The fair continues to be a wonderful venue to discuss forest related issues with our partners and gather information from the public.

Each year, GMNF employees join partners in the Forestry Building at the Vermont State Fair in Rutland where exhibits from the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation, the GMNF, Vermont Audubon Society and many other local entities are displayed. During 2018, Smokey Bear was again featured at the fair and greeted visitors. Smokey and his handler continue to enjoy fielding questions about forestry and fire safety topics from adults and children.

Again in 2018 the GMNF partnered with Shelburne Farms to sponsor the Forest For Every Classroom program which works to educate New England-based teachers about forest stewardship issues, provide tools to develop place-based service-learning curricula that meet current educational standards, and use local landscapes, resources and community to connect classroom learning to real world application. Over the course of the year-long program participants integrate hands-on natural and cultural explorations into curriculum to address concepts in ecology, sense of place, stewardship, and civics. Participants in turn implement their learning into their instruction during the school year, then share out and reflect on their experiences with their fellow peers. The program continues to be a huge success in helping educators transfer and translate sustainability concepts in to their curriculum, instruction, and life.

Another critical program that we are proud to support is the Vermont Envirothon. The Vermont Envirothon helps students focus on Vermont's environmental issues related to forestry, wildlife, soils and water resources through real-world learning in a teamwork environment. We would like to thank the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts for coordinating this important program and the many agencies and natural resource and conservation partner organizations that work hard to make the Vermont Envirothon possible each year. The program provides an opportunity for hands-on field experiences and activities with professionals in the field and serves as a way for high school-aged students to actively learn more about the natural world around them while they work together. Students learn to incorporate science-based investigations in helping to explore environmental issues. The 23rd Vermont Envirothon was held on May 23, 2018 at the Mount Norris Scout Reservation in Eden, Vermont.

Again, thank you for your support of your National Forest. Together, we will continue to maintain and improve this valuable treasure for generations to come. Our offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM. You can also visit us and learn more about the GMNF at our website on-line:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/gmfl>. Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GreenMountainFingerLakesNF/>

David Francomb District Ranger, South Half - Manchester Ranger District 802-362-2307	Christopher Matrick District Ranger, North Half - Rochester & Middlebury Ranger Districts 802-767-4261
/s/ John A. Sinclair JOHN A. SINCLAIR, Forest Supervisor Rutland -- Supervisor's Office. 802-747-6700	

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# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street

Middlebury, VT 05753

www.acrpc.org

Phone: 802.388.3141

Fax: 802.388.0038

## Annual Report –Year End June 30, 2018

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) provided the following technical assistance and planning to the Region during its 2018 fiscal year:

### Regional and Municipal Planning and Mapping

- Assisted member municipalities creating, adopting and regionally approving their municipal plans.
- Assisted member municipalities creating and adopting local regulations implementing their municipal plan.
- Provided data and mapping products to support on-going municipal planning activities.
- Provided technical assistance to municipal officials concerning municipal government.
- Represented the region in the Act 250 process and at the Public Service Board in Section 248 hearings.

### Educational Meetings and Grants

- Hosted educational workshops, Zoning Administrators Roundtables and monthly public meetings on a wide variety of planning topics, including water quality, open meetings and planning essentials.
- Wrote or provided information and support to communities and organizations to secure grant funding.

### Emergency Planning

- Worked with Addison County's Emergency Planning Committee and Vermont Emergency Management staff to assist with municipal emergency planning efforts.
- Hosted Local Emergency Management Plan training for town Emergency Managers and hosted a Tier II workshop for municipalities and businesses required to report hazardous chemicals.
- Worked with Vermont Emergency Management to exercise local and statewide disaster plans.
- Assisted in development of hazard mitigation plans for the towns of Ferrisburgh, Monkton, Panton, Salisbury, Starksboro, Goshen, New Haven, Shoreham, Ripton, Bristol and Orwell.
- Confirmed ERAF status and assisted communities in attaining compliance.

### Energy Planning:

- Assisted a second round of three towns, Salisbury, Monkton and Panton in strengthening their energy plans by adding goals and policies supporting renewable energy.
- Completed the Regional Energy Plan to comply with Act 174, providing more voice to municipal and regional plans in the Section 248 process.

### Transportation Planning

- Supported the Addison County Transportation Advisory Committee's regional priorities and studies.
- Supported Tri-Valley Transit/ACTR by providing leadership and technical support.
- Worked with municipalities to produce highway structures inventories of all local roads in the region.
- Assisted Towns with enhancement, park and ride and stormwater grants.
- Served as a Municipal Project Manager for sidewalk construction projects in Middlebury and Weybridge.
- Sponsored town transportation studies, planning and supported municipal capital budget development
- Facilitated Regional Walk/bike council meetings/outreach

### Natural Resources Planning

- Actively support the efforts of the Addison County River Watch Collaborative.
- Worked with municipalities to support forest stewardship resource planning.
- Participated on the Lake Champlain Basin Program technical advisory committee.
- Provided educational outreach regarding the Vermont Clean Water Act and tactical basin planning.
- Performed stormwater planning projects and Vermont Environmental Restoration Program projects

Addison  
Lincoln  
Salisbury

Bridport  
Middlebury  
Shoreham

Bristol  
Monkton  
Starksboro  
Vergennes

Cornwall  
New Haven  
Waltham

Ferrisburgh  
Orwell  
Weybridge

Goshen  
Panton  
Whiting





## ACSWMD 2018 Annual Report

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District is a union municipal district formed in 1988 to cooperatively and comprehensively address the solid waste management interests of its 20-member municipalities: Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Goshen, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Panton, Ripton, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge and Whiting. The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors (Board) comprised of one representative and one alternate from each of the member municipalities. The Board meets on the 3<sup>d</sup> Thursday of the month at 7PM at the Addison County Regional Planning Commission Office, 14 Seminary Street, Middlebury, VT. The public is invited to attend.

**District Mission:** To seek environmentally sound & cost effective solutions for: (1) Promoting **waste reduction**; (2) Promoting **pollution prevention**; (3) Maximizing **diversion** of waste through reuse, recycling and composting; and (4) Providing for **disposal** of remaining wastes.

### District Office and Transfer Station:

**Telephone:** (802) 388-2333

**Fax:** (802) 388-0271

**Website:** [www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org](http://www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org)

**E-mail:** [acswmd@acswmd.org](mailto:acswmd@acswmd.org)

**Transfer Station Hours:** M-F, 7 AM–3 PM & Sat, 8 AM–1 PM

**Office Hours:** M-F, 8 AM–4 PM

**HazWaste Center Hours:** M-F, 8 AM–2 PM & Sat, 8 AM–1 PM

The District Office, Transfer Station and HazWaste Center are co-located at 1223 Rt. 7 South in Middlebury. The Transfer Station accepts large loads of waste and single stream recyclables for transfer to out-of-District facilities. District residents and businesses may drop off a variety of other materials for reuse, recycling and composting. The **Reuse It or Lose It!** Centers are open for accepting reusable household goods and building materials. A complete list of acceptable items and prices is posted on the District's website.

### 2018 Highlights

**Act 148.** The District continued its efforts this year to implement the goals outlined in VT's Universal Recycling Law. Food scrap diversion remains one of the most challenging aspects of the URL in a rural county with low population density. The District's efforts thus far have helped increase food scrap diversion, both at local town drop-offs as well as at the District Transfer Station. This year, more Addison County businesses and schools transitioned to a sustainable diversion system for food scraps. With the 2020 landfill ban for food scraps approaching, the District is focusing its efforts on both residential and business organics diversion. The District also provided numerous workshops on backyard composting this year.

**Recycling.** One of the most pressing aspects of waste diversion is the downturn in recycling market prices. China, the export market for one-third of all U.S. recyclables, recently enacted its National Sword initiative. Designed to reduce contamination, it has caused disruption of international recycling markets. Acceptable levels of contamination in imported bales of recycled commodities are so low that few, if any, facilities in the U.S. can meet the new standard. The result has been a scramble to find other markets, and a glut of recycled materials. Revenues for recycling are at historic lows. In spite of this, the District's commitment to recycling remains steadfast. The District will continue to improve efforts to educate the public about what is and is not recyclable, and to work with local processors and haulers to ensure that we can collectively weather this crisis until markets eventually rebound.

**Product Stewardship.** Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws are a useful tool to help distribute the cost of recycling and safe management of these products between industry, government and consumers. EPR can alleviate the financial burden for municipalities and residents, while mitigating environmental impacts from disposal by increasing collection and recycling rates of covered products. Vermont's EPR programs remain effective at collecting targeted materials, largely due to education and collection efforts by the State and solid waste districts. VT has the second highest number of EPR laws in the U.S. and has recently led the way with a law on primary cell batteries. These efforts are coordinated through the VT Product Stewardship Council, of which the District is a member, and which recently celebrated its tenth year of success in establishing EPR laws in VT.

**Illegal Burning/Disposal.** The District contracted with the Addison County Sheriff's Department to enforce its Illegal Burning & Disposal Ordinance. The District served again as County Coordinator for Green-Up Day, VT's annual litter clean-up event. The District subsidized the disposal of 17.30 tons of roadside trash, .39 tons of tires, 4 auto batteries, 11 E-Waste items, 1 appliance, and various other hazardous items, for a total economic benefit to its member towns of \$5,424.

**2019 Annual Budget:** The District adopted a 2019 Annual Budget of \$3,223,095. This represents a 7.69% increase over the 2018 Annual Budget, primarily due to a major increase in recycling costs. The Transfer Station tip fees will increase to \$126/ton for MSW and C&D. The rate for Single Stream Recyclables will increase to \$92/ton. Rates on some other items will have nominal increases. New fees: \$1 per visit or per 50 or < lbs of household goods at the **Reuse It or Lose It!** Shed; and \$5/load for books. The District Fee of \$33.40/ton on all waste destined for disposal, and \$10/ton on contaminated soils used as Alternative Daily Cover at the landfill will remain the same. **There will be no assessments to member municipalities in 2019.** For a copy of the full 2018 Annual Report and Adopted 2019 Rate Sheet, please give us a call, or visit the District website at [www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org](http://www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org).

Help us keep the Ripton Recycling Center Clean and Effective

## **NOT ACCEPTED AT RIPTON RECYCLING CENTER**

**But,**

**now accepted at the Transfer Station**

**1223 Route 7 South, Middlebury, VT 05753**

 <p>Grocery bags</p>	 <p>Produce bags</p>	 <p>Newspaper bags</p>	 <p>Food storage bags</p>
 <p>Dry cleaning bags</p>	 <p>Case wrap</p>	 <p>Shipping envelopes</p>	 <p>Bread bags</p>
 <p>Product overwrap</p>	 <p>Air pillows &amp; bubble wrap</p>	 <p>Stretch wrap &amp; plastic wrap</p>	 <p>Cereal bags</p>
 <p>Pellet bags</p>	 <p>Salt bags</p>	 <p>Ice bags</p>	 <p>Items with these labels (#2 or #4 plastic films)</p>

**Not accepted: salad mix bags, grape bags, chip bags, candy wrappers, black plastic, biodegradable materials, frozen food bags, cellophane, metallic/foil packaging, six-pack rings, agricultural films**

Questions? – Call Addison County Solid Waste Management District 802-388-2333

## Minutes of the 2018 Town of Ripton Annual Meeting

Approximately 80 legal voters of the Town of Ripton met Monday, March 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community House to act upon Articles 1-6 of the Annual Town Meeting Warning, and to discuss other business items under Article 7. A soup and bread supper, and an appreciation for Dick and Sue Collitt, owners of the Ripton Country Store for more than 43 years, preceded the meeting. Moderator Tim Hanson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., explained procedures, read and called for discussion and vote on Articles 1-6. With voter approval, there was a break in discussion between Articles 5 and 6 to allow State Representative Peter Conlon to report on the legislative session. Articles 1-6 passed by voice vote.

**Article 1:** Will the Town vote the sum of **\$614,762.00** to pay General Fund and Highway Fund expenses for July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019, and pay outstanding orders or obligations of the Town, with interest, the tax rate on the 2018 Grand List to be determined by the Selectboard, divided as follows:

General Fund	\$255,362.00	Highway Fund	\$359,400.00
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Motion to discuss by Bill McKibben/Second by Mar Harrison

Selectboard chair, Laurie Cox, explained that the budget had not changed much. There were some weather-related disasters, but FEMA reimbursement is expected to limit their effect on the budget. Ms. Cox described building maintenance expenses. For the Community House, improvements include a new stove and refrigerator last year, and work to be done at the back deck this year. The board is considering repair work for the town office, which could be significant.

The town office repair is not part of the budget. Last year voters approved moving a General Fund surplus to the Town Building Fund. This fund will pay for work, beginning with a structural analysis. Before the fund is used for a major project, the board will ask voters for approval. The board recently advertised a request for proposals for a building study. All the responses were from architectural firms and involved more than the board is ready to undertake. The board decided to do a structural analysis for now.

In the Highway Fund budget, increases are for sanding roads and resurfacing paving. Questions and comments followed.

Charles Billings, Bill Ford, Ron Wimett and Laurie Cox exchanged questions and answers about the town office building including historical oversight, codes and standards, building preservation, importance to the heart of the town, office use, responses to the request for proposals, and structural engineers.

Tom Cabot referred to the Middlebury College payment-in-lieu of tax (PILOT) in the Highway Fund revenue budget. He asked how it is determined and if the board is comfortable with the College contribution. Ms. Cox explained that the College has taxable and non-tax property. The PILOT for the non-tax property was negotiated a few years ago. At that time, property values were considered to get a sense of the payment if it was taxable. In general, the PILOT seemed to be in a good place. It adjusts annually by the municipal tax rate, to reflect the tax rate for the town.

APPROVED by voice vote

**Article 2:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$41,000.00 to the Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department to pay expenses for July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019?

Motion to discuss by Carol Ford/Second by Barry King

Chief Erik Eriksen corrected the table on page 32 of the town report; the number of hours is 1,467 rather than 1,132. He stated the department always needs volunteers.

Tom Cabot asked if the department is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Alison Dickinson answered it is not. Mr. Cabot thought it might be worth becoming one to encourage donations. He knew this had been

successful in other towns, Shelburne for example. Charles Billings, Bill Ford, Tracey Harrington, and Barbara Nelson contributed to the discussion of 501(c)(3) status, donations, and grants.

APPROVED by voice vote

**Article 3:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$7,000.00 to the Ripton Cemetery Commission to pay expenses for July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019?

Motion to discuss by Mark Nelson/Second by Jeremy Grip

The moderator asked if anyone wanted to speak regarding this Article. After no response, Christine Carone asked what the Commission does. Chair, Liz Walker explained the Commission's work on expanding two cemeteries, repairing monuments, and the cost of tree work and general maintenance. Laurel Coburn asked if Galvin Cemetery is getting a fence. Ms. Walker answered, yes. Ron Wimett mentioned the new signs installed at the cemetery.

APPROVED by voice vote

**Article 4:** Will the Town vote to have current property taxes collected by the Treasurer with a tax due date of Thursday, November 1, 2018?

Motion to discuss by Richard Ruane/Second by Erik Eriksen

The moderator asked Ms. Cox if she wished to explain. She answered it has to be someday; no further discussion.

APPROVED by voice vote

**Article 5:** Will the Town vote to authorize the legislative body to appoint the municipal clerk, as allowed with the passage of Act 27 of 2017?

Motion to discuss by David Harple/Second by Warren King

Participating in discussion (in order of speaking) were Jeremy Grip, Laurie Cox, Kim Kimler, Charles Billings, Giles Hoyler, Bill Ford, Ron Wimett, Bonnie DeGray, Dick Collitt, Tom McElhaney, Alison Joseph Dickinson, Zapata Courage, Barry King

Jeremy Grip asked if this is a new Act. Laurie Cox responded, yes. Towns have been moving in this direction but had to write or rewrite town charters and have them approved by the state legislature to do so. As described in the town report, the clerk and treasurer positions have become jobs people can't just walk in and do. The board began thinking about this change when it was learned the long-time, much loved Weybridge town clerk was embezzling. There was no means of removing her from her position. An elected clerk could be jailed, receive salary, and a town would still have to pay someone to do the work. The more the board thought about it, the time seemed right to make this change because they are happy with the town clerk and office staff and intend to keep them. It would be awkward to do this when the board is unhappy with the clerk. Kim Kimler asked for clarification, what is the legislative body? Ms. Cox answered, the selectboard. Charles Billings asked, is this is a 1-time vote and was answered, yes. Ms. Cox added that if it is the will of the town to change it back, that may be done if warned for a town meeting. Giles Hoyler asked about the benefits of the selectboard choosing the clerk versus the voters choosing. Bill Ford commented on potential incompatible interests. Laurie Cox and Ron Wimett spoke of how anyone can run for office, and that it easy for someone who may not have the skills to do the job to be elected. Mr. Hoyler asked if the clerk would have a contract and was answered, yes, probably for 1-year at a time. Bonnie DeGray asked the board to clarify, rather than trusting the town to elect, we're electing you to? Ms. Cox replied, yes, the whole town can't review and supervise. Bill Ford questioned if the job would include more than statutory requirements. Ms. Cox said, yes, though the selectboard administrator position will be kept separate. Dick Collitt asked when the change would take effect. Ms. Cox explained that if approved the statute required an appointment be made within 45-days of the vote. Tom McElhaney asked the current town clerk what she thought. Alison Joseph Dickinson responded as a clerk it is easier to remain elected, but

that it is in the long-term interest of the town that the clerk be appointed. She cited examples of towns in addition to Weybridge that had troubles, including a town with a clerk who continued to be reelected after serious problems with her work were publicized. Zapata Courage asked about the mechanism for hiring, and about maintaining the position if the composition of the selectboard changes and personalities on the board influence the process. Ms. Cox answered that anyone may express interest and if this passes the board will get a procedure in order. In terms of hiring, the board would approve by simple majority. Charles Billings complimented the current clerk's aptitude and commented on the value of training a good assistant. If starting in the clerk position from scratch, that would be a problem. He asked if an appointed clerk is required to be a resident. Ms. Cox responded, no, but the board would try to have a resident in the position. Kim Kimler called the question. Barry King asked that before voting, the minutes reflect how appreciative we are of the town clerk. Applause followed. With no further debate, the article was voted.

APPROVED by voice vote with some naves

**Break for State Representative:** 7:50 p.m. The moderator asked and the meeting APPROVED to suspend business to allow Representative Peter Conlon to speak.

Referring to our former representative and Ripton resident, Representative Conlon said that in his second year of a two-year biennium, he is still referred to as Willem Jewett's replacement. He then described work on the budget adjustment act, education finance changes, gun safety, and a rural economic development group caucus. He left copies of his annual town meeting newsletter and the Doyle survey, and took no questions. 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED to reconvene business.

**Article 6:** Will the Town vote to authorize the legislative body to appoint the municipal treasurer, as allowed with the passage of Act 27 of 2017?

Motion to discuss by Jeremy Grip/Second by Bill McKibben

Andy McIntosh asked about the ability to appoint and to fire. Laurie Cox responded that the board will be able to fire but the legislation has protections written in to it. Bill Ford suggested asking community members to participate in the hiring selection process. Laurel Coburn cited that some towns offer 3-year terms for positions; is there flexibility for that? Ms. Cox answered, yes, and responded to a follow-up question about oversight. Currently the board can tell an elected official they are dissatisfied, but that person can listen, or not. If the board is in a supervisory position, it can have financial oversight pieces in place. Right now, the board can't make anyone follow state statute. Jeremy Grip asked if we have an annual audit. Ms. Cox answered, yes. Mr. Wimett added that we were fine this year.

APPROVED by voice vote

**Article 7:** Other Business

A. Trash and recycling: drop-off vs pick-up

Recycling coordinator, Warren King, addressed the meeting, noting that as of Dec. 2, 2018, we will have had recycling in Ripton for 30-years. It has not always gone smoothly, but a lot of material has been collected and the world may be better for it. But, the collection is harder every year. This year new instructional signs were installed, but people don't seem to read them. Materials that are not recyclable continue to be dumped in the bin. A few people spend several hours per month cleaning trash from the bin and shed. The problem is getting worse. Thoughts and suggestions were requested.

Many participated in the discussion of how to address the problems of trash left at the town shed, mixed with recycling, and at roadsides or accumulating on properties. Tom Cabot asked about cameras. Lyle Webb, who collects trash at the town shed on recycling days, described cameras he installed at the shed, and the possibility of solar-powered cameras. Mr. Webb suggested at an ACSWMD meeting that he go around town and find out what people who aren't recycling are doing with their trash. He and Warren

King explained that shredded paper must be bagged because workers at the processing plant can't separate it. Plastic bags may be used. This was a surprise to most because plastic bags are not otherwise allowed. Laurie Cox commented on this example of how confusing recycling is for people. Jeremy Grip asked Lyle about the compost collection that was started but discontinued. Compost was going to Foster Brothers Farm for a minimum of \$15. Mr. Webb was losing money on this. People may bring compost directly to ACSWMD. Andy McIntosh reported Foster Brothers can't make their compost with the food waste because of stickers from fruits and vegetables. Mr. King explained that if more than 5% of the contents of the town recycling container are not recyclable, the town must pay for the entire load as trash, and that most of our recycling is shipped to China. Discussion shifted to how to offset expense, make waste disposal affordable for all, including doing something like is done for fuel assistance, town-wide pick-up for all, and the pros and cons of an open shed and trash dumpster. In addition to the speakers previously identified were Tracey Harrington, Molly Witters, Anza Armstrong, Giles Hoyler, Mac Cox, Mark Nelson.

#### B. Town shed and sandpile location

Ron Wimett described the problems at the town shed and sandpile site including flooding and sand washing downstream; outgrowing the area, especially with recycling there; and no alternative site. The selectboard would like to find land to grow into and build an enclosed shed for sand storage. Jeremy Grip, Bill Ford, Tom McElhaney, Laurie Cox, Mark Nelson, Molly Witters, and Mr. Wimett discussed site proximity to a stream, state requirements and funds, possible locations, approaching the USFS, College, or school district, and that the ideal location is near the center of town.

#### C. Ripton Elementary School & FORS

Ripton School Principal, Tracey Harrington, offered to answer questions. Laurel Coburn, Jeremy Grip, Jean Winter, Charles Billings, and Tom McElhaney asked questions about events, ACSD job cuts, the elimination of a STEM program at the middle school, the International Baccalaureate program, and the ACSD budget. Tracey Harrington and ACSD board member, Perry Hanson, responded. The Ripton School has an e-mail notification list for events and will add anyone upon request. Most answers related to the budget at the state and district level, and of the learning process in this 2<sup>nd</sup> year of budgeting for a consolidated district.

Principal Harrington reported that the Friends of the Ripton School (FORS) continues to be active with the Ridge Run, other fundraisers, and many volunteer efforts. The organization attained 501(c)(3) status in 2017. She invited all to the next FORS event, a March 16<sup>th</sup> spaghetti supper and cake raffle.

#### D. Announcements and any other business

Conservation Commission Chair, Mark Nelson, referred to a Ripton guide and map placed on the chairs for voters this evening. He described the volunteer group's efforts to identify and protect natural resources and welcomed all to their meetings.

Ripton Historical Society President, Charles Billings, thanked the selectboard for allowing the use of the renovated former kitchen in the town office building. The room is now named the Ripton Historical Society Archive. To effectively archive materials the group plans to purchase computer equipment and is fundraising. He hopes community members will join RHS and/or contribute. An upcoming talk by Hilda Billings on the history of the post office in Ripton was announced.

Jeremy Grip was disappointed that Ripton was not among the towns in our region that had a warned item to vote about banning fossil fuel development. He asked, if this had been a warned item, how many would support it? There was some response, but the level was not clear.

#### **Article 8:** Motion to Adjourn by Kim Kimler/Second by All

The Moderator adjourned the floor portion of the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

The Meeting recessed until 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 6, 2018, with polls in the Ripton Community House open 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. The following articles were voted by Australian ballot.

**Article 1:** To elect officers

<b>Selector</b> for a 3-year term Ronald Wimett----- ELECTED	<b>Moderator</b> for a 1-year term Timothy Hanson----- ELECTED
<b>Town Clerk</b> for a 1-year term Alison Joseph Dickinson---- ELECTED	<b>Grand Juror</b> for a 1-year term Richard “Kim” Kimler----- ELECTED
<b>Treasurer</b> for a 1-year term Carolyn Smith----- ELECTED	<b>Constable</b> for a 1-year term Chris Smith----- ELECTED
<b>Delinquent Tax Collector</b> for a 1-year term Kathleen B. Sullivan----- ELECTED	<b>Town Agent</b> for a 1-year term Chris Smith----- ELECTED
<b>Lister</b> for a 3-year term Beth Eliason----- ELECTED	<b>Cemetery Commissioner</b> for a 5-year term Samantha Smith----- ELECTED

**Article 2:** To approve or disapprove allocations from the General Fund, total **\$22,316.00**

ALL APPROVED

<b>Requested by</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Addison Central Teens (ACT)	\$ 1,900.00
Addison County Home Health and Hospice	\$ 750.00
Addison County Parent/Child Center	\$ 600.00
Addison County Restorative Justice Services	\$ 170.00
Addison County River Watch Collaborative	\$ 400.00
Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR)	\$ 1,901.00
Age Well (formerly Champlain Valley Agency on Aging)	\$ 750.00
Charter House Coalition	\$ 1,600.00
Counseling Service of Addison County	\$ 1,400.00
Elderly Services	\$ 600.00
Green Up Vermont	\$ 50.00
HOPE (Helping Overcome Poverty’s Effects)	\$ 3,000.00
Homeward Bound	\$ 750.00
Hospice Volunteer Services	\$ 500.00
John W. Graham Emergency Shelter	\$ 1,600.00
Middlebury Regional Emergency & Medical Services	\$ 1,470.00
NeighborWorks of Western Vermont	\$ 300.00
Open Door Clinic	\$ 1,500.00
Otter Creek Child Care Center	\$ 1,000.00
Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District	\$ 50.00
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	\$ 475.00
Vermont Adult Learning	\$ 300.00
WomenSafe	\$ 1,250.00

Lauren Cox, Chair  
Ripton Selectboard

Perry Hanson

Ronald Wimett

Alison Joseph Dickinson, Town Clerk  
March 10, 2018

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ripton Elementary School prides itself on being a friendly and collaborative multi-age community where students work together within and across grades to grow and learn. Throughout the year we set learning goals for ourselves (both students and adults) and work to create a safe, creative, courageous and inquisitive learning environment. Together with the other ACSD schools, we are using the International Baccalaureate framework to support our teaching and learning, particularly by putting students in the center of their learning --working with them to guide their thinking, questioning and inquiry to build understanding. Ripton is committed to providing support to all students, PreK - 6th grades, in developing critical and reflective thinking skills through an integrated approach to teaching and learning. We are a close-knit community with frequent interaction and collaboration between school, home and the larger Ripton community.

As we align our units of inquiry with the International Baccalaureate framework and philosophy, we are identifying common themes connecting the learning across the grades. The first theme of the year was *Community* where students in various classes considered essential questions like, "What do our classroom and school look like and how do they work?" "What is the nature of self; our beliefs and our values?" "How can mindfulness promote holistic health?" and "How has history shaped our perspectives and relationships with others?" As the year continues we will connect the work in classrooms with our second theme, *Communication*, and later in the year, *Ourselves and Others*. In conjunction with these thematic studies, the Ripton Elementary teachers and administration have made a commitment to provide racially and culturally diverse learning experiences throughout the year. In October, we visited the Clemmons Family Farm in Charlotte, VT which is a multi-generational African-American owned Vermont farm that "celebrates African-American heritage (past, present and future) and fosters the appreciation of the heritage and cultures of all people." For the remainder of the year, we will be collaborating with Christal Brown and Will Kasso of Middlebury College as part of an integrated study of multiculturalism, and the visual and performing arts.

The winter and spring in Ripton allow for much outdoor exploration from Nordic and Alpine skiing, to exploring the ponds and trails in the beautiful Green Mountains, to a long weekend in Groton State Forest and New Discovery State Park with the 5th & 6th grade students.

Ripton is committed to providing meaningful social and academic learning experiences for all students, PreK - 6th grade, where students develop and practice critical thinking skills to foster understanding of new ideas. We are a close-knit community which greatly values our collaboration and shared experiences across grades, with families, friends and within the larger community.

Tracey Harrington, Principal

## Friends of the Ripton School

Friends of the Ripton School (FORS) is a group of volunteers who work together to make the Ripton Elementary School the best it can be. We offer our assistance to the school when needed and organize fundraising and other events at the school and in the community. Because of our community's generosity in donating to FORS and in supporting our fundraisers (the Ripton Ridge Run, Pizza Bakes, "Ripton" apparel and High Mowing Seed sales, redeemable bottle collections, Square One Art, and Coffee House bake sales) FORS has been able to fully or partially fund a variety of activities and events. This past year has included a week of Artist in Residency where our students learned Capoeira, a Brazilian martial art form which combines dance, music, and self defense. Artist Fua Nascimento worked with the students sharing with them the cultural, musical and physical aspects of the art. It culminated with a powerful performance by the students that welcomed audience participation. In addition, FORS has helped make possible the 5<sup>th</sup>/ 6<sup>th</sup> grade class trip to KEEC, an all-school performance from the VT Symphony Orchestra Harp and Soul, the Thanksgiving Community Luncheon, an all-school ice-skating trip, supplies for holiday gift-making and May Day Baskets, an afternoon fruit or veggie snack, tuition assistance for the Ripton Summer Day Camp and much more.

**FORS mission statement:** The Friends of Ripton School provide the Ripton Elementary School support through volunteering and funding to enhance and enrich the school environment by facilitating academic programs, extracurricular activities, events, and materials, which are designed to meet the expectations and changing needs of the school throughout and beyond the academic school year.

FORS is a 501(c)(3) and our official name is FORS Incorporated. We meet roughly every 4-8 weeks during the school year to plan events, approve funding requests, and discuss a variety of issues. Attendance at meetings is not required to be part of FORS. Members are typically parents of Ripton Elementary School students, **however we cordially invite all interested community members to join us.** We know Ripton is rich with diversely talented people who might be interested in spending time at the school. We welcome your interest and involvement at any level. Some examples of participation have included helping with the community garden, reading stories, driving for field trips, cooking, helping with art projects, and sharing your area of interest or expertise with our students. The school belongs to the community, and we warmly invite you to experience the happenings at Ripton Elementary. We look forward to seeing you at our Ripton Community Spaghetti Dinner, a free community supper that will be held at the community house this March or April (stay tuned for the date). **Also FORS greatly appreciates and thanks all those involved in the Ripton Ridge Run, our biggest fundraiser.** (Please see the report on the Ridge Run contributed by Barry King).

For more information please contact Laura McIntosh at [murphyslau@gmail.com](mailto:murphyslau@gmail.com).

## 2018 Ripton Ridge Run

**2018 Ripton Ridge Run report:** The 31st Annual Ripton Ridge Run raised about \$8500 for FORS through the efforts of many generous local sponsors and about 75 Ripton volunteers. There were about 175 runners and walkers including plenty of Ripton residents and school children. It's a community event, not just a school event – all of us supporting our local students and our school. Please join in as a volunteer (the week before, on raceday or the week after) or as a participant. For information, go to the Ridge Run website <http://www.riptonridgerun.org>, talk with Wendy Leeds at school or contact Barry King, [kinglet@together.net](mailto:kinglet@together.net) or 388-4082. The next Ridge Run is Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019.

## **ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

In our third unified budget as ACSD, we continue to leverage the collaboration and efficiency of working together as a single organization to innovate and support success for all students. This budget reflects significant investment in staffing and professional development that we believe will have the greatest impact on student success across all of our schools. We have invested in both systems of support to promote whole child wellness as well as International Baccalaureate development to realize our vision of personalization and student engagement for every student in ACSD.

We continue to wrestle with declining enrollment as do most districts in Vermont, and benefit this year from work we did in decreasing expenditures within the FY19 budget. This FY20 budget maintains critical staffing and services and allows for continued investment in facilities and technology needs to support a stronger tech and building infrastructure. We continue to consider different ways to address deferred maintenance to ACSD facilities that was identified in our recent facilities audit. The ACSD Board's work on the Facilities Master Plan, to be completed at the end of this academic year, will have a significant impact on our direction as we create a long-term plan to guide investment in our schools.

We are grateful to our entire community for your support and involvement in all of our schools. It is what makes ACSD such an inspired educational community. We realize that we won't move forward and provide the best for our students without everyone in ACSD working together, celebrating our strengths and addressing our challenges to focus singly on making sure that every student under our care is successful.

We look forward to continuing to be strong fiscal agents while providing the best educational experiences to our students.

Sincerely,  
Peter Burrows, Superintendent  
Addison Central School District

## **ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR**

The Addison Central School District Board of Directors has put forth a 2019-2020 budget that continues an effort to contain cost increases, but maintain current programs and supports for students. The proposed budget represents a 1.90 percent increase in local education spending. This comes despite significantly higher percentage increases in the cost of providing health insurance to our employees and in transportation for students.

The budget proposal represents few changes in programs, staffing, and supports for students. After significant changes in last year's budget cycle, including a high number of veteran staff retiring, the district was well positioned to absorb the higher costs that were out of the district's control, such as health insurance and busing. The proposed spending plan supports the district's continued progress on becoming an IB World Schools system, as well as many other initiatives designed to improve equity and provide value for taxpayers.

While the proposed budget represents spending for one year, the ACSD board is currently looking several years ahead, notably on developing a Facilities Master Plan that will look at our present configuration of students, our school building needs, student population trends and other factors. The goal is to develop a document that will guide our district many years into the future. Many community members have already participated in three forums held in the fall, and that input has been valuable as the Board works on a master plan outline that will be the focus on upcoming forums this winter and spring. Other input includes technical analysis of our facilities, the ACSD Strategic Plan, the continued implementation of IB and state driven changes.

The 2019-2020 budget proposal is the third as a unified district. The ACSD Board is grateful for the support our seven towns have shown for our work and our school system. We look forward to your continued support on Town Meeting Day. Thank you.

Peter Conlon, Board Chair  
Addison Central School District

## ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Year to Year Budget Summary

		<b>FY19 Budget</b>	<b>FY20 Proposed</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	Student Instruction	22,167,807	22,885,869	3.24%
	Special Education	5,828,171	6,051,621	3.83%
	Universal Pre-K	490,050	483,264	-1.38%
	Technical/Career Center Education	1,161,058	1,108,509	-4.53%
	Transportation	861,328	872,306	1.27%
	Facilities	1,548,737	1,505,538	-2.79%
	Technology	990,462	1,085,224	9.57%
	District Office Administration	1,111,043	1,124,450	1.21%
	Professional Development	307,260	302,210	-1.64%
	Curriculum	266,855	373,087	39.81%
	Board of Education	490,734	509,490	3.82%
	Debt Service	342,191	332,956	-2.70%
	Contingency	310,000	310,000	0.00%
<b>Cost Neutral Expenditures</b>	State Grants	14,500	15,000	3.45%
	Consolidated Federal Program	632,787	618,247	-2.30%
	Other programs (Medicaid, EPSDT)	204,696	162,538	-20.60%
	Special Funds	34,800	54,607	56.92%
		<b>36,762,479</b>	<b>37,794,916</b>	<b>2.81%</b>
<b>Separately Warned Articles</b>	Special Article - HRA Reserve Fund	200,000	-	100.00%
	Special Article - Ed Reserve Fund	500,000	-	100.00%
	Special Article - Capital Reserve Fund	823,673	123,801	-84.97%
	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>38,286,152</b>	<b>37,918,717</b>	<b>-0.96%</b>
<b>Revenues</b>	Local	817,856	1,177,794	44.01%
	State	3,847,549	3,754,524	-2.42%
	Federal	1,168,856	1,216,701	4.09%
	Other	250,996	217,145	-13.49%
	State Health Care Recapture	-166,417	0	100.00%
		5,918,840	6,366,164	7.56%
	Prior Year Fund Balance	1,523,673	123,801	-91.88%
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>7,442,513</b>	<b>6,489,965</b>	<b>-12.80%</b>
<b>Total Local Education Spending</b>		<b>30,843,640</b>	<b>31,428,752</b>	<b>1.90%</b>
	Equalized Pupils	1,824.28	1,798.62	-1.41%
	Education Spending/Equalized Pupil	16,907.29	17,473.81	3.35%

## ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FY20 Tax Calculation

Our total Local Education Spending amount of \$31,428,752 is the first and only figure used in calculating our tax rate that we have control over. The other components in the formula are supplied by the Tax Department or Agency of Education.

*\*\*All figures are subject to changes by the State Legislature\*\**

Projected Property Yield:	\$10,666
Projected Income Yield:	\$13,104
Projected Non-residential rate:	\$1.58
Projected Spending Threshold:	\$18,311
ACSD Equalized pupils:	1,798.62

### ACSD Tax Rate Calculation

Local Education Spending	\$31,428,752
Divided by Equalized Pupils	<u>÷ 1,798.62</u>
Education Spending/Equalized Pupil	\$17,473.81

Education Spending/Equalized Pupil	\$17,473.81
Divided by the Property Tax Yield	<u>÷ \$10,666</u>
Equalized District tax rate	\$1.6383

Equalized District tax rate	\$1.6383	
Less the consolidation incentive	<u>- \$0.06*</u>	*incentive decreases \$.02 each year*
Estimated District tax rate	\$1.5783	(pre CLA adjustment)

**.0040 (less than 1 cent) cent increase over last year**

The estimated District tax rate is divided by each Town's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) as set by the VT Department of Taxes to determine each Town's estimated tax rate.

<u>Town</u>	<u>ACSD Tax Rate</u>	<u>CLA (FY20)</u>	<u>Estimated Town Tax Rate</u>
Bridport	\$1.5783	99.10%	\$1.5926
Cornwall	\$1.5783	95.76%	\$1.6482
Middlebury*	\$1.5783	***	\$1.5783
Ripton	\$1.5783	90.07%	\$1.7523
Salisbury	\$1.5783	96.96%	\$1.6278
Shoreham	\$1.5783	99.41%	\$1.5876
Weybridge	\$1.5783	98.15%	\$1.6080

\*\*\*The town of Middlebury is currently conducting a reappraisal expected to be completed in April of 2019, which will affect the town tax rate. For estimation purposes, the ACSD tax rate will be used.



# Town Directory

EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

[www.ripton.vt.org](http://www.ripton.vt.org)

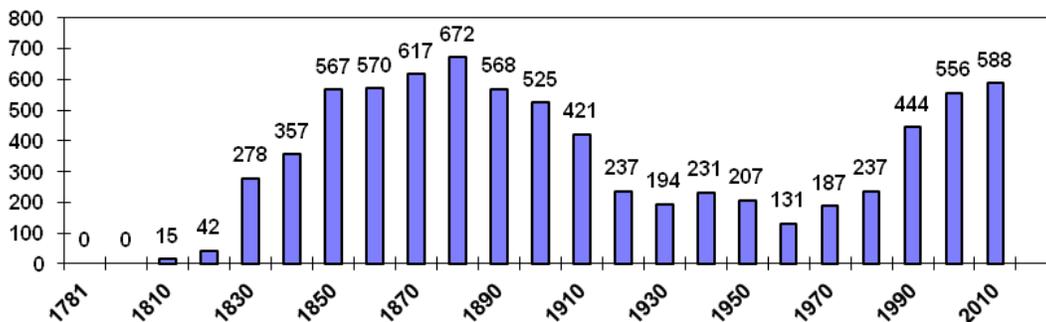
Town Office	388-2266
Elementary School	388-2208
Fire Station (non-emergency)	388-4506
Burn Permits: Erik Eriksen	388-3629
Road Commissioner: Ron Wimett	388-7346
Animal Control: Alex Cox	riptonac@gmail.com
Recycling	388-4082

## Ripton Facts

**Chartered:** April 13, 1781  
**Organized:** 1828  
**Total Land Area:** 32,704 acres  
**National Forest:** 22,201 acres (68% of total land area)  
**Middlebury College:** 2,308 acres (7% of total land area)  
**Population:** 588 (based on 2010 U.S. Census)  
**Density:** 12 people per square mile  
**Altitude:** 1,025 feet (village)  
**Mountains:** Battell Mountain 3,482'  
Bread Loaf Mountain 3,835'  
Boyce Mountain 3,062'  
Mount Roosevelt 3,323'  
Robert Frost Mountain 2,513'  
Wilson Mountain 3,780'

**Town Highways:** 28.02 miles total  
Class I (State Rte 125): 5.786 miles      Class II (Lincoln Rd): 4.9 miles  
Class III: 18.48 miles      Class IV: 3.33 miles  
Legal Trail: 1.85 miles

Ripton Population 1781-2010



Back cover