

ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021
TOWN of RIPTON, VERMONT



Photo credit: Jane Ogilvie. Ripton Conservation Commission 2022 Natural History Calendar

Town Meeting: May 9, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Ripton Community House

Please bring this Report with you to Town Meeting
If you do not wish to keep your Town Report please recycle it with the Town Clerk

TOWN MEETING DAY INFORMATION

Tuesday, May 10, 2022

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

If you wish to attend remotely, please contact the Town Office.

Vote for town officers 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

<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/registration/>

You may request an early/absentee ballot from the Town Office or online at

<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/early-absentee-voting/>



Photo credit: Wendy Leeds

Tribute

Any of us living near a town road might occasionally have awakened in the early hours of a morning to the sound of a truck passing by. If it was winter, the scrape of the plow might have signaled that snow had fallen. Even on a clear day in June when the sky was already beginning to lighten at 4:30 a.m., that truck would come by as Ron Wimett drove through the town, checking the roads.

A life-long Riptonite, Ron grew up here seeing his father do the town roadwork, and joined him in those efforts as soon as he was old enough to drive a truck – or a plow, or a backhoe. By the time he was fully adult, he was a major part of Maiden Lane Contractors. In March 1986, he was elected to the Ripton Selectboard, a position he held until his death this year. Then, in 1991, after his father died, Ron was appointed Ripton’s Road Commissioner. Altogether, Ron worked on the town’s roads for about 50 years, served on the Selectboard for almost 36 years, and was Road Commissioner for over 30. Without question, Ron cared greatly about his town and its roads. Probably the only thing he cared more about was his family.

Small wonder that when we would hear or see him pass by in his truck or grader, we knew he was caring for us by caring for the roads we traveled each day. He was so connected with them, they almost seemed an extension of his very self. Ron took pride in our roads, and must have felt pleasure when folks would mention how great it was to arrive on a Ripton road when coming from a neighboring town. Storms would come and go, and sometimes even a part of a road would go along with them, but they always got put back as quickly as possible and usually greatly improved.

Ron Wimett passed away on September 5, 2021, after decades of service to our Town. We can all give a quiet thanks to him as we drive, bike, or walk our town roads and bridges, and maybe even as we faintly hear the sound of a truck passing by before we are fully awake. Thank you, Ron, for your service.

Selectboard Chair Laurie Cox



Photo credit: Owen Stolarcyk

Remembrances

Joan Bullock owned and operated the Chipman Inn from 1978-1985. In 2012, she bought the Inn again and returned to welcoming us, our friends, and families. Joan passed away in Middlebury in 2021.

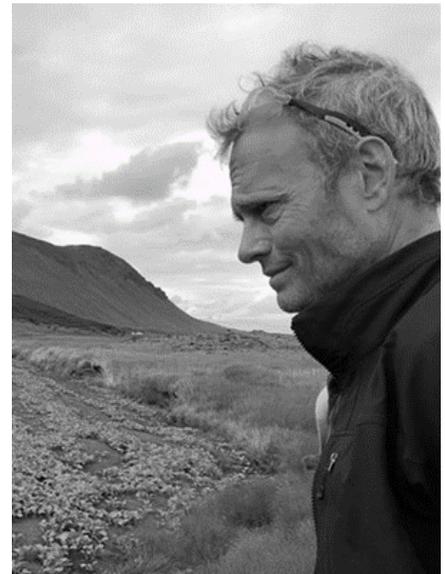
Richard (Dick) Collitt, proprietor of the Ripton Country Store from 1976-2018, served on the Planning Commission/Zoning Board/Historic District Commission for seventeen years, 1992-2009, and the Selectboard for seven, 2009-2016. In 2021 he moved to East Middlebury, where he passed away in February 2022. For a tribute to Dick and Sue Collitt see the 2017 Ripton Annual Report.



Marlene (Mar) Harrison moved to Ripton in 2004 and was with us through April 2021. Mar served as an alternate on the Planning Commission/Zoning Board/Historic District Commission from 2007-2016, as a full member for five years from 2016-2021, and as a Cemetery Commissioner in 2016.



Willem Jewett made Ripton his home from 1996 until his death in January 2022. Willem served our community as a Ripton School Director from 1999 through the Annual Meeting in 2013. In November 2002 he defeated the incumbent and was elected the Addison-2 District Representative to the Vermont House. He served in the legislature for fourteen years, from 2003-2017. His role in passing and continuing to try to improve Act 39 of 2013 "An act relating to patient choice and control at end of life" has been widely reported and admired. We admire all his work on behalf of our town, school, and citizens.



Peter Karpak, Jr. and his family moved to Ripton in 1995. Pete was an Assistant to the Selectboard from 2007-2010, a time with an enormous amount of paperwork for FEMA flood repair projects. His burial in October 2021 is the first in the new section of Galvin Cemetery.

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Photo credit: Molly Witters

Warning – Town of Ripton Annual Meeting

The legal voters of the Town of Ripton are warned to meet at the Ripton Community House, Monday, May 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. to transact the following business:

- Article 1:** Will the Town vote the sum of **\$662,954** to pay General Fund and Highway Fund expenses for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, divided as follows:
- General Fund \$246,904
Highway Fund \$416,050
- Article 2:** Will the Town vote a sum not to exceed \$100,000 to purchase road building and maintenance equipment, the funds for this purchase to come from the Highway Fund account? (Balance of this account is \$555,352) Likely purchases to include a backhoe.
- Article 3:** Will the Town vote to have current property taxes collected by the Treasurer with a tax due date of November 1, 2022; payments due in the Town Office by 6:00 p.m.?
- Article 4:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$41,000 to the Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department to pay expenses for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023?
- Article 5:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$6,000 to the Ripton Cemetery Commission to pay expenses for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023?
- Article 6:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$35,000 to the Ripton School District to pay expenses for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023?
- Article 7:** Other business: Discussion items to include
- Ways to be involved in the community
 - Energy efforts

The legal voters of the Town of Ripton are warned to vote the following Articles by Australian ballot at the Ripton Community House, Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Early and absentee voting by mail is available with ballots due in the Community House by 7:00 p.m. May 10th.

- Article 8:** Will the Town elect the following Officers?
- Selector 3-year term
Selector 2-year term
Moderator 1-year term
Delinquent Tax Collector 1-year term
Constable 1-year term
Lister 3-year term
Cemetery Commissioner 5-year term
School Director 1-year term
School Director 2-year term
School Director 3-year term
School Moderator 1-year term

Article 9: Will the Town approve the following funding requests? Total \$27,726
Addison Central Teens (ACT) \$1,900
Addison County Home Health and Hospice \$750
Addison County Parent/Child Center \$600
Addison County Restorative Justice Services \$170
Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative \$400
Age Well \$750
Charter House Coalition \$1,600
Counseling Service of Addison County \$1,400
Elderly Services \$600
Friends of the Ripton School \$500
Green Up Vermont \$50
Homeward Bound \$750
HOPE - Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects \$3,000
John Graham Housing & Services \$1,600
Middlebury Regional Emergency & Medical Services \$5,880
NeighborWorks of Western Vermont \$300
Open Door Clinic \$1,500
Otter Creek Child Care Center \$1,000
Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District \$50
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) \$475
Tri-Valley Transit (formerly ACTR) \$1,901
Turning Point Center of Addison County \$1,000
Vermont Adult Learning \$300
Women Safe Inc \$1,250

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, March 28, 2022

Timothy Hanson

Bonnie Swan

Annual Town Meeting Ballot 2021

Article 8: Officers

To vote for a person who is on the ballot, mark (or) in the square to the right of the name. To vote for a person who is not on the ballot, write the person's name on the blank line. Vote for only one candidate per office.

<p>Selector for a 2-year term</p> <p>Vote for one.</p> <p>Giles Hoyler ----- <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Bonnie Swan ----- <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>	<p>Constable for a 1-year term</p> <p>Vote for one.</p> <p>Perry Hanson ----- <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Chris Smith ----- <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>
<p>Selector for a 3-year term</p> <p>Timothy Hanson ----- <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>	<p>School Director for a 1-year term</p> <p>Jane Phinney ----- <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>
<p>Town Moderator for a 1-year term</p> <p>Tim O'Leary ----- <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>	<p>School Director for a 2-year term</p> <p>Wendy Harlin ----- <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>
<p>Delinquent Tax Collector for a 1-year term</p> <p>Carolyn Smith ----- <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>	<p>School Director for a 3-year term</p> <p>Molly Witters ----- <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>
<p>Lister for a 3-year term</p> <p>Erik Eriksen ----- <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>	<p>School Moderator for a 1-year term</p> <p>Tim O'Leary ----- <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>
<p>Cemetery Commissioner for a 5-year term</p> <p>Elizabeth Walker ----- <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>_____ (Write in)</p>	

Article 9: Funding Requests

Mark **YES** or **NO** with a check or **X** to approve or disapprove the following allocations from the General Fund, total **\$27,726**.

Requested by	Amount	YES	NO
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		
Age Well	\$ 750.00		
Charter House Coalition	\$ 1,600.00		
Counseling Service of Addison County	\$ 1,400.00		
Elderly Services	\$ 600.00		
Friends of the Ripton School (FORS)	\$ 500.00		
Green Up Vermont	\$ 50.00		
Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects (HOPE)	\$ 3,000.00		
Homeward Bound	\$ 750.00		
John Graham Housing & Services	\$ 1,600.00		
Middlebury Regional Emergency & Medical Services	\$ 5,880.00		
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		
Tri Valley Transit	\$ 1,901.00		
Turning Point Center of Addison County	\$ 1,000.00		
Vermont Adult Learning	\$ 300.00		
WomenSafe	\$ 1,250.00		

Elected Officers

	Name (term expires)	Phone	
Selectboard	Laureen Cox, Chair (23) Timothy Hanson (22) Ronald Wimett (3-9/2021) Bonnie Swan (10/21-3/22)	388-7820 388-2546 388-6687	lcx@riptonvt.org thanson@riptonvt.org
Justices of the Peace	Anza Armstrong (23) Perry Hanson (23) Timothy Hanson (23) Richard "Kim" Kimler (23) Warren King (23)	388-3646 388-9977 388-4082 388-2546 388-4082	JPs are up for election in Nov. 2022. Current JPs serve until Jan. 2023. Run for office!
Board of Listers	Alison Joseph, Chair (23) Erik Eriksen (22) Beth Eliason (24)	388-2266	listers@riptonvt.org
Cemetery Commission	Elizabeth Walker, Chair (22) Carole Cummings (26) Samantha Smith Lau (23) Bonnie Swan (24) Karen Heppell (23)	388-1634	
Moderator	Molly Witters (22)	388-2266	
Delinquent Tax Collector	Carolyn Smith (22)	388-2266	
Constable	Perry Hanson (22)	388-9977	

Meeting Schedule

All meetings are public. Agenda are posted on bulletin boards and at riptonvermont.org.

Selectboard: 2nd and 4th Mon. of the month, 7:30 p.m., Town Office

Ripton Fire & First Response: General meeting 2nd Tues. of the month, 6:30 p.m., Fire Station

Planning Commission/Zoning Board: 2nd Tues. of the month, 7:00 p.m., Community House

Cemetery Commission: 1st Wed. of the month March-Dec., 7:30 p.m., Town Office

Conservation Commission: 2nd Monday, every other month, as posted

Appointed Officers

	Name & Email	Phone
Selectboard Administrator and Town Clerk	Alison Joseph Dickinson ajdickinson@riptonvt.org	388-2266
Assistant Clerk & Treasurer	Paula Scott, pscott@riptonvt.org	388-2266
Treasurer	Carolyn Smith, csmith@riptonvt.org	388-2266
Zoning Administrator	Jonathan Heppell, zoning@riptonvt.org	388-2266
Road Commissioner	Ronald Wimett through 9/2021 Timothy Hanson, Acting	388-2546
Animal Control Officer	Alex Cox through 12/2021 Chris Smith	388-0337
Conservation Commission	Mark Nelson, Chair (24), Zapata Courage (23), Warren King (24), Judy Kowalczyk (23), Barry King (25), Jay Harrington (25), Martha McCaughin (25)	Chair 388-2857
Zoning Board of Adjustment, Planning Commission and Historic District Commission	April 26, 2021: Michael J. Cummings (22) Chair, Carrie Herzog Co-chair (24), Mia Allen (22), Jeannie Cash (23), Levi Doria (23); March 2021 Marty Kulczyk (23), resigned, Jorene Doria (23) resigned, Marlene Harrison (21) deceased	
Zoning Board, Alternate Members	Former members: Jorene Doria, Alison Joseph, Warren King, Marty Kulczyk	
Health Officer	Tim Hanson	388-2546
Emergency Management Coordinator	Erik Eriksen	388-3629
Emergency Shelter Director	Mark Nelson	388-2857
Fire and First Response Chief	Chris Pike	388-4506
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 (resigned) Jonathan Heppell, alternate	
Regional Transportation Delegates	Norm Tjossem; Jonathan Heppell, alternate	
Solid Waste District Delegates	Jay Harrington; Steve Zwicky, alternate	
Town Energy Coordinator	Warren King	
Tree Warden	Bruce Danek	
Fence Viewers	William Ford, Giles Hoyler, Gary Whitman	
Weigher of Coal	Richard Collitt (2021), vacant (2022)	
Inspector/Lumber, Shingles & Wood	Tom Cabot (2021), vacant (2022)	

Selectboard Report

In some ways, this last year was a quiet one for the town, in some ways, very complicated and busy. Due to the continuing pandemic as well as ongoing projects, the Selectboard did not take on a lot of new initiatives. Much of this report will cover continuing efforts on those already underway.

One event that had very significant ramifications for the town was the death of Ron Wimett in early September. Ron held three very significant jobs, and his passing left us with some major reorganization. Since he had been a member of the Selectboard, it was necessary to fill that seat until it could be voted on at this year's Town Meeting. Three people applied to be considered, and Bonnie Swan was ultimately appointed to the position. Ron had been Road Commissioner, and Tim Hanson volunteered to temporarily fill that job until we as a board could make more long-term plans. We did make the decision that going ahead the Road Commissioner would not be the same person who is doing the road work, nor would they be a Selectboard member except as a temporary measure. This was due to increasing scrutiny by State and Federal agencies when we were working with grants or other funding from them because of their concerns and regulations about potential conflict of interest. Finally, Ron was the one doing most of the road work for the town, so his absence from that job left a significant gap. Over several meetings, we set up a system to get us through the immediate few months and are continuing the longer-term planning. (See Road Commissioner's Report.)

Another major occurrence was our town vote in January 2021, to withdraw from the Addison Central School District, followed by a vote of strong support by the other district towns in March to approve that withdrawal. The Selectboard solicited volunteers to form a School Committee to continue the necessary planning. They made their case to the State Board of Education who gave conditional approval in May. This allowed the town to elect a School Board at the end of June to more officially continue the needed process. (See Ripton School Board's Report.)

Road projects: Permitting and planning for the proposed sand shed continued. In order to set the structure further back from the road to provide more screening, a very small piece of land was required from the school's southern boundary, and that adjustment was approved by the ACSD. We are hoping that all will continue positively, and we will be able to get the sitework and structure done this coming summer. Engineering work continued for the planned replacement of the culvert on Peddler's Bridge Road, near the Town (recycling) Shed. When the actual work is happening, that portion of the road will be closed, so the intersection with Wagon Wheel Road was improved to make it easier for vehicles to turn right as they exit that road. During the time of this culvert replacement, some of the area by the shed will be required for staging. When that is done, and the sand pile has moved to its new location, we hope to do some site improvement to the recycling shed area. If you have skills or ideas to bring to this effort, please share them!

The line of sight was improved at the intersection of Route 125 and Natural Turnpike making it possible to actually see cars coming from up the mountain when you look east, but a bit more improvement should be made there this spring. On the trail part of Old Town Road, a washed-out culvert was reset and the road repaired. We continue to look to improving this route as an emergency access for the town and have a planning grant to assist in figuring out the best way to make it accessible to some vehicles if it became necessary.

The board is considering reducing the speeds set on some of the town roads. A traffic survey found that some roads are seeing speeds significantly above what is posted, while other roads have sufficient driveways, walkers, etc. to warrant reducing the speed below 35 mph.

Voting and Elections: Last year's Town Meeting ended up being a virtual informational meeting, with all voting the following day. To avoid following a similar path this year, Town Meeting has been moved to May. This will allow for an in-person meeting, either in the Community House or under a tent, if necessary. There are many issues where full discussion will be useful. The use of a tabulator to count ballots was effective, and we plan to buy one for on-going use.

Town buildings/properties: At the recycling shed, the door was repaired and stone was added to help with drainage issues near the entrance. The only change at the Community House was the replacement of the fuel tank, although the board did approve adding cameras for the use of the Coffee House as well as any future virtual meetings. The house at 1568 North Branch Road had been acquired by the town through a tax sale in 2019. This year it was sold, with all proceeds beyond monies due to the town going to the former owner.

Internet Service: Maple Broadband is the name of Addison County's Communications Union District (CUD), and Ripton is a member. While they will be receiving significant funding through federal money coming to the state, Ripton has also allocated \$25,000 from our share of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding. Their mission is to bring reliable, high-speed internet access to all homes in Ripton and other communities. (See Maple Broadband report.)

ARPA funds: \$170,088.91 from the American Rescue Plan Act has been allocated to Ripton. The only part of this spent so far is the monies to Maple Broadband, and something called an "Owl" that makes it easier for people to watch and hear meetings held virtually. This money has specific areas where it can and cannot be used, and we hope to include the Ripton people in the discussion of its use during Town Meeting.

Other: A reminder that all dogs must be licensed. This is state law. A renewal can be done without coming into the office if your dog does not need a new rabies shot.

As we move ahead in 2022, we hope to work together with an increasing number of involved community members to keep Ripton a thriving community where many voices are heard. There will continue to be a need for planning in many arenas to make this happen, but especially in the area of energy. At Town Meeting in 2020, there was a vote that included reducing the Town carbon emissions by 2030, and a follow-up brainstorming meeting had been planned. With the subsequent lockdown due to the pandemic, this meeting never happened. Hopefully we can now move ahead with ideas to reach our goal.

We look forward to having many people attend Town Meeting this year: to move our town ahead, to re-connect, and to welcome those who have moved to town in the last couple of years. This is our town, our meeting, and is the best way to share your voice and your ideas. Let's make it a really special one!

Laurie Cox



Photo credit: Matt Dickinson

Road Commissioner Report

Road Work Transition: Last year the Town was shocked by Ronald Wimett's death. Ron, as the owner/operator of Maiden Lane Contractors, had been working on our roads for decades, and his passing, along with the attendant shock and sadness, created a road-work crisis as Maiden Lane Contractors ceased doing business. In a series of emergency meetings, the Selectboard determined that the Town would follow a two-step approach to the difficult problem of trying to fill Ron's shoes. The first step was to make short-term plans to get us through the fall and winter in order to buy time to get to the second step, which is to generate a long-term plan that would guide how roadwork would be done in 2022 and beyond.

Kevin Jackson, Chris Lackard and Chris Poploski were asked to finish some of the summer-work projects that had been started, to haul and stockpile winter sand, and to plow and sand for the winter. All three had worked on the Town roads with Ron in the past, and it made sense to continue using these local contractors. As of the writing of this report, winter work has been going well, though the Christmas day freezing rain was hard on the crew as they had to give up a good part of their family time to sand the roads multiple times. Since then, there have been several large storms that they handled well.

The model the Town adopted more than 50 years ago was to hire a local contractor to do Town road work. It was controversial at the time and some people in Town advocated for a road crew and Town-owned equipment. But a majority of the Town voted to have Maiden Lane (owned at the time by Ron's father, Ed Wimett) to do road work. Ed Wimett as Road Commissioner took his general direction from the Selectboard. In the mid 80's Ed Wimett stepped down as Road Commissioner and Ron was appointed Road Commissioner in his stead. Ron was a Selectman then, and continued in this role, as well as being Road Commissioner *and* primary contractor from that time until his death in 2021.

Although the system of using Maiden Lane Contractors worked well for the Town, there was increasing discomfort at the State, but particularly at the Federal level with the lack of separation between the Board, Road Commissioner, and primary contractor. FEMA was uncomfortable with the lack of bidding for major projects after severe flooding. They wanted more separation between officials in Town who made road-work decisions, and the recipients of the funds. Given FEMA's unease with our past model, the Board voted in the fall of 2021 to make it Town policy that the Board would determine the road-work priorities (as established by State law), and that the appointed Road Commissioner would supervise the execution of the Board's plan. The policy further states that the Road Commissioner may not be a contractor benefiting from Town road contracts. The Board also made it policy that the Road Commissioner shall not be a Board member except for the appointment of an acting Commissioner until a Road Commissioner can be appointed. Currently Tim Hanson is the Acting Road Commissioner, who, though on the Board, is not a contractor. As of this writing, the Board continues to look for a fully qualified person for the job.

The debate that the Town had in the 50's is now reoccurring. It has been proposed to the Board that the Town bond for the funds to buy adequate equipment to take care of all of our roads, to build a Town garage, and hire a road crew (with the attendant costs for insurance, worker's comp and all the rest). Buying all the equipment (either new or used) would not only encumber the Town with the purchase costs but also the costs for maintenance, insurance, depreciation, and so on. Further, there would be the need to acquire land to build a structure to house at least some of the equipment and a yard to store the rest. A sinking fund would have to be established to allow for the replacement of vehicles and equipment. A back-of-the-envelope calculation of these costs would be well in excess of \$500,000 and could take up to three years when land acquisition for a Town garage is factored in, given how hard it was to site the sand shed.

On the other hand, since all Maiden Lane's equipment is no longer available to the Town, arrangements had to be made to find ways of getting the Town work done. Champlain Construction provided a grader and operator for fall grading, and Kevin Jackson and Chris Poploski used their tandems for sand hauling, and prepared other trucks for winter work, and acquired a backhoe for loading sand. Later in the fall, Chris

Lackard acquired the grader from Maiden Lane, so now there is a local grader for Town use. Chris Lackard also acquired a truck with a plow. With this equipment available all routine Town work can be done.

As of this writing the Board is inclined to use local contractors rather than try for a fully-equipped and staffed road crew, though a hybrid model may be considered—essentially continuing the previous model but with administrative separation as outlined previously. The costs of getting equipment and a garage are part of the issue, but another serious concern is the availability of qualified road crews. In the era of the 'great resignation', towns in Vermont and the Vermont Department of Transportation are having trouble getting workers. Local contractors have a vested interest in their Town, and the equipment is (mostly) kept locally. Further, if the contractors we use can use their own equipment for other projects they maximize the equipment's utility, whereas anything the Town owns could only be used for Town projects. On the other hand, certain pieces of equipment that would be used almost exclusively for Town work (the grader comes to mind) may have to be owned by the Town.

The Board wants to emphasize the importance of using *local* contractors. An example to illustrate: In December 2021 we had a warm spell and the roads started an unseasonable 'spring' thaw (we hope this is not the new normal!). We had a day and a half window to place some gravel and to spot-grade. Because Chris Lackard had acquired the grader, he was able to fire it up and grade Barker Road and the North Branch, and Kevin Jackson and Chris Poploski were able to use their tandems and their backhoe to get the gravel placed in areas that were getting rutted. The roads froze hard after that but were much smoother. We do not believe we could have orchestrated this project in such a narrow timeframe with outside contractors.

Communications with Road Crew: The Town is working with the Ripton Fire Department to see if there is any way to leverage their two-way radio system to allow communications during times of emergency. The Fire Dept. is also looking to equip the school bus with a 2-way radio for emergency use.

Old Town Road: The Town re-seated the washed-out culvert on the trail section of Old Town Road, but to make the trail passable by vehicles in case of a severe emergency, much more work needs to be done. The Town received a \$20,000 grant to study in detail what needs to be done to make the road passable by emergency vehicles. We will continue to budget for work on this trail, guided by the engineering study.

A study in 2010 done by Regional Planning examined how best to maintain Route 125, which, as many of us have seen, washes out regularly. The plan determined that the cheapest way is to do what is being done now—placing riprap at the vulnerable areas and replace the riprap and rebuild the road when the inevitable washouts occur. A more aggressive suggestion made in the study was to pour concrete walls where Route 125 is most at risk. Since the walls would be more or less perpendicular, they would not narrow the waterway and keep water velocities down. The cost calculated in the report was prohibitive at about 6 million in 2010 dollars. Interestingly, they also estimated the cost of re-aligning Route 125 over the Old Town road right-of-way, at a cost of, again, \$6 million. The Board will look with interest at the suggestions of the engineers as to how to make the trail passable.

Route 125/Natural Turnpike intersection: Champlain Construction removed many yards of material and improved the line-of-sight at this intersection. Even though the visibility looking south-east from Natural Turnpike is much improved, a little more material needs to be removed to allow for full visibility. Champlain will return in the spring and take care of this.

Roadside Mowing: The Board has budgeted funding for more mowing as it is much cheaper to pay for mowing than it is to come back later to cut brush and chip trees. We also wish to coordinate with our Conservation Commission so that we can try to time our mowing to maximize our impact on invasive species (particularly poison parsnip).

Speed Limit Proposal: The Board is considering reducing the speed limit on some of the Town roads, including Robbins Crossroad, portions of Natural Turnpike, Lincoln Road, and Peddlers Bridge Road.

Interesting to note that the speed limit on the North Branch in Middlebury is 25. (See Board report for more details).

Status of Sand Shed Grant: After many delays due to hold-ups at the State level and issues with land acquisition, it is hoped the sand shed will be ready to receive sand for the winter of 22-23.

Status of Peddler's Bridge Road Culvert/Bridge Grant: We hoped the culvert just past the recycling shed heading east would be replaced in 2022, but it will be delayed until 2023. This undersized culvert has been the cause of serious flooding in the past. The recycling shed site will be a staging area for the project. The road will be closed for about 6 weeks for the duration of the project. Once the project is done the plan is to repave Peddler's Bridge Road and improve the recycling shed site.

National Forest Property: The Forest Service moved administrative and maintenance work to Rochester, so there is a possibility that the Town might be able to use (or acquire) the buildings and land that they own next to the Silver Towers Camp. They are using the Ripton property for storage until a new ranger station is completed in Mendon, so it is not possible immediately.

Summer Work: The Town will continue its usual summer work, with ditching, culvert replacement, brush cutting, and grading. We hope to place more gravel on certain portions of the roads where the gravel is thin so that the crown of the road can be re-established.

I would like to thank most sincerely Kevin Jackson, Chris Lackard and Chris Poploski for stepping up and doing the road work since Maiden Lane stopped doing business. The roads have been well cared for this winter and I look forward to working with them until the Board finds a Road Commissioner.

Tim Hanson



Photo credit: Lauren Slayton

Selectboard Budget Narrative

This report includes a review of the fiscal year that ended June 2021 (**FY21**); a discussion of the status of the current year's budget July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 (**FY22**) voted at Town Meeting March 2, 2021; and a review of elements of the proposed budget to be voted on at Town Meeting May 9, 2022 (**FY23**).

Financial Status: The outside Auditors, Telling and Hillman, P. C., reviewed the Town's **FY 21** financial submissions and concluded the Town's officers have correctly represented the Town's financial status. A full Auditor's report is available at the Town office.

At the end of the fiscal year (**FY21**) the Auditors confirmed that the Town had total revenues of \$836,635, with total expenses of \$660,338. Total funds held by the Town in all categories as of June 30, 2021 was \$1,093,879, an increase of \$185,767 from **FY20**.

General Fund Revenues for FY 21: General Fund revenues under-performed by about \$10,000, mostly due to a decrease in the College's Pilot payment (which is tax-rate sensitive) and a decrease in speeding fines generated by the Sheriff's patrol. The Selectboard has never intended the Sheriff patrol be a revenue maker, and certainly not during Covid times.

General Fund Expenses for FY 21: **Actual** General Fund expenses for **FY 21** were very close to what was anticipated with a variance of only about \$6,000. A few items in the budget were underspent (computers, Delinquent tax collector). A few look underspent (Assistant Town Clerk, Elections) but that is because grants and aid due to Covid covered expenses. Others were overspent, some of this due to adapting to work during Covid, grant work that will be reimbursed, and extra elections (Town Clerk, Board Administration, Listers, Zoning and a few others). Details of all General Fund spending are laid out in the General Fund Budget spreadsheet that follows this report.

Road Income in FY 21: Road Income came in above estimates by approximately \$14,000, due almost entirely to increased State Aid to Roads. Other income lines were essentially as anticipated.

Road Expenses FY 21: The Road Budget for **FY21** was once again significantly underspent: \$273,570 spent vs \$413,050 budgeted. Because it was a mild winter, plowing, sanding and acquiring sand was underspent by approximately \$35,000. The Major Road Reconstruction Fund was not tapped, leaving a carryover of more than \$22,000. Gravel spreading, grading, brush/tree cutting lines were also underspent. See the discussion in the **FY23** for the Board's plan for these funds.

Current year Budget 2021-2022 (FY 22) voted March 2021, Starting July 1, 2021, ending June 30, 2022.

Income for FY 22: Income as of February is tracking ahead of estimates with four months to go. Total income as of mid-February was \$1,394,897 versus an estimate of \$1,325,097 for the whole year. Most of this is due to an increase in delinquent tax revenue (our list is getting smaller as people are paying up on their back taxes), and an increase in the Middlebury College's Pilot payment from \$88,000 to \$94,000. As it was last year, speeding fines generated from the Addison County Sheriff's patrol are down. Road Fund income is as expected, with 85% of our expected revenue booked—essentially only pending the Forest Service payment.

In **FY22** the Town completed the very difficult process of a tax sale on a property on the North Branch. The Town was the only bidder at the 2019 tax sale, so ended up owning the property. The previous owner continued to live in the house. After the one-year redemption period had passed, and another year due to Covid, the Town auctioned the house. The new owner and the Town were able to get the previous owner to leave, at which time the previous owner was compensated with the funds paid to the Town by the bidder, less the Town's expenses. Thus, the line in the income budget of \$51,000, offset of the amount of \$32,537 in the expense line. Thus, the Town recovered \$18,463 in expenses accrued during this process (taxes, legal fees, Sheriff service fees, zoning fine, etc).

Town Road Grants: The Town is working hard to get the two large grants it received done. The sand shed plans are done but putting the project out to bid is pending completion of land acquisition and VTrans approval. The Peddlers Bridge Road culvert replacement is being designed. The problem in general is that there are too many projects in the State chasing too few engineers, so it is hard to get final plans nailed down. We have funds in place to pay the Town's 20% co-pay.

Expenses for FY 22: for the General Fund are running close to estimates. As of the middle of February there have been no surprise expenses.

Proposed Budget 2022-2023 (FY 23): Anticipated General fund non-tax revenues for **FY 22** are expected to be essentially the same as **FY22**. The budget for last FY was \$124,993; for **FY 23** we anticipate \$127,945. Anticipated Road non-tax income for **FY23** likewise will be very close to **FY22**.

General Fund Expenses FY23: We have budgeted an increase of approximately \$10,000 for general fund expenses for the next FY. We felt we had to increase the budget line for the Town Clerk, Treasurer and Clerk Administrator as the administrative load on Alison, Carolyn and Paula continues to grow. Grant administration alone requires hours each week. The election line has been increased as there will be a State Primary General Election, and election-in the spring. Almost all other lines were held steady.

Road Expenses FY23: Expenses for **FY23** have been essentially level funded. There is funding unspent from previous years that the Town can use to catch up on spreading gravel and other work that needs to be done. Paving has been reduced from \$50,000 to \$20,000 since the plan is to pave Peddlers Bridge Road after the culvert is replaced. We will use the lower amount to try crack-sealing again and perhaps to do some patching.

Auditors' Report

Telling & Hillman, P.C. audited the Town's financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2021. Accounting practices do not allow us to print a portion of their report in our town report. The full report is available at the town office.



Photo credit: Matthew McIntosh. Ripton Conservation Commission 2022 Natural History Calendar

General Fund Budget

GENERAL FUND BUDGET	Budget FY21	Actual FY21	Budget FY22	Budget FY23
Non-Tax Revenue				
Recording Fees	8,000.00	10,317.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
Copier & Vault Time	1,500.00	1,709.35	1,500.00	1,500.00
Dog Licenses	800.00	536.00	500.00	550.00
Liquor Licenses	370.00	185.00	185.00	185.00
Zoning Permit Fees	2,000.00	2,350.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Compliance Letr & Hearing Fees	400.00	740.00	400.00	500.00
Recycling Donations	2,000.00	2,969.00	2,200.00	2,600.00
Sheriff Fines	7,000.00	1,508.60	2,500.00	1,500.00
Miscellaneous: Marriage Licenses, Posting, Green Mt Pass	180.00	252.51	208.00	210.00
Current Use Hold Harmless	16,500.00	18,193.50	18,000.00	19,000.00
Interest	500.00	479.35	500.00	500.00
Rent: Community House	1,500.00	50.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
College PILOT (adjusted by tax rate)	95,000.00	87,549.85	88,000.00	92,000.00
Total Non-Tax Revenue	135,750.00	126,840.16	124,993.00	129,545.00
Expense				
Selectboard Stipend (3 x 750)	2,250.00	2,250.00	2,250.00	2,250.00
Selectboard Admin/Clerk	23,000.00	24,776.74	23,000.00	23,000.00
Municipal Project Manager	0	0	0	10,000.00
Town Clerk	16,800.00	23,587.87	17,000.00	18,000.00
Town Treasurer	16,800.00	17,448.04	16,800.00	18,000.00
Assistant Town Clerks & Treas	18,000.00	13,798.20	18,000.00	19,000.00
Elections	1,200.00	577.38	400.00	1,200.00
BCA & BTA Hearings	100.00	64.68	100.00	100.00
Delinquent Tax Collector	4,200.00	2,898.35	4,000.00	4,000.00
Listers	8,500.00	9,930.19	8,500.00	10,000.00
Lister Training	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Planning Commission	1,550.00	1,550.00	1,550.00	1,550.00
Zoning Administrator	3,000.00	3,487.00	3,000.00	3,500.00
Animal Control Officer	500.00	0.00	500.00	400.00
Health Officer	500.00	0.00	500.00	400.00
Officers Training	1,000.00	123.60	500.00	400.00
Facilities Management	2,000.00	587.37	1,000.00	1,000.00
Emergency Mgmt Coord.	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00
Payroll Taxes	8,000.00	8,658.10	8,000.00	9,000.00
Office Supplies	1,200.00	1,234.17	2,000.00	1,500.00
Office Equipment/Furnish	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Photocopier	1,500.00	1,511.43	1,500.00	1,550.00
Computer/Technology	5,000.00	345.99	5,000.00	2,000.00
Telephone	1,000.00	1,226.07	1,100.00	1,300.00
Internet	1,600.00	2,400.24	2,000.00	2,600.00

GENERAL FUND BUDGET	Budget FY21	Actual FY21	Budget FY22	Budget FY23
Website	800.00	236.00	800.00	500.00
Postage	800.00	841.00	850.00	1,000.00
Legal Notices	400.00	571.98	400.00	400.00
Document Preservation	4,000.00	4,010.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Clerk & Treasurer Expense	100.00	75.00	100.00	75.00
Listers Expenses	400.00	548.36	400.00	550.00
Planning & Zoning Expense	500.00	670.73	500.00	500.00
Property Insurance	14,000.00	12,617.25	14,000.00	14,000.00
Workers Comp Ins	1,000.00	448.25	900.00	500.00
Town Report	1,500.00	2,363.65	1,500.00	2,400.00
Legal Services	7,500.00	6,327.25	7,500.00	7,000.00
Audit	8,500.00	7,900.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
Generator	400.00	533.91	400.00	400.00
Recycling	12,000.00	11,335.45	12,000.00	12,000.00
Animal Damage	200.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Bank Fees	30.00	0.15	30.00	30.00
Miscellaneous	200.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Conservation Commission	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Grounds Maintenance	1,000.00	837.50	1,200.00	1,400.00
Town Office Fuel	2,000.00	1,546.05	1,500.00	2,000.00
Town Office Electric	800.00	1,496.00	1,200.00	1,500.00
Town Office Maintenance	6,000.00	5,217.13	6,000.00	6,000.00
Community House Fuel	3,500.00	1,822.52	3,000.00	3,000.00
Community House Electric	800.00	882.01	800.00	800.00
Community House Maintenance	5,500.00	6,175.82	5,000.00	5,000.00
Transfer to Town Buildings Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Public Telephone	600.00	585.00	600.00	600.00
Streetlights	1,000.00	1,032.77	1,100.00	1,000.00
Recycling Shed Electric	800.00	557.99	600.00	600.00
Recycling Shed Maintenance	4,000.00	8,126.15	4,000.00	2,000.00
Waste Disposal	800.00	248.00	500.00	300.00
VLCT Dues	1,795.00	3,590.00	1,795.00	1,930.00
Regional Planning Dues	767.00	766.92	767.00	997.65
Addison County Sheriff	11,000.00	13,806.29	12,000.00	12,000.00
Addison County Tax	3,000.00	3,449.32	3,619.68	4,221.00
Animal Holding Facility	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00
Tax Mapping	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
NEMRC - programs/fees	5,000.00	5,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
VT Bond Bank 2008 Flood	0.00	4,949.44	0.00	0.00
Tax Sale Expense	0.00	236.00	0.00	0.00
Total General Fund Expense	231,642.00	237,109.31	233,211.68	246,903.65

GENERAL FUND BUDGET	Budget FY21	Actual FY21	Budget FY22	Budget FY23
Voted Items				
Ripton Fire Department	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00
Cemetery Commission	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Funding Requests	29,226.00	29,226.00	26,126.00	27,726.00
Ripton School District planning	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,000.00
Total Voted Items Expense	76,226.00	76,226.00	73,126.00	109,726.00
Total General Fund (GF)	231,642.00	227,005.55	233,211.68	246,903.65
Total Voted Item Expense	76,226.00	70,816.00	73,126.00	109,726.00
Total GF + Voted Items	307,868.00	297,821.55	306,337.68	356,629.65
Minus GF Non-Tax Revenue	<u>-136,174.00</u>	<u>-134,097.19</u>	<u>-125,418.00</u>	<u>-129,545.00</u>
GF amount to raise in tax	171,694.00	163,724.36	180,919.68	227,084.65
Total Highway Fund	413,050.00	273,174.32	414,150.000	416,050.00
Minus HF Non-Tax Revenue	<u>-222,750.00</u>	<u>240,650.23</u>	<u>-223,150.00</u>	<u>-226,900.00</u>
HF amount to raise in tax	190,300.00	185,280.24	191,000.00	189,150.00
Total General Fund (GF)	231,642.00	237,109.31	233,211.68	246,903.65
Total Voted Item Expense	76,226.00	76,226.00	73,126.00	109,726.00
Total Highway Fund	413,050.00	273,174.32	414,150.00	416,050.00
Total Municipal Expense	720,918.00	586,509.63	720,487.68	772,679.65
Grant Revenue		84,285.93		
Grant Expense		99,302.30		
Municipal &		586,509.63		
School (after final reconciliation)		<u>1,013,176.49</u>		
Total Municipal & School		1,599,686.12		



Ripton School Board. Photo credit: Molly Witters

Highway Fund Budget

Highway Fund Budget	Budget FY21	Actual FY21	Budget FY22	Budget FY23
Revenue				
Property Tax - Roads	190,300.00	185,280.84	191,000.00	189,150.00
Overweight Permit Fees	750.00	610.00	750.00	600.00
State Aid to Highways	49,000.00	63,265.73	50,100.00	51,300.00
College PILOT Roads	95,000.00	95,000.00	90,000.00	92,000.00
USFS PILOT Payment	61,500.00	63,581.00	64,300.00	64,000.00
Current Use/Hold Harmless	16,500.00	18,193.50	18,000.00	19,000.00
Total Revenue	413,050.00	425,931.07	414,150.00	416,050.00
Expense				
Ditching	17,000.00	5,949.00	20,000.00	22,000.00
Grading	16,000.00	17,685.00	16,000.00	18,000.00
Chloride	7,000.00	4,883.00	7,000.00	8,000.00
Sweeping Roads	8,000.00	6,087.50	8,000.00	8,000.00
Culverts	7,000.00	9,365.70	7,000.00	7,000.00
Guardrails	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Gravel	40,000.00	27,167.94	40,000.00	44,000.00
Storm Damage	9,000.00	3,206.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
Road Signs	1,000.00	413.36	1,000.00	1,000.00
Cutting Brush & Trees	10,000.00	1,608.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Mowing: Roadside	5,200.00	5,097.50	5,200.00	6,800.00
Mowing: Boom	2,500.00	2,727.50	2,800.00	2,800.00
Road Commissioner	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	5,000.00
Checking Roads	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,600.00
Training	300.00	0.00	300.00	500.00
Class IV Road Work	10,000.00	8,864.50	10,000.00	10,000.00
Paving	50,000.00	34,742.11	50,000.00	20,000.00
Crack-sealing	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
Major Road Reconstruction	25,000.00	1,782.83	25,000.00	25,000.00
Municipal Rds State Permit	1,750.00	240.00	1,750.00	1,350.00
Grant Match Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	15,000.00
Transfer to Major Project Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Misc. Summer Work	1,500.00	2,826.50	1,500.00	2,000.00
Buy/Screen Sand	40,000.00	34,152.02	40,000.00	40,000.00
Truck Sand	20,000.00	10,800.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Salt	7,200.00	4,745.36	7,000.00	7,000.00
Sanding Roads	42,000.00	27,890.00	40,000.00	42,000.00
Plowing Roads	55,000.00	37,905.00	55,000.00	55,000.00
Winter Storm Damage	7,000.00	1,399.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Culvert Thawing	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	3,000.00
Misc. Winter Work	2,000.00	36.50	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Expense	413,050.00	273,174.32	414,150.00	416,050.00

Town Grants

Grants FY 21

FEMA DR4356 Oct. 29-30, 2017, wind damage: storm debris. In FY19 we received payments of \$23,955.30 + \$904.88 for work done in FY18, total \$24,860.18. In FY21 we received a final payment of **\$6,022.78**.

FEMA DR4330 June 29 - July 1, 2017, flood damage: road washouts and bridge repair. In FY18 the Town was awarded \$50,867.76 for work completed, \$20,350.12 for road washout work to complete, and \$19,842.16 for repair to complete at the Old Town Road Bridge. Road washout repair cost \$23,106.09. The bridge repair was \$26,600. In FY21 we received a final payment of **\$11,869.14**.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) FY19 - Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) for repair and mitigation work on the class 4 section of Wagon Wheel Road: \$24,180 grant, \$8,060 match, total project \$32,240. This project was awarded in FY19, but funds were cancelled then reallocated. It was completed in FY21, under budget for **\$8,250.00**.

VTrans Better Roads BR0709: Natural Turnpike culvert replacement, ditching, & ditch lining awarded FY20; grant \$12,356.00, match \$3,089.00, total project \$15,445. Deadlines for this grant program were not extended due to COVID. The project was not done by the deadline and the grant was withdrawn. The project was partially completed in 2021 with town highway funds.

VTrans Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program FY19 STPMM19(18) Sand shed construction: grant \$356,000, match \$89,000, total project \$445,000. Expenses paid to date \$42,073.19. Next steps – land acquisition (may be complete by May), VTrans approval to go to bid.

VTrans Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program FY20 STPMM20(1) Peddlers Bridge Road TH#2 culvert project: grant \$627,600, match \$156,900, total project \$784,500. This grant is for replacing the culvert on Peddlers Bridge Road near the recycling shed. Expenses paid to date \$41,747.13. Next steps – final engineering and VTrans review.

VTrans Better Roads Category A. Inventory grant: The ACRPC completed an inventory that complies with the State Municipal Road General Permit (MRGP) requirements. \$8,000 grant, \$2,000 match, total **\$10,000**.

DEC Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid: FY20 grant \$6,277.50, match \$1,255.50, total project \$7,533.00. For berm removal, ditching, seeding on the Lincoln Rd; reimbursed **\$6,277.50** in FY21.

Forest Service – Old Town Rd/TH25/FR296: The FS offered \$6,000 for a gate and culvert repair on Old Town Rd, to be spent by Dec. 30, 2020. The gate installation was completed. Total **\$2,439.85**

Digitization grant: A Coronavirus Municipal Records Digitization Grant award provided up to \$14,800 for digitization of municipal records. We used most of the award, **\$13,153.68**, to make more than 40 years of land records available online. There is a bit more work due from the vendor.

Center for Technology & Civic Life (CTCL) grant: We received the minimum grant amount of **\$5,000** for election-related items to address COVID-19 concerns. The grant paid for personal protective equipment, sanitizing stations, tables, table-top booths, a laptop to use at the polls, the use of a tabulator, envelopes, postcards, and mailing costs.

Vermont Secretary of State: reimbursement for a drop box \$541

Grants FY22 & FY23

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): Total funds to Ripton \$170,088.91. Remaining funds: **144,089.92**

Use of the funds will be discussed at the Town Meeting. Funds will be received in 4 payments described below.

- **ARPA:** A payment of \$29,783.67 has been received, a second payment of \$29,783.66 is expected in 2022, total \$59,567.33. From the first payment \$25,000 was sent to Maple Broadband, and an OWL labs device to facilitate online meetings was purchased for \$998.99.
- **American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery (ARPA-CLRF):** From this pool of funds Ripton will receive \$110,521.58 in 2 payments of \$55,260.79 each.

DEC Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid: FY21 grant, \$7,820, match \$2,297.84, total project \$10,117.84.

Ditching, ditch-lining, and a culvert replacement were done at the east end of the North Branch Rd. Total spent: 10,110.97; reimbursed \$7,820 in FY22.

VTrans Better Roads BR0518 Lincoln and Pearl Lee Roads: ditching, stone-lined ditches, and drainage improvements. This grant was awarded and completed in FY19, grant \$16,607.50, match \$4,151.88, total project \$20,759.38. The grant reimbursement, \$16,464.00 was received in FY22.

VTrans Better Roads BR0887 North Branch Rd: grant \$11,600, match \$2,900, total project \$14,500. For ditching, ditch-lining, and a culvert replacement, must be completed by June 30, 2022.

VTrans Grants-in-Aid GA0166: FY22 grant \$6,700, match \$1,675, total project \$8,375, site to be determined, to be completed by Sept. 2022 (FY23).

The VTrans sand shed grant and Peddlers Bridge Rd culvert replacement grant continued into FY22 and will continue in FY23.

Forest Service - Old Town Rd/TH25/FR296: \$2,500 for maintenance.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) grant: The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) TAC approved a \$20,000 grant for engineering services to propose how to make Old Town Rd passable for emergency use. There is no cost to us for this project. The project will be awarded to an engineering firm in April. The study is to be completed by Sept. 2022.

The large VTrans grants require a Municipal Project Manager. I previously assigned that work to the Selectboard Administrator line, but we have created a new budget line to make it easier to track the hours and submit for reimbursement and the town match. Funds are added for additional work hours.

Alison Joseph Dickinson
Selectboard Administrator



Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department Report

Ripton Fire and First Response would like to thank Retired Chief Erik Eriksen for his years spent dedicated to the service of others. Here are just some of Erik's past and present accomplishments:

- Erik started as a volunteer firefighter as a teenager and served in the Air Force in his 20s.
- Erik joined Ripton Volunteer Fire Department in 1989 and has been a member for 32 years.
- From 1991 to the present he has served as a town lister.
- 1995 to present has served as Ripton's Fire Warden.
- In 2003 he became Chief of Ripton Fire and First Response retiring February of 2021, serving as Chief for 18 years.
- From 2009 to the present he serves as Ripton's Emergency Management Coordinator.
- From 2000-2010 he was an Investigator with the Addison County Fire Investigation Unit.

Even though he has retired as Chief, he is still very much part of Ripton Fire and First Response, responding to calls, training and maintenance duties. He routinely checks on the well being of friends and neighbors in need and takes care of little things like shoveling snow from the steps of the community house. Thank you Erik for all your years of service!

2021 has been another year of Covid challenges but we continue to train, prepare and respond. Call volume was lower which is comparable to national call statistics since the beginning of the pandemic. We have seen an increase in department membership with a number of members dedicated to backcountry hiker rescue as well as new members focusing on EMS and/or firefighting duties. Three members are currently attending a 110 hour training course to become state certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). Five members attended a two day state sponsored backcountry hiker search and rescue training in Jericho this September. Through our department training program we qualified new drivers, helped our certified firefighter and EMS personnel meet their required continuing education hours and strengthened current skillsets.

Without our members, there would be no Department. The Department sincerely appreciates our members' efforts all while managing work and family responsibilities during these challenging times. We are also thankful for the town's support that provides us the opportunity to help our friends and neighbors. Thank you all.

The Department would like to recognize Assistant Chief Jay Harrington for his lifesaving actions this past December. Jay was coaching his son's Nordic ski team at Rikert when an individual a short distance away collapsed. Jay quickly assessed the the patient as not breathing and in cardiac arrest. Jay began CPR and requested a bystander to call 911 and notify ski patrol for an AED (automatic external defibrillator). Jay and ski patrol members were able to reestablish the patient's breathing and pulse. The patient was transported by ambulance to the hospital for further treatment. We have received word that the patient has a very good prognosis and that Jay's knowledge, training and quick actions were key in their survival. Great work Jay!

Chris Pike
Chief - Ripton Fire and First Response

Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response

Chief: Chris Pike - EMR,FFII

Assistant Chief: Jay Harrington - EMR,FFI

Captains: Mark Nelson - AEMT, Will Mathis - EMR,FFII

Lieutenant: Justin Allen - FFII, Fire Instructor



First Response Head of Service: Mark Nelson - AEMT

Members: Jake Coddling, Levi Doria, Troy Douglas, Ross Elliot, Erik Eriksen - Ret. Chief , Baxter Harrington - Cadet, John Hughes Jr. - FFI, Alison Joseph, Marty Kulczyk, Chris Lacey, Bobby Lau, Wendy Leeds, Erica Mathis - FFII, Tomas McElhaney, Laura McIntosh, Reid Peck - FFI, Elias Pike - Cadet, Irene Poole, Chris Roche, Gary Smith, Jim Zieger.

EMR-Emergency Medical Responder. EMT-Emergency Medical Technician. AEMT-Advanced EMT. FFI&II-Certified Firefighter

Activity Report 2021	# Calls	Hours
Fire calls*	8	55.25
Medical calls	21	79.5
Motor vehicle crashes	5	55.5
Search & Rescue	2	8
Fire & EMS Training		1004.5
Maintenace		116.25
Community service		141.75
Meetings		33.5
Totals	36	1494.25

*Fire calls include automatic alarms, carbon monoxide calls, wires down, road flooding etc.

Account Balances June 30, 2021	
Checking	1,582.97
Savings	42,465.31
Vehicle Replacement Fund	45,133.16



2021 Vehicle & Major Equipment Inventory	
Pumper. 1993. KME/International 1000gal	Ladders. 2-roof, 2-24', 1-8', 2-attic
Tanker. 2005. Freightliner 2000gal	Chainsaw. Jonsered
Ford 2020 F-550 4x4 300gal	(2) Multi gas meters - CO, O2, LPG
Pump, portable. Hale HPX400	Air compressor. Porter Cable, 3 hp
Pump, portable. Hale HPX300	Thermal Imaging Camera - Flir K2
Portable pond. 1,000 gallons	Defibrillator. Laerdal Heartstart
Portable pond. 2,000 gallons	Defibrillator. Medtronic Lifepak 500
Generator & light, portable. Honda EU1000	Defibrillator. 2 Medtronic Lifepak 1000
Generator, portable. Generac	Defibrillator. Phillips Heartstart



RVFD Budget Report

Account	Budget FY21	Actual FY21	Budget FY22	Budget FY23
Revenue				
Town Payment	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00
Grants	1,240.00	1,938.57	1,200.00	500.00
Donations & fundraising	2,000.00	502.80	2,040.00	2,000.00
Field Days RVFD duty pay	290.00	0.00	200.00	289.00
Interest - Savings	10.00	8.39	10.00	8.00
Total Revenue	44,540.00	44,540.00	44,450.00	43,797.00
Expense				
Gear/Tools/Equipment	6,000.00	14,678.99	6,000.00	7,000.00
Vehicle Repair/Maintnc	10,000.00	8,736.26	10,000.00	10,000.00
Fuel	500.00	329.72	500.00	500.00
Administration & Office	1,800.00	477.00	2,000.00	1,000.00
Stipend - Chief	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Insurance	4,000.00	2,253.00	3,000.00	2,658.00
Field Days to pay RVFD duty pay	290.00	0.00	200.00	289.00
Training, Meetings	2,000.00	1,045.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Events	800.00	0.00	800.00	800.00
Computer & Internet	1,000.00	993.90	1,200.00	1,000.00
Dispatch	2,500.00	1,510.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Electricity	1,200.00	1,047.06	1,200.00	1,200.00
Telephone	1,100.00	947.54	1,200.00	1,000.00
Heat/Propane	2,500.00	2,312.28	3,000.00	3,000.00
Furniture & Equipment	500.00	335.07	500.00	500.00
Hydrants	500.00	100.00	500.00	500.00
Station maintenance	2,000.00	657.94	2,500.00	2,500.00
Plowing hydrants	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
Fundraising expense	400.00	0.00	400.00	400.00
Payment to vehicle fund	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Total Expense	44,540.00	42,873.76	44,450.00	43,797.00
Balance		1,666.24		
Vehicle Replacement Fund				
Town payment	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Interest - Vehicle Fund	0.00	5.48	0.00	0.00
Vehicle Donations	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00
Total Revenue	6,015.00	11,005.48	5,515.00	5,515.00
New Vehicle Expense	0.00	764.20	0.00	0.00
Vehicle Replacement Fund Account Balance April 1, 2022: \$50,636.73				

Cemetery Commission Report & Budget

The Ripton Cemetery Commission was fortunate to discover Vermont Monuments' restoration services this past year. Vermont Monuments, a 70-year-old company from Morrisville, Vt, submitted a proposal to address repairs, leveling, straightening, and cleaning of many stones in the historic sections of Cook and Galvin cemeteries. Phase 1 will be completed in fiscal year 21/22 with future work scheduled as funds become available. The Commission will continue to contact families, if they are known, for issues with lots, plantings, and memorials. Most historic stones do not have full, level foundations under them and changes to the ground from tree roots, decay and frost often cause them to eventually lean or topple over. The Masterson family agreed to fund the reestablishment of their Bean family stone by Vermont Monuments. The large stone had fallen down the southwest bank of Cook.

The Cemetery Commission is still seeing delays in getting fencing work done. Cornerstone and memorial installations have also been delayed due to Covid related issues. Ripton had one burial this year and sold one cemetery lot. Carole Cummings was voted in for another 5-year term in March 2021. Elizabeth Walker is up for reelection on this year's ballot.

The Commission is asking Ripton residents for your support in the 2022/23 fiscal year to continue the work of operating, restoring, and improving Ripton's Town Cemeteries. Requested funds will pay for yearly grounds maintenance, eventual installation/replacement of fencing at Cook and Gee, and restoration projects throughout the year.

The Ripton Cemetery Commission was established in 2014 to administer Ripton's public cemeteries: Cook, Galvin, Gee & Cushman. Monthly meetings are held the first Wednesday, March through December, at the Town Office. Current Commissioners are Carole Cummings, Karen Heppell, 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, Chairperson

Revenue	Budget FY21	Actual FY21	Budget FY22	Budget FY23
From account balance	5,500.00	00.00	2,630.00	5,649.00
Donations	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00
Sale of Plots	1,000.00	450.00	500.00	500.00
Town Payment	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Total Revenue	12,500.00	6,650.00	9,130.00	12,149.00
Expense				
Dues/Admin	100.00	0.00	50.00	25.00
Stipends	2,000.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Sexton Stipend	0	450.00	450.00	450.00
Mowing	2,500.00	1,800.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Tree & brush cut & removal	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	500.00
Fencing	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	4,500.00
Trash/grounds clean-up	0.00	0.00	30.00	24.00
Monument cleaning & repair	400.00	0.00	400.00	3,000.00
Development-Cook	2,000.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
Development Galvin	2,000.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
Landscaping	0.00	0.00	500.00	450.00
Total Expense	12,500.00	3,450.00	9,130.00	12,149.00

2022 Funding Requests

Funding requests will be voted by Australian ballot, Tuesday May 10, 2022. Summary information is below. Detailed reports and letters are available from the town office or the organization.

Addison Central Teens (ACT) “provides a safe and welcoming place for teens to socialize after school and throughout the year.” 7 teens from Ripton were served in 2021. **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.” 21 individuals served by 253 visits in 2021. **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.” Provided services to 19 Ripton residents in 2021. **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.” **Request: \$170**

Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative requests funds to support water quality testing in the Middlebury River. River Watch volunteers monitor 2 sites in Ripton and area swimming holes. **Request: \$400**

Age Well provides services and support that allow seniors to stay independent and remain healthy at home. Programs and FY21 Ripton numbers include Meals on Wheels (391), community meals (3), wellness programs, social activities, transportation, a helpline (21 calls), Care & Service Coordination (54 hrs), Options Counseling (4 hrs). 131 Ripton residents were served; 2 residents volunteered 260 hours. **Request: \$750**

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

Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) provided 11,182 hours of service to residents of Ripton who had mental health, substance abuse, or developmental disability needs in 2021. **Request: \$1,400**

Elderly Services In 2021 8 Ripton residents attended Project Independence and/ or participated in the ES1 College Lifelong Learning Center via Zoom. **Request: \$600**

Friends of the Ripton School (FORS) provides the Ripton Elementary School with support through volunteerism and funding to enhance and enrich the school environment. **Request: \$500**

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

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 17 Ripton residents in 2021. **Request: \$3,000**

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. In 2021 Ripton residents adopted 3 animals and surrendered 2. **Request: \$750**

John Graham Housing and Services maintains an emergency shelter, food shelf, and apartments. COVID increased needs. More than 350 clients from 45 municipalities received services last year. **Request: \$1,600**

Middlebury Regional EMS (MREMS) provides ambulance and heavy rescue service, responded to Ripton 29 times in FY21, and hosted area COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinics. **Request: \$5,880**

NeighborWorks of Western Vermont promotes safe and affordable housing, focusing on sustainable ownership. In the past few years 2 home energy audits have been conducted in Ripton and one home repair loan has been authorized. **Request: \$300**

NeighborWorks of Western Vermont promotes safe and affordable housing, focusing on sustainable ownership. In the past few years 2 home energy audits have been conducted in Ripton and one home repair loan has been authorized. **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. In 2021 ODC served 7 residents through 6 medical visits and provided 2 COVID shots. **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. Ripton residents served included 3 children at a cost of \$21,049.83 per child. **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. Four residents purchased trees from the tree sale. **Request: \$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 140 hours last year. Service to Ripton residents in 2021 included free income tax return preparation, osteoporosis prevention classes, clothing, blankets, and hand sewn face masks. **Request: \$475**

Tri Valley Transit (ACTR) provided an average of 903 free Dial-a-Ride trips for Ripton residents during the past four years. In addition, the Snow Bowl Shuttle provided 1,200 rides through Ripton last year. **Request: \$1,901**

Turning Point Center assists persons, their families, and their friends in recovery from substance use disorder and addictive behaviors. **Request: \$1,000**

Vermont Adult Learning “provides adults with basic skills instruction in reading, writing and math, GED prep and testing, a H.S. diploma program, and classes for English language learners. We are grateful to the townspeople of Ripton for supporting the services we provide.” **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: assisted at least 4 residents including parents of at least 1 child exposed to violence **Request: \$1,250**



Photo credit: Ripton Conservation Commission 2022
Natural History Calendar

Financial and Tax Reports

Account Balances

Account Balances June 30, 2021

Intermediate Account: includes General Fund & Highway Fund	\$573,011.23
Municipal Checking	\$21,132.87
Major Projects Highway Fund	\$226,038.00
Town Building Fund	\$110,396.07
Reappraisal Fund	\$44,874.29
Document Restoration Fund	\$1,043.00
Fire Department - checking and savings	\$38,788.13
Fire Department - Vehicle Replacement Fund	\$45,133.16
Cemetery Commission	\$11,319.00

Statement of Taxes

Tax Calculation for Year Ending June 30, 2021, FY21, from 2020 Billed Grand List

Property Tax Rates FY21	Tax Rate	Grand List	Total Raised
Non-Homestead Education	1.8212	254,840.00	464,114.65
Homestead Education	1.8748	395,434.00	741,359.65
Local voted exemption	0.0100	650,274.00	6,502.74
Highway Fund	0.2847	650,274.00	185,133.09
General Fund	0.2745	650,274.00	178,500.09
Total municipal rate	0.5692		
Total non-homestead rate	2.3904		
Total homestead rate	2.4444		
Total education tax			1,205,474.30
Total municipal tax			370,135.92
Total Tax			1,575,610.22
Total State Payments			191,801.86
Municipal Payments			6,456.00
Education Payments			185,345.86

Tax Calculation for Year Ending June 30, 2022, FY22, from 2021 Billed Grand List

Property Tax Rates FY22	Tax Rate	Grand List	Total Raised
Non-Homestead Education	1.7955	258,254.00	463,695.10
Homestead Education	1.8362	404,766.00	743,231.38
Local voted exemption	0.0090	663,020.00	5,967.31
Highway Fund	0.2925	663,020.00	193,933.76
General Fund	0.3000	663,020.00	198,905.59
Total municipal rate	0.6015		
Total non-homestead rate	2.3970		
Total homestead rate	2.4377		

Town Clerk Report

Office Hours: The office is open to the public 9-1 Monday - Thursday and 1-5 Monday. Because the office is small, we ask researchers to make appointments.

Census 2020: Welcome new residents! Ripton's population grew from 588 in 2010 to 739 in 2020, an increase of 151 or 25.7%. This is the highest population ever recorded for Ripton and made us the fastest growing town in Addison County. Regional Planning staff asked if Ripton's number is accurate. We may have been undercounted in the past. The Census Bureau mails to street addresses; census forms are not delivered to our PO boxes. Residents were encouraged by email to respond electronically, maybe they did. People who were in Ripton due to the pandemic may have increased the number. New construction and camp to year-round conversions may account for some growth, but the number of voters and homestead declarations have not changed much over ten years.

Document Preservation: In FY21 we preserved Grand Lists from the 1920s; years 1842-1929 are now deacidified and bound. In FY22 land records volumes 49-53 were microfilmed. Microfilm stored in the office vault was moved to offsite storage. Land records volume 16 was deacidified and bound.

Dogs: State law requires annual dog licenses with an April 1st deadline. You may license a dog by mail or by using the drop box in the town office door, if we have a current rabies vaccine certificate. If a new rabies certificate is due, drop it off, mail, email, or fax it to us. **Fees are \$9 for neutered or spayed dogs and \$13 for those that are not before April 1, and \$13 and \$17 after April 1.** A list of unlicensed dogs must be submitted to the Selectboard at the end of May. State statute allows them to penalize the unlicensed dog owner. Several households did not license their dogs last year. Please license your dog or let us know if you no longer have your pet. In 2021, 113 dogs were licensed – thank you to their owners.

From the Vermont Spay and Neuter Incentive Program

Licensing a dog: 1) identifies your dog if lost, 2) provides proof that your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal {but would still need immediate medical attention}, 3) bites another animal/person, which could result in the quarantine of your dog or possibly euthanasia to test for rabies if your current vaccination isn't proven, 4) helps support VSNIP to address the over-population of cats and dogs in VT, and 5) \$3590. List of dogs and wolf-hybrids not licensed states, in part ... "the municipal clerk shall notify the owners or keepers of all dogs and wolf-hybrids named on the list that have not already been licensed or inoculated, and after May 30 shall furnish to the legislative body a list of dogs and wolf-hybrids not licensed or inoculated as required by law. **Owners shall also be notified that unlicensed or uninoculated dogs or wolf-hybrids may be destroyed." (No one wants this, so vaccinate & register – for the protection of your animals and people!**

For an application for VSNIP, send a SASE to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Indicate if this is for a cat/dog or both. 802-672-5302 Thanks! Sue Skaskiw, VVSA Director/ VSNIP Administrator

Elections/Voting: We held 5 elections in FY21 – during a pandemic! For all except our Jan. 12, 2021, special election, laws were in place for COVID-19 precautions such as mailing ballots to all voters and changing the town meeting date and procedures. The Selectboard chose to hold a virtual town informational meeting at the traditional floor meeting time, followed by Australian ballot voting on all Articles on March 2nd. For 2022, they opted to postpone town meeting, with hope of meeting in person.

Grants and state aid kept the FY21 budget lines for town clerk, assistant clerk, and elections from being overspent due to an increase in absentee/early voting, special elections, and tabulator programming. We

appreciate that Barre City Clerk Carol Dawes loaned us a tabulator. New tabulators are being distributed for Aug. 2022. We are on the list to receive one and are registered for training.

Full-time legal residents may register to vote at the town office, through the DMV, or online at the Secretary of State’s website, <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, and voting history.

Elections FY21 Summary

- 2020 State Primary: 123 voted early/absentee, 83 voted in person
- 2020 General Election: 371 voted early/absentee, 100 voted in person
- 2021 Special Election: Shall the Town of Ripton withdraw its membership from the Addison Central School District? 163, YES; 107, NO; 2 defective ballots
64 voted early/absentee, 208 voted in person
- 2021 Town Meeting: All Articles were approved, and officers elected
58 voted early/absentee, 124 voted in person, 2 defective ballots
- 2021 Ripton School District Director Election: elected 3 directors
7 voted early/absentee, 183 voted in person

Voter Participation

Town & School District Meetings			State & Federal Elections			
Year	# Voters	# Voted		Election	# Voters	# Voted
3/2022	419	190 (45%)	11/2020	General 2020	422	371 (88%)
6/2021	421	272 (65%)	8/2020	State Primary	418	206 (49%)
3/2021	417	184 (44%)				
1/2021	421	272 (65%)				
3/2020	434	257 (59%)	3/2020	Pres Primary	434	250 (57%)
3/2019	430	145 (33%)	11/2018	General 2018	429	304 (71%)
			8/2018	State Primary	414	167 (40%)
3/2018	408	134 (33%)	11/2016	General 2016	429	313 (73%)
3/2017	415	119 (29%)	9/2016	State Primary	419	128 (31%)
3/2016	406	216 (53%)	3/2016	Pres Primary	406	216 (53%)

Reapportionment for 2022: The Board of Civil Authority (BCA) responded negatively to the Vermont Legislative Apportionment Board’s proposal to move Ripton from the Addison-2 district to a Windsor-Addison district with towns on the other side of the mountain. The Apportionment Board listened, and we will remain in the Addison-2 district with our present towns, except Hancock.

Land Records: Land records are available online through a portal at riptonvermont.org. A Coronavirus Municipal Records Digitization Grant paid for scanning and digitizing some of our land records. Assistant clerk Paula Scott digitized many volumes and entered nearly all Ripton records into the land records program, back to 1837. That’s a lot of eyestrain; her work is greatly appreciated!

Land Records	FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18	2017	2016	2015
Property Transfers	45	35	37	45	44	36	35
# Pages Recorded	688	602	586	581	589	635	685

Vital records: Birth and death records may be requested from the Vermont Department of Health vital records system at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/stats/vital-records>. Records from the vital records system may also be requested from any town clerk. Copies of marriage certificates are from town records.

Vital Records	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Births	5	5	1	0	6	6	9	5	2	7	5
Marriages	6	5	5	3	4	6	4	1	2	2	4
Deaths	3	5	2	5	4	5	5	5	6	4	3

In the chart above, birth numbers may not include all children born to Ripton parents. We do not receive records of out of state births and did not always receive records from Vermont hospital towns. Marriages are for anyone who was issued a marriage license by our office and returned it. The death numbers do not include those who passed away out of state or town; they do not reflect the great loss to our community over the past two years.

Thank you to my co-workers, all of you who serve on boards and commissions, our residents and non-resident property owners. I am grateful to be here and to be working with you and for you.

Alison Joseph Dickinson
Town Clerk

Delinquent Tax Report

Total due June 30, 2021: \$9,742.90

FY20 Delinquent Tax: Total due for the 2019-2020 tax year as of June 30, 2021: \$918.11.

Due from:
Joseph Charest & Carolyn Malzac
Ronald Stevers

FY21 Delinquent Tax: Total due for the 2020-2021 tax year as of June 30, 2021: \$8,806.79.

Due from:
Joseph Charest & Carolyn Malzac
Daniel Coughlan
David Manning
Thomas Olson
John Peck Jr. & John Peck Sr.
Ronald Stevers

The Selectboard waived interest through May 2, 2021.

Delinquent Tax Warrant Amounts

November 2020 \$46,687.36 owed for 27 properties (interest waived)
November 2021 \$67,041.53 owed for 26 properties

FY22 Delinquent Tax: Total due for the 2021-2022 tax year as of April 1, 2021: \$10,048.51.

Delinquent Tax Revenue	Budget FY21	Actual FY21	Budget FY22	Budget FY23
Delinquent Taxes	54,000.00	43,374.39	50,000.00	50,000.00
Interest: Delinquent Tax	3,400.00	319.08	500.00	500.00
Penalty: Delinquent Tax	4,000.00	3,024.39	4,000.00	4,000.00
Delinquent Tax Expense				
Delinquent Tax Collector	4,200.00	2,898.35	4,000.00	4,000.00

Board of Listers Report

Grand List: The listers prepare the annual grand list, a list of property owners, property descriptions and assessed values as of April 1. Values are based on the last town-wide reappraisal year, 2011. The state adjusts the grand list to an equalized 100% value to set education tax rates. They study three years of property sales and determine a common level of appraisal (CLA) and coefficient of dispersion (COD). The CLA is the ratio of the grand list value to an “equalized” 100%. The coefficient of dispersion (COD) is a measure of how fairly property tax is distributed. Both determine orders to reappraise.

Town-wide reappraisal is required when the common level of appraisal (CLA) is below 85% or the coefficient of dispersion (COD) is above 20%. Ripton’s CLA dropped more than 6% from 2020 to 2021 to 83.61%. A vendor from a state-approved list will be selected for a reappraisal. Most are not available until 2-3 years from now. We have funds saved to cover the cost.

Grand List Summary for FY21 July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, based on the April 1, 2020, Grand List

- Municipal Grand List (total value/100): 650,274.00; change from 2019 +8,155.00
- Education Grand List (total value/100): 653,845.00; change from 2019 +8,155.00
- Common Level of Appraisal (CLA): 89.78%.
- Coefficient of Dispersion (COD): 12.36%
- Change of Appraisal: Due to COVID-19 there were no interior inspections. Thank you to those who answered questions and provided photos. Values changed for 31 properties.
- Grievance Hearings: 2. Both were minor corrections and approved.
- Current Use Program: 40 properties were enrolled, \$156,648 in property tax saved.
- Homesteads: 195
- Property Tax Reduction Summary: Of the 195 Homesteads declared, 132 or 67.7% received education tax credits. The average credit was \$1,421. Municipal tax credits, averaging \$364, were received by 20 owners.

Grand List Summary for the current fiscal year

FY22 July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, based on the April 1, 2021, Grand List

- Municipal Grand List (total value/100): 663,020.00; change from 2020 +12,746
- Education Grand List (total value/100): 666,591.00; change from 2020 +12,746
- Common Level of Appraisal (CLA): 83.61
- Coefficient of Dispersion (COD): 14.97 %
- Change of Appraisal: Values changed for 26 properties.
- Grievance Hearings: None
- Current Use Program: 41 properties enrolled
- Homesteads: 193

Homestead Declarations: Vermont requires residents to file a homestead declaration by **April 15** .Lister

Education: The lister chair completed the courses required for the VT Property Assessor level 1 & 2 designations and all but 1 of the courses for the highest level, 3.

VTPIE: The VT Dept of Taxes is implementing a new software program, the VT Property Information Exchange System, VTPIE, to replace the current grand list program. Sales verification and Geographic Information System (GIS) training for VTPIE started.

Board of Listers: Alison Joseph Dickinson (chair), Beth Eliason, Erik Eriksen

Sales: The table shows 3-years of sales through April 1, 2021, most of which determined the CLA and COD, and sales from April 1 – Dec. 2021. Of these sales 8 properties changed from non-homestead to homestead; 3 changed from non-homestead rental to homestead; 4 changed from homestead to non-homestead.

Location	Description	Seller/Buyer	Month	Sale Price	Town Value
696 Barrows Rd	10.1 ac & camp	Richardson/Laberge	Dec-21	\$24,000	\$45,200
1897 North Branch	6.6 ac & SFD	Braun/Buhman	Nov-21	\$325,000	\$182,700
4257 Lincoln Rd	0.5 ac & SFD	Larocque/Coughlan	Nov-21	\$15,000	\$22,000
1792 Lincoln Rd	2.4 ac & camp	Winter/Witt	Nov-21	\$65,000	\$40,300
277 Robbins	12.12 ac & SFD	Cox/Caron & Sherman	Oct-21	\$422,000	\$385,600
Natural Turnpike	2.13 ac	Plump/Pask	Oct-21	\$48,000	\$26,400
1568 North Branch	6.1 ac & SFD	Town/Waite	Sept-21	\$51,000	\$117,300
Chandler Hill Rd	5 ac	Laroche/Mathis	Aug-21	\$30,000	\$25,600
Pearl Lee Rd	84 ac	A. Johnson/Fleischer	July-21	\$185,000	\$165,800
1494 Lincoln Rd	9.7 ac & SFD	Christiano/Heinrich	June-21	\$351,000	\$245,600
Fire Brook Rd	52 ac	Rogers/Fouts-Clark	June-21	\$150,000	\$134,600
354 Billings Farm Rd	13.08 ac & SFD	Connors/Gallner	June-21	\$315,000	\$214,600
1202 VT Rte. 125	1.66 ac & SFD	Collitt/Ripton Hse LLC	June-21	\$375,000	\$184,400
Lincoln Rd	2.9 ac	Moran/Malzac	May-21	\$1,500	\$29,400
498 Scott Rd	33.56 ac & seasonal dwelling	Sweet Retreat LLC/Wulfman	May-21	\$283,800	\$180,300
564 Eagles Nest Rd	11.26 ac & camp	Harding/Johnson	Apr-21	\$75,000	\$39,600
1378 Lincoln Rd	6.05 ac & SFD	Leduc/Cross	Apr-21	\$255,000	\$145,300
North Branch Rd	9.2 ac	Silver/Rhoads	Apr-21	\$30,000	\$48,500
Old Town Rd	10.45 ac	Coeby/Tickner & Schifano	Mar-21	\$53,000	\$39,300
299 County	15.31 ac & SFD	Barker/Zieger	Mar-21	\$347,000	\$255,100
2571 North Branch	0.96 ac & camp	Bohnert/Colebaugh	Dec-20	\$84,000	\$74,400
50 Billings Old Town	10.39 ac & SFD	Walker/Baldwin	Nov-20	\$325,000	\$301,200
202 Robbins	10.01 ac & SFD	McCarty/Roche	Oct-20	\$316,000	\$247,800
671-3 North Branch	1 ac & SFD & apts	Carney/Frazier	Oct-20	\$171,000	\$162,200
599 Selden Mill Rd	19.1 ac & SFD	Phinney & H /Jattne	Oct-20	\$440,000	\$427,500
1207 Lincoln Rd	17 ac & SFD	Danek/Kilzer	Oct-20	\$260,000	\$191,800
220 Lincoln Rd	3.1 ac & SFD	Smith/Volpe & Conner	Sept-20	\$387,000	\$290,800
669 Maiden Lane	0.45 ac & SFD	Ferland/Vaughn	Sept-20	\$162,000	\$93,700
520 Chandler Hill Rd	10.1 ac	Campbell/Pike	Sept-20	\$50,000	\$48,300
498 Old Town Rd	10.45 ac & SFD	Coeby/Voutchkova & Kostal	Aug-20	\$295,000	\$239,600
1062 North Branch	4.13 ac & SFD	Pfeifer/Shelofsky	July-20	\$290,000	\$247,100
Lincoln Rd	5.55 ac	Stewart/Allen	July-20	\$45,000	\$49,700
Natural Turnpike	2.09 ac	Woodhams/Plump	June-20	\$39,900	\$26,400
Goshen Rd	53.6 ac	Neilsen/Coburn	June-20	\$150,000	\$143,400
2943 North Branch	2.7 ac & SFD	Groleau/Wisell & Hoffman	June-20	\$155,000	\$92,400
118 Maiden Lane	37.61 ac & SFD	Weinstein/ Schoelzel	May-20	\$340,000	\$280,100
1198 Lincoln Rd	1.2 ac & SFD	Beardsley/Smith	Feb-20	\$40,000	\$89,500
150 Wimett Lane	2.5 ac & SFD	Emilio/DeLaBruere	Jan-20	\$285,000	\$233,800
Lincoln Rd	28 ac	Hunter/Barrett	Nov-19	\$40,000	\$99,600

Location	Description	Seller/Buyer	Month	Sale Price	Town Value
Old Goshen Rd	0.49 ac	Ross/Webb	Nov-19	\$10,000	\$13,000
27 Robbins Crossroad	5.8 ac & SFD	Stewart/Straus & Allen	Oct-19	\$185,000	\$209,600
58 Peddlers Bridge	7.2 ac & SFD	Brown/Paczk. & Todd	Oct-19	\$275,000	\$249,900
1625 Lincoln Rd	2.5 ac & SFD	Wimett/Gervais	Sept-19	\$185,000	\$144,900
Billings Farm Rd	6.56 ac	Billings/Chesman	July-19	\$34,000	\$32,100
732 Maiden Ln	0.74 ac & SFD	Billings/Thut & Hill	June-19	\$200,000	\$155,300
162 Hemlock Ln	10 ac & camp	White/Brozefsky & Richter	June-19	\$65,000	\$54,800
47 Scott Rd	7.2 ac & camp	Ellis/Lobert	June-19	\$57,000	\$55,200
503 Pearl Lee Rd	30 ac & SFD	Morse/Burke & Caseiro	June-19	\$420,000	\$468,600
371 County	13.7 ac & SFD	Kleine/Kerr	May-19	\$140,000	\$141,500
3791 Lincoln Rd	13.63 ac & SFD	Ramsey/Chugg	May-19	\$195,000	\$153,000
1410 Lincoln Rd	1.01 ac & SFD	Prager&Wheeler/Namy	Apr-19	\$235,000	\$186,100

Key: The town value is the assessed value on April 1 of the sales year. SFD = single family dwelling, ac = acres.

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



Photo credit: Carrie Herzog. Ripton Conservation Commission's 2022 Natural History Calendar

(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	Nonhmstd Ed. Listed Value	Total Education Listed Value
Residential I R1	116	20,231,900	16,397,200	3,834,700	20,231,900
Residential II R2	125	35,861,600	24,487,200	11,374,400	35,861,600
Mobile Homes-U MHU	2	114,300	53,100	61,200	114,300
Mobile Homes-L MHL	12	994,300	482,200	512,100	994,300
Seasonal I S1	15	932,200	78,100	854,100	932,200
Seasonal II S2	28	2,422,700	93,600	2,329,100	2,422,700
Commercial C	19	2,963,200	372,600	2,590,600	2,963,200
Commercial Apts CA	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial I	0	0	0	0	0
Utilities-E UE	1	1,703,600	0	1,703,600	1,703,600
Utilities-O UO	0	0	0	0	0
Farm F	0	0	0	0	0
Other O	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland W	15	3,200,400	0	3,200,400	3,200,400
Miscellaneous M	69	3,518,000	15,400	3,502,600	3,518,000
TOTAL LISTED REAL	402	71,942,200	41,979,400	29,962,800	71,942,200
P.P. Cable	0	0		0	0
P.P. Equipment	0	0			
P.P. Inventory	0	0			
TOTAL LISTED P.P.	0	0		0	0
TOTAL LISTED VALUE		71,942,200	41,979,400	29,962,800	71,942,200
EXEMPTIONS					
Veterans 10K	3/3	30,000	20,000	10,000	30,000
Veterans >10K		90,000			
Total Veterans		120,000	20,000	10,000	30,000
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			
Total Contracts	1/1	267,100	0	0	0
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			
Total FarmStabContr	0/0	0	0	0	0
Current Use	40/40	6,527,700	2,356,000	4,171,700	6,527,700
Special Exemptions	0		0	0	0
Partial Statutory	0/0	0	0	0	0
Sub-total Exemptions		6,914,800	2,376,000	4,181,700	6,557,700
Total Exemptions		6,914,800	2,376,000	4,181,700	6,557,700
TOTAL MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST		650,274.00			
TOTAL EDUCATION GRAND LIST			396,034.00	257,811.00	653,845.00
NON-TAX	28 NON-TAX PARCELS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE 411				

(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	Nonhmstd Ed. Listed Value	Total Education Listed Value
Residential I R1	118	20,615,500	16,600,100	4,015,400	20,615,500
Residential II R2	126	37,056,200	25,259,500	11,796,700	37,056,200
Mobile Homes-U MHU	2	114,300	53,100	61,200	114,300
Mobile Homes-L MHL	12	994,300	482,200	512,100	994,300
Seasonal I S1	13	641,400	0	641,400	641,400
Seasonal II S2	29	2,611,700	93,600	2,518,100	2,611,700
Commercial C	19	2,963,200	372,600	2,590,600	2,963,200
Commercial Apts CA	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial I	0	0	0	0	0
Utilities-E UE	1	1,590,800	0	1,590,800	1,590,800
Utilities-O UO	0	0	0	0	0
Farm F	0	0	0	0	0
Other O	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland W	15	3,188,400	0	3,188,400	3,188,400
Miscellaneous M	66	3,457,800	0	3,457,800	3,457,800
TOTAL LISTED REAL	401	73,233,600	42,861,100	30,372,500	73,233,600
P.P. Cable	0	0		0	0
P.P. Equipment	0	0			
P.P. Inventory	0	0			
TOTAL LISTED P.P.	0	0		0	0
TOTAL LISTED VALUE		73,233,600	42,861,100	30,372,500	73,233,600
EXEMPTIONS					
Veterans 10K	3/3	30,000	20,000	10,000	30,000
Veterans >10K		90,000			
Total Veterans		120,000	20,000	10,000	30,000
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			
Total Contracts	1/1	267,100	0	0	0
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			
Total FarmStabContr	0/0	0	0	0	0
Current Use	41/41	6,544,500	2,304,500	4,240,000	6,544,500
Special Exemptions	0		0	0	0
Partial Statutory	0/0	0	0	0	0
Sub-total Exemptions		6,931,600	2,324,500	4,250,000	6,574,500
Total Exemptions		6,931,600	2,324,500	4,250,000	6,574,500
TOTAL MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST		663,020.00			
TOTAL EDUCATION GRAND LIST			405,366.00	261,225.00	666,591.00
NON-TAX	29 NON-TAX PARCELS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE 411				

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.

2021 Summary

February: Conducted hearings for Chipman Inn roof replacement, conditional use for Keith and Amanda Terrien for an auto body repair business at their home, conditional use for James Webb to reconstruct a shed that is in the side-yard setback.

March: Conducted a hearing for a conditional use permit for A. Johnson Co. for a house for potential buyers of a parcel in the Conservation District. Continued the Webb conditional use hearing. This was Mar Harrison's last meeting after 5 years as a full member and 11 years as an alternate member of the RPC. She is sorely missed.

April: Continued the A. Johnson conditional use hearing; held a Historic District Commission hearing for a deck replacement and landscaping for Phillip and Carol Beaudoin; conducted conditional use hearings for a campground for Lucy Parker, and a solar array partially in a setback for Katherine Hope. Held a special meeting to address vacancies – along with filling Mar Harrison's seat, Warren King and Jorene Doria wished to resign as full members and serve as alternate members. Per RPC's recommendation, the Selectboard appointed Mia Allen, Jeannie Cash, Levi Doria, and Carrie Herzog to the RPC/ZBA/Historic District Commission.

May: Held a hearing for a 3-lot subdivision for Millard and Lauren Cox, concluded the A. Johnson conditional use hearing, conducted a Historic District Commission hearing for Jan Carter and Anza Armstrong for building alterations. This was the final month with Warren King as a full member, he would continue participating as an alternate member. He was thanked for his 28 years of service including 17 years as Chair.

June: Conducted new member training. Marty Kulczyk resigned as Chair and a full member, effective July 1. He would continue as an alternate and assist the new Chair. Marty was appointed to the RPC in 2016 and agreed to be Chair in 2018. He was thanked for his leadership.

July: Conducted a hearing for a minor subdivision for Douglas and Virginia Sinclair.

October: Conducted a hearing for a minor subdivision for Caroline Herzog and Michael Hussey.

December: Held a joint meeting with the Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Energy Committee to review the Enhanced Energy Plan. Discussed town plan revision – we are working on the town plan in 2022 for adoption in 2023.

Energy Coordinator's Report

The Ripton Energy Assistance Program 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. In the winter months of 2021 REAP provided 5 cords of firewood. 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 (388-7820 or millardcox@gmail.com) if you know of someone in need of firewood or who needs help paying for fuel oil, kerosene or propane.

Ripton has approved an Enhanced Energy Plan that conforms to the plans of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan, and Act 174, which calls for 90 percent renewable energy use by 2050. The Addison County Regional Planning Commission approved the Ripton Enhanced Energy Plan in early 2022. This approval confers “substantial deference” status on Town of Ripton positions in consideration of Section 248 hearings before the Public Utilities Commission on energy generation projects in the Town of Ripton. Previously, the Public Utilities Commission was required to provide only “due consideration” to Town of Ripton positions.

Warren King

Conservation Commission Report

Highlights of 2021 activities for the Ripton Conservation Commission

Ripton 2022 phenology Calendar - In 2021, the Ripton Conservation Commission put together a phenology, or natural history, calendar of the Ripton area for 2022. All photos are of Ripton scenes and were taken by Ripton residents -- some of the calendar photos can be found in this Town Report. The overarching goal of the calendar is to inspire residents to pay more attention to the natural history phenomena (phenology) that happens right outside our doors. The text found on each month of the calendar highlights what you may see in any given month if you take the time to look. The Conservation Commission hopes to create a similar calendar for 2023 and we want your help! We'll put out a call for photographs soon and hope you'll submit your photos for consideration. (Profit from the sale of the calendar was split between Friends of Ripton School and the Conservation Commission.)

Invasive Plant Control - The Ripton Conservation Commission continued our work to identify and remove invasive plants in Ripton. In some places, the invasive plants have grown to the point where they can only be addressed via mechanical or chemical treatments. We focus on critical areas where we work manually to control or eliminate the invasive plants. In 2021, the Ripton Conservation Commission, along with other community volunteers, pulled Garlic Mustard, Wild Chervil, and Wild Parsnip. The Conservation Commission is always looking for folks to assist in the control of invasive plants in Ripton. If you are interested, contact the Conservation Commission Chair or any other members.

Stream Reclassification Project - The Ripton Conservation Commission has pursued stream reclassification of three pristine streams in Ripton that meet all of the qualifications for Class A(1). Reclassification to A(1) will enhance their long-term protection. This project continued in 2021 with the VT Department of Environmental Conservation holding public meetings and gathering public comments. The process for approval of our petitions continues with the VT Department of Environmental Conservation.

Mark Nelson, Chair

Recycling Information

DUMPSTER OUTSIDE SHED

- Corrugated cardboard only, broken down and flattened, not just crushed

BIG CONTAINER INSIDE SHED

- **All recyclables must be clean.**
- Metal food or beverage containers if clean, preferably flattened
- Aluminum foil, pie and baking tins
- Glass bottles and jars, all colors, without caps
- Plastic bottles that are not redeemable (like for water); rinsed, can have caps
- Plastic containers/lids with triangular recycling symbol (number 1-7), **but NO Styrofoam of any sort**, any lids must be all plastic and larger than 2”

- Paper:
 - newspaper, magazines, catalogs, boxboard (cereal boxes, etc.)
 - paperback and telephone books
 - office paper, junk mail, construction paper
 - un-reusable paper bags, cardboard egg cartons
 - paper-lined (not plastic-lined) grain sacs
 - wrapping paper (except metallized paper)

ELSEWHERE INSIDE THE SHED

- BATTERIES: Household batteries 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)

SORRY, we cannot take the following:

- **No Plastic bags of any kind!** However, you can bring them to the Transfer Station yourself. For information go to AddisonCountyRecycles.org or ask for a flyer at the town office.
- **No containers with food residue**
- **No Styrofoam at all!** No peanuts, blocks, chunks, sheets, or trays, even with a recycling symbol
- No plastic containers without the recycling symbol
- No loose bottle and jar caps smaller than 2"
- No sheet glass, dishware, goblets and drinking glasses, Pyrex, light bulbs
- No coated cardboard milk or juice containers, waxed, carbon or metallized paper, ribbon, plastic-lined grain sacs, or other compound materials
- No car batteries (take to Transfer Station)
- No fluorescent bulbs (take to Transfer Station)
- No paint cans, even if the paint is dry - the Transfer Station takes full or largely full paint cans.
- **No books, personal or household items!** – These should be brought to the Transfer Station or donated to HOPE or another organization.

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

Recycling Report

Ripton Recycling was open 36 days in 2021 and was staffed by a total of 60 volunteers, many for the first time. The program cannot operate without volunteers so if you are not on the list yet and are willing to work once every couple of years, we could use your help. Contact the Town Office (388-2266) or the recycling coordinator (388-4082) to let us know. Special thanks go to Mac Cox who makes the monthly Wednesday evening sessions work smoothly. And thanks also to Lyle Webb who tirelessly helps volunteers and residents with recycling as well as trash.

Recycling and trash drop-off take place on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 9 a.m. to noon and recycling only (no trash) on the first Wednesday of each month from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Although recycling drop-off is free to residents, a contribution of \$3 helps offset the cost to the Town. In FY21, the Town paid Casella \$11,841.17 to haul our recycling. In that same period, recycling donations amounted to \$2,879.72.

Recyclables are listed on separate page. Information is also at the Solid Waste District website <https://www.addisoncountyrecycles.org>.

Trash drop-off ends at 11:45 a.m. on recycling Saturdays. Trash disposal is \$3-5 per bag depending on weight. All trash should be disposed of correctly; **dumping is illegal as is burning household waste in burn barrels.** Both are subject to a fine. The burning fumes pose a danger to downwind neighbors.

Leaf and yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, small twigs) can be brought to the Recycling Shed for \$5/bag or to the Transfer Station for \$2/small load. Clean wood (branches, stumps, roots) is accepted at the Transfer Station only.

Household food scraps must be composted rather than put into the trash, according to state law. If you are concerned about nuisance animals, you can put meat and bones into your trash and compost the rest. If you cannot compost at home, you can bring your food scraps to the Transfer Station for \$1 up to 5-gallons, or bring them, in a pail separate from your trash, to Lyle on drop-off Saturdays for \$5 for up to 5-gallons.

Recycling Committee

Millard Cox, Barry King, Warren King, Mark Nelson, Steve Zwicky

Green Up Day

GREEN UP DAY is a special day in Vermont when thousands of volunteers do 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 US. Green Up Day is the first Saturday in May. In 2022 Green Up Day is Saturday, May 7. Contact Steve Zwicky (388-2301) or Warren King (388-4082) to find out how to participate.



Ripton Community House Report

When the Governor's Orders allowed in-person meetings to resume, the Community House was used for most of our public meetings and hearings, and elections. We were grateful to have a space where we could follow distancing recommendations and conduct Town business.

Due to COVID-19 the Ripton Community Coffee House (RCCH) has not held concerts at the Community House since March 7, 2020. They have been streaming concerts since September 2020, without the open-mic portion. When COVID guidelines allowed, RCCH began holding in-person concerts at Burnham Hall in Lincoln and continued live-streaming the events. The Coffee House may return to Ripton in September 2022. To find out more about the Ripton Community Coffee House, visit their website at www.rcch.org.

Ripton Historical Society Report

Ripton Historical Society was re-established in April 2014 and currently has about 15 members. Monthly meetings are held at Ripton Town Office, occasionally at members' homes, at Ripton Community Church, and more recently via "ZOOM." 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 by attending events sponsored by other organizations.

RHS activities included eight monthly meetings. On July 7th some members attended Bill Powers' "Aunt Jennies' Lake Dunmore Tea House, 1920-1934" presentation sponsored by Salisbury Historical Society. Some members also attended the August 10th celebration of Henry Sheldon's 200th birthday at Sheldon Museum, East Middlebury Historical Society's September 14th presentation by Bruce Yelton of the "Life and Career of General George Crook (1828-1890)," and Chuck Herrmann's October 2nd gathering of local historians at Jack Brown's historic East Middlebury Grist Mill.

The highlight of Ripton Historical Society's year was the culmination of a joint effort with the United States Forest Service to recognize, preserve, and publicize Calvin Pier's historic Tavern Site. This is located alongside USFS' newly constructed handicap accessible trail about midway between Robert Frost

Interpretive Trail and Wayside. Calvin Pier's tavern was Ripton's first framed building, its first tavern, and the place where Ripton's first Town Meeting was held in 1828. It was torn down by one of its tenants, John Pierce, in 1890. On July 6, 2021, a thick tangle of brush was cleared from Pier's cellar hole by Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and on November 17th a sign commissioned by Ripton Historical Society and constructed by Mountain Signs was installed at the site. A formal dedication of Calvin Pier's Tavern site is anticipated for Spring-Summer 2022.

RHS sent out a postcard in February asking for your donations to help fund more historic events and to continue the work to present and preserve our history. Your donations to Ripton Historical Society are eligible for Vermont and Federal tax deductions.

Ripton Historical Society officers are President-Charles Billings, Secretary-Alison J. Dickinson, Webmaster-Ian Malin (resigned 2022) and Webmaster Nathan Billings (2022), Curator-Paula Scott, Treasurer-Jerry Shedd, and Vice President-Norm Tjossem. RHS invites anyone interested in Ripton history to attend meetings, join RHS, and be included in the RHS email announcements. For more information, to make a donation, or to purchase *A History of Ripton, Vermont* from RHS contact Charles Billings by mail at Ripton Historical Society, P.O. Box 140, Ripton, Vermont 05766, by phone 388-1634, or by email to charlsbillings@gmail.com, or see the RHS website at <https://www.riptonhistoric.org/>.



November 17, 2021—Installation of the Calvin Pier Sign at the site of Pier's historic 1819 tavern. Left to right: Phil MacAskill (USFS District Ranger/Recreation Manager), Gary Whitman (Mountain Signs), Karen Bucher (USFS Heritage Programs Manager/Archaeologist), Seth Coffey (USFS Recreation Technician), David Nulsen (USFS Recreation Technician), Ken Norden (USFS Recreation Technician). Photo by Charles Billings.

Maple Broadband

14 Seminary St.

Middlebury, VT 05753

www.maplebroadband.net

(802) 377-3713

Annual Report - Year End June 30, 2021

Maple Broadband is Addison County's Communications Union District (CUD). A CUD is a municipal not-for-profit corporation. Maple Broadband's mission is to enhance the economic, educational, and medical well-being of the communities we serve by providing a high-speed, reliable, affordable fiber internet network to all households and businesses; supported by prompt, skilled, helpful customer service. Our 20 member towns include Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Panton, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge, and Whiting. Our Governing Board has 20 representatives appointed by the Select Boards of the member towns. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on our website.

During 2021, Maple Broadband has been focused on two broad areas:

Operational Development/Capacity Building and Network Pre-construction and Construction.

Operational Development and Capacity Building

- Held weekly meetings of the Maple Broadband Executive Committee, which is composed of members with expertise in a wide variety of professions;
- Held monthly meetings of the Maple Broadband Governing Board;
- Retained administrative and consulting services from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission;
- Established a website to help inform the community about Maple Broadband;
- Applied for over \$200,000 in capacity-building grants and have continued to explore a variety of financing options;
- Through the Vermont Community Broadband Board, applied for and was awarded \$2.3 million to cover capacity building efforts and necessary pre-construction tasks;
- Continued to receive essential support from our partners, including:
 - Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC)
 - Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC)
 - Vermont Department of Public Service (DPS)
 - Vermont Communications Union District Association (VCUDA)
 - Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB)
 - Rural Innovation Strategies, Inc. (RISI)
 - ValleyNet
 - Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT)
 - Middlebury College
- Established and maintained on our website operational policies, including bylaws, conflict of interest policy, public relations policy, purchasing policy, and financial policies and procedures;
- Met with every select board in our service territory to tell the Maple Broadband story, to provide updates on our progress, and to seek financial support in the form of town ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds.

Report from the Ripton 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: There are only 14 parcel lockers – so here is my system of package delivery:

1. **A key!** – If you have a key in your box, 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, 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, you have multiple packages that won't fit in a locker, 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 1st in 1st out, and our goal is that packages will only wait 24 hours - however, sometimes that doesn't happen. Lately, that hasn't happened...some have waited for 3-4 days. If you are concerned about a package or wonder if it has arrived, you can call me at 802-989-2365. I will return your call as soon as possible.

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.

Post Office Boxes must be renewed once a year. When you receive your renewal paperwork, please bring in a valid photo ID and a piece of mail showing your physical address. If the form is not returned by the end of the month your box will be locked.

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

Thanks for your cooperation!

Laurie Bertrand
802-989-2365
Ripton Postmistress

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

Annual Report –Year End June 30, 2021

Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) provided the following services to the Region during FY 2021:

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 Act 250 and Section 248 hearings.
- Assisted municipalities in applying for Village Center Designation.
- Worked with Ferrisburgh, Shoreham (2020) Cornwall and Salisbury (2021) on their municipal planning grants.
- Completed work on an update of the Population and Housing section of the regional plan.

Educational Meetings and Grants

- Hosted workshops, Zoning Administrators Roundtables, and public meetings on a variety of planning topics.
- Wrote or provided information and support to communities and organizations to secure grant funding.

Emergency Planning

- Worked with Vermont Emergency Management staff to assist with municipal emergency planning and training.
- Worked with Vermont Emergency Management to exercise local and statewide disaster plans.
- Assisted in development of a hazard mitigation plan for the Town of Lincoln.
- Assisted all communities in the region to complete Local Emergency Management Plans..
- Provided COVID-19 updates and information to Town Officials and Emergency Managers
- Assisted in developing a Mutual Aid agreement for Public Works Departments

Energy Planning:

- Assisted Bristol, Panton, New Haven, Starksboro and Shoreham in completing their enhanced energy plans
- Worked with Panton, Salisbury, Vergennes and Bristol through regional approval of their Enhanced Energy Plans.
- Worked with Efficiency Vermont and municipalities to implement enhanced energy plans.
- Developed an online mapping tool to support municipal energy planning.

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 road erosion and culvert inventories for local roads.
- Assisted Towns with bike and pedestrian, Better Roads, and stormwater grants.
- Served as a Municipal Project Manager for sidewalk construction projects in Middlebury and Vergennes, a culvert replacement project in Bridport and moving the historic New Haven Train Station.
- Sponsored town transportation planning studies in Bristol and traffic and pedestrian counts throughout the region..
- Hosted regional Walk/bike council and began planning for a future Bike/Ped Summit in Middlebury.
- Sponsored a Planning and Environmental Linkage Study in Vergennes and the surrounding communities

Natural Resources Planning

- Actively support the efforts of the Addison County River Watch Collaborative (ACRWC).
- Developed a new website, interactive dashboard, and data repository for the ACRWC.
- Worked with municipalities to support conservation commissions.
- Supported the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan and worked to establish the Clean Water Service Provider infrastructure.
- Assisted in stormwater planning projects and Ecosystem Restoration Program grants.

Addison	Bridport	Bristol	Cornwall	Ferrisburgh	Goshen	Leicester
Lincoln	Middlebury	Monkton	New Haven	Orwell	Panton	Ripton
Salisbury	Shoreham	Starksboro	Vergennes	Waltham	Weybridge	Whiting



Green Mountain National Forest Town Meeting Report

This report has been edited to be specific to Ripton. A full copy of the report is available at <https://usfs-public.app.box.com/s/7u4j0c183a69023lqvxlkt9i5y080rw>

The employees of the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) depend heavily on support from many municipalities, volunteers, partners and contractors. 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 our 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 all people -- people in your town as well as all of the visitors who come to Vermont every year. This has been another challenging year for many of us and we have worked hard to support our members of the public as changes have taken place.

An exciting change for the GMNF is the construction of our new Forest Supervisor's Office in Mendon. The former Rutland-based headquarters (231 North Main Street) for the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests has transitioned to a full-time virtual work schedule which will continue until our new office is completed on U.S. Route 4 in Mendon, Vermont. While our main phone number (formally for the Rutland Office) will remain the same (802) 747-6700, our mailing address has changed to: USDA Forest Service, Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests, PO Box 220, Rutland, VT 05702. Please use this new mailing address and also visit our website for a current listing of Forest Service employees who can assist you throughout this temporary transition: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3838044.pdf.

The following is a brief summary of what happened in your National Forest throughout the past year:

Land Acquisition

The GMFL [is] currently working on acquisitions located in...towns including Ripton.

Forest Road Cooperative Aid to Towns

The GMNF completed important road improvement and maintenance projects in...towns [including] Ripton. Projects included road and parking improvements ... to improve access to the Moosalamoo National Recreation Areas.

Forest Road Improvement & Maintenance Projects

The GMNF improved or maintained over 70 miles of National Forest System roads[including] the towns of Goshen, Lincoln, Ripton. Improvement work included the replacement of culverts and gates, stabilization of embankments, repairing storm damage, and the resurfacing of roads.

Recreation Programs

Goshen/Ripton: Resurfaced the campsites at Moosalamoo campground and increased the parking lot size to accommodate more visitors utilizing the trail system. Purchased and installed two bear resistant recycling containers at the Moosalamoo campground. Partnered with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps to construct a new shed at the caretaker site at the Silver Lake campground.

Ripton: Worked with the Moosalamoo Association and Catamount Trail Association to improve the Water Tower and Widow's Clearing trails. Installed new wayfinding signs on the Water Tower and Widow's Clearing trails. Installed new interpretive panels at the Robert Frost Wayside. Created an accessible trail connection between Robert Frost Interpretive Site and Wayside (in progress). Replaced kiosks and upgraded the recreation site signage at the Robert Frost Wayside picnic site. Improved the Kiosk appearance at the Chatfield trailhead by installing new interpretive sign panels and removed the snowmobile loading ramp... Visitor encounter monitoring zone data was completed for weekday use in the Breadloaf Wilderness on the Skylight Pond Trail area and in the Cooley Glen/Emily Proctor Trail Loop.

Wilderness

Goshen, Ripton: Visitor encounter monitoring was conducted to maintain opportunities for solitude. Wilderness boundary maintenance was completed and signs were painted marking boundaries along the trail system. Water quality samples were collected and analyzed on Smith Brook to monitor air quality values.

Botany Program

Botanical inventory for rare plants and non-native invasive plants was completed in support of [many] projects:

In addition to rare plant inventory, three subpopulations of Appalachian Jacob’s ladder (*Polemonium vanbruntiae*) were monitored in Bristol, Lincoln, and Ripton, an ongoing effort led by local volunteer and conservation leader Warren King.

[N]on-native invasive plant infestations were controlled by staff, contractors, volunteers, and partner organizations, including Green Mountain Club and Appalachian Trail Conservancy. While these infestations represent only a fraction of known infestations and many more are unmapped, they were chosen because they are in strategic locations or because they are relatively more feasible to control than others...[including] 67.1 acres of mostly wild chervil...at Chatfield Parking Lot, along FR 233, at The Robert Frost Preserve, at Steam Mill clearing, and along FR 67, stretching across Ripton, Goshen, and Hancock.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement & Monitoring

Wildlife habitat was improved and maintained through maintenance of openings on the Forest, both permanent and temporary. Approximately 100 acres of upland openings were maintained by mowing, or mastication in towns [including] Ripton. Approximately 70 acres of permanent upland openings were maintained for blueberry production in Goshen.

Research & Inventory Activities

Spencer Hardy, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, conducted sampling of bees as part of the state-wide Vermont Wild Bee Survey effort sampling widely for common and rare species with particular focus on specialist species with known floral associations. In 2021, sampling occurred in the towns of Chittenden, Goshen, Ripton, and Stamford.

Public Outreach / Conservation Education

Employees of the GMNF typically spend a significant amount of time each year at the Forestry building at both the Addison County Fair in Addison and the Rutland State Fair in Rutland. This year, we were able to participate in the Rutland State Fair and hope to participate in both the Rutland and Addison County fair again in 2022. These events allow our staff to answer questions about the 400,000-acre National Forest by the thousands of people that we typically interact with. We look forward to being in several parades and having our staff on site at community events that are being organized in 2022 as all of these venues are wonderful opportunities for us to discuss GMNF related issues with our partners and gather information from the public.

We are always open to working with local towns and other organizations that may be holding events that Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl and our staff can be a part of...These are fun and exciting events that we love to participate in, so please reach out to us if know of something interesting taking place that we can be a part of.

In 2021 the GMNF partnered with Shelburne Farms to support the Forest for Every Classroom (FFEC) 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. 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. 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.

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 Rochester and Manchester offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that people call ahead of time (see office phone numbers below) to make an appointment for in-person services. You can also visit us and learn more about the GMNF at our website online: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/gmfl>. Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GreenMountainFingerLakesNF/> and follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/gmfl_nfs

Martina Barnes District Ranger, South Half - Manchester Ranger District 802-362-2307	Christopher Mattrick District Ranger, North Half - Rochester & Middlebury Ranger Districts 802-767-4261
/s/ John A. Sinclair; December 20, 2021 JOHN A. SINCLAIR, Forest Supervisor Rutland -- Supervisor’s Office 802-747-6700	

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Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Serving and Strengthening Vermont Local Government

About the League. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, owned by its member municipalities, with a mission to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. It is directed by a 13-member Board of Directors elected by the membership and comprising municipal officials from across the state. The most recent audited financial statements are posted on our website, vlct.org/about/audit-reports.

Member Benefits. All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, as are 139 other municipal entities that include villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions, and fire districts. Members have exclusive access to a wide range of specialized benefits, expertise, and services, including:

- **Legal, consulting, and education services**, including prompt responses to member questions that often involve how to comply with state and federal requirements. During the past year, VLCT's timely legal and technical assistance included answering more than 4,000 legal questions and publishing guidance, templates, research reports, and several new groups of FAQs explaining how municipalities can implement the state's COVID-19 requirements. To support Vermont's towns and cities in responding to the pandemic, VLCT quickly researched, assembled, and distributed important information about fiscal impacts, grant opportunities, and how to hold public meetings remotely.
- **Trainings and timely communications on topics of specific concern to officials** who carry out their duties required by state law, as well as pertinent statewide topics. In response to the pandemic, the League provided online trainings, a virtual week-long conference, and timely announcements and information from state officials about how to comply with requirements and access to funding and assistance.
- **Representation before the state legislature, state agencies, and the federal government**, ensuring that municipal voices are heard collectively and as a single, united voice. VLCT's recent legislative efforts have helped provide cities and towns additional resources to respond to the pandemic, address road and bridge repair, tackle cybersecurity, improve housing and economic growth, promote renewable energy, provide emergency medical services, address equity and inclusion, and ensure the quality of our drinking water. Members are also represented at the federal level to Vermont's Congressional delegation and through our partner, the National League of Cities. This federal partnership was instrumental in securing more than \$200 million in local pandemic aid through the American Rescue Plan Act, and ensuring it reached every city, town, and village in Vermont.
- **Access to two exceptional insurance programs.** The Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) provides comprehensive and cost-effective property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance coverage, programs, and services that protect the assets of your community. The VLCT Employment Resource and Benefits (VERB) Trust provides unemployment insurance, life, disability, dental, and vision insurance products to members at a competitive price. Both programs offer coverage and products that members need and ask for, help Vermont municipalities stretch their budgets, and are *only* available to VLCT members.
- **Access to a host of educational and informative materials and member conferences**, including a news magazine, handbooks, reports, articles, and events that all focus on the needs of local government and provide additional educational and networking opportunities.

At the heart of all these activities is VLCT's commitment to serving as a good steward of member assets, and we are proud of the progress we continue to make in that effort. Members are welcome to contact VLCT anytime to ask questions, and to access resources that can help them carry out the important work of local government. For a comprehensive list of member benefits and services, please visit vlct.org/memberguide.

To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, visit the VLCT website at vlct.org.

Vermont 211 Fiscal Year 2021 Report



Vermont 211 is an Information and Referral program of the United Ways of Vermont. By **dialing 211 or by texting your zip code to 898211**, you will receive up-to-date information and referrals on health and human services for your area and region. (Text between 8:00am-10:00pm, Monday-Friday.)

Our 211 system in Vermont is at the fingertips of every resident and every phone. 211 is cost-effective, high-quality, personal, flexible and community-based.

Can't find what you need? You can always reach one of our trained professionals by phone or by text. Vermont 211 is here to offer help and to offer hope.

- One call or text gives you access to resources across your community. 211 is efficient, fast and easy to use.
- No more wrong numbers; no more wasted time trying to find the right resource(s).
- 211 is a private and confidential call or text; most often the name of the caller is not even taken. Language translation services are also available.
- 211 maintains the integrity of the 911 system; saving that vital community resource for life and death emergencies.
- 24-hour availability every day of the year by phone or by clicking on vermont211.org
- 211 is an easy way to find or give help in your community.

In times of disaster, Vermont 211 plays a critical role in bringing information to the people most affected by the events and relaying the needs of callers back to the government officials and the first responders.

What are the needs in your community?

Vermont 211 collects town, county and statewide data and feeds it back to communities to help make systemic change. Monthly reports showing the needs of your county are available on our website.

Addison County residents made **1,317** contacts during FY 21, resulting in **945** referrals. The agencies given the most referrals were: Vermont Department of Health, (34%), Vermont Department for Children and Families—Economic Services Division (20%), Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) (8%), and Vermont Foodbank (8%). (Note: Contact may result in more than one referral. Contacts do not represent unduplicated callers/texters.)

Want to subscribe to our monthly newsletter?

Our e-newsletter shares monthly statistics on the needs of Vermonters, highlights resources, and keeps you up-to-date on new initiatives. To see or subscribe to our newsletter, go to:

<http://www.vermont211.org/news/monthly-newsletter>

Vermont 211 Partners with Help Me Grow



Vermont 211 participates in the Vermont Department of Health's statewide Help Me Grow initiative. Help Me Grow provides a centralized telephone access point, via Vermont 211, for parents, caregivers, and providers to get information and referrals for local services for children birth through age eight. Help Me Grow Child Development Specialists answer questions about children's behavior and development, and help identify children who are at risk for delays, so that services can begin as early as possible. Help Me Grow Child Development Specialists are available from 8:00am – 5:00 Monday-Friday by dialing 211, x6.

Minutes of the 2021 Town of Ripton Informational Meeting about Town Meeting Articles

Monday March 1, 2021

7:00 p.m. via Zoom teleconference <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/315365540> Dial in 1-929-205-6099

Participants (15): Moderator Molly Witters; Selectboard - Chair Lauren Cox, Timothy Hanson, Ronald Wimett; Willem Jewett, Jeremy Grip, Chris Pike, Barry (Barbara) King, Tammy Snyder, Liz Walker, Tim O’Leary, Lindsey Hescocock, Zoe Pike, Rob and Rosalind Stowe

Non-participating attendees (60): In addition to the 15 participants; there were 58 devices logged into the Zoom meeting. At least 60 people could be identified.

1. Introduction and Meeting Procedures: Moderator Molly Witters called the meeting to order at 7:05, instructed people how to raise a hand and unmute, and referred participants to the Articles on Page 4 of the Town Report. Tim Hanson indicated the Articles are explained on page 7. The Moderator read each Article and asked the designated speaker to address the group.

2. Article 1: Will the Town vote the sum of \$647,361.68 to pay General Fund and Highway Fund expenses for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, divided as follows:

General Fund \$233,211.68 Highway Fund \$414,150.00

Laurie Cox explained that the budget is basically unchanged from last year. The cost of recycling is far greater than donations received; she encouraged people to donate. In the current year, paving funds will be used to pay for cutting back the hogback slope at the intersection of Rte 125 and Natural Turnpike. Ron Wimett was asked to speak about the Highway Fund. He hopes we have a sand shed next year. The sand will last longer and not turn into frozen chunks if stored inside. Willem Jewett asked if there is a remediation plan for the current sand storage site on Peddlers Bridge Rd. There is no formal plan, but all Board members responded with ideas about cleaning up the site, planting, and controlling erosion. Jeremy Grip added that the site would make a lovely park.

3. Article 2: Will the Town vote the sum of \$41,000 to the Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department to pay expenses for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022?

The Moderator announced she was calling on a new Chief, Chris Pike, and acknowledged Erik Eriksen for his 20 years as Fire Chief. Erik was applauded. Chris explained that Erik is still responding to calls, and that more would be done to recognize Erik’s service during the coming year. He noted Erik has worked quietly and the many things he does for community members are unknown to us. In addition to continuing as a member, Erik will remain Fire Warden and Emergency Management Coordinator.

As Erik wrote in the town report, COVID changed everything. The department is following state guidance and keeping operational with protocols. They drive with windows down. Training is done on Zoom, but there are in-person monthly maintenance meetings where state protocols are followed. The brush truck, purchased last year after a major fundraising campaign, responded to a fire last night in a location that could only be accessed with 4-wheel drive. The department is grateful for it. From the proposed budget \$2,500 - \$3,000 will be used to purchase one set of firefighter gear. Chris is looking into an alarm and sprinkler system for the station.

Barry King offered a thank you for last night’s response to a house on Wagon Wheel Rd, and that she was glad the fire wasn’t tonight because the road is unbelievable (ice). Referring to Erik’s quiet contributions, Barry said his wife, Tammy Snyder, probably knows what he does for the community. Tammy responded. Barry asked for a standing ovation for Erik, and applause followed.

4. Article 3: Will the Town vote the sum of \$6,000 to the Ripton Cemetery Commission to pay expenses for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022?

Cemetery Commission Chair Liz Walker described the budget as business as usual - mowing and maintenance. For the Commission, COVID changed things too. They met outside while they could. They did not experience an increased demand for plots or burials as some places did.

5. Article 4: Will the Town vote to have current property taxes collected by the Treasurer with a tax due date of November 1, 2021; payments due in the Town Office by 6:00 p.m.?

This housekeeping article to set a date was explained by Laurie Cox. There were no questions.

6. Article 5: Will the Town vote to continue a locally funded agreement to reduce the property tax for the Silver Towers Camp owned and operated by the Vermont Elks Association, Inc. to 33% of the total taxes that would be due?

Tim Hanson directed people to the explanation on page 7 of the town report. This exemption must be re-voted every 5 years for a tax break, a modest break in his view. We must make up the difference for the education tax, shown on page 7. Tim described the Elks as a hard-working group who do a good thing for the campers. Laurie Cox added that they are a non-profit, but the state changed exemptions for non-profits so that they are no longer automatically exempt. There were no questions.

7. Articles 6 & 7: Town Officers and Funding Requests

Molly Witters explained she would not read all the offices, candidates, and funding requests shown on the Warning, but people could speak about them. Barry King observed that Kathy Sullivan is not running for Delinquent Tax Collector. She has done a great job as Delinquent Tax Collector for many years, and Barry asked that our appreciation be indicated in the Minutes. Kathy was given a round of applause. Tim O'Leary said Lindsey Hescocock, a candidate for an Addison Central School District (ACSD) board seat, wished to speak. She was given the floor at 7:33. Lindsey Hescocock is an East Middlebury resident and parent of a 3rd grader. She has been following the Ripton School withdrawal process and supports Ripton's desire to leave the district. She sees the director role as representing all, wants to learn more, and be a voice in touch with what working families deal with. Ms. Hescocock thanked us for letting her speak and remarked on the good, democratic way Ripton approached the school issue.

8. Other business: Tim Hanson and Laurie Cox spoke of missing the in-person meeting and their hope for it next year. Zoe Pike expressed appreciation for the work the Selectboard and all in the community have done to hold us together this year; she appreciates living in this town. Rob and Rosalind Stowe pointed out the advantage of the Zoom format, as part-time residents this is the first time they've attended. Molly Witters said we may be able to make the meetings accessible in the future.

9. Adjourn: Barry King moved to adjourn, Chris Pike seconded, approved at 7:40 p.m.

Australian Ballot voting, Tuesday, March 2, 2021, with polls in the Ripton Community House open 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.



Ripton School District Board Report

In March 2016, the Ripton School Board announced that it was the last time a School Board report would appear in the Ripton Town Report. After voting to withdraw from ACSD (Addison Central School District) in January 2021 the Ripton School Board was reestablished and again now contributing to the Town Report. The withdrawal vote (which passed 163 to 107) came after a series of attempts to both establish more security for our school within the district and also find a way for our town’s voice to be acknowledged within the merged district. Ripton voted to chart a course whereby the future of its school could be determined by its constituents and demonstrated our town’s wish to retain a voice in the operation of our school.

The newly reinstated Ripton School District board was elected in June 2021. The three directors are Steve Cash, Chair, Molly Witters, Vice Chair, and Joanna Doria, Clerk. We are not operating our school, yet, and the future still holds many unknowns at the moment, but one thing is for certain: the Ripton Elementary School is and continues to be a safe, welcoming, and engaging place of learning that has been a critical part of our kids’ and families’ pandemic recovery. We are grateful to the staff and community members that help it thrive.

In January 2022, the State Board of Education officially ruled to make Ripton its own Supervisory District as of July 1, 2023. This ruling was unanticipated by a number of people and professionals and has caused ripples across Vermont. The RSD Board is in the process of developing a budget and model for a shared Supervisory Union with Lincoln. We are striving to understand the feasibility of this arrangement and other potential paths for the Ripton School District. As part of this process, we are working with consultants to identify the best way for Ripton Elementary School to remain a part of Vermont educational landscape well into the future.

There is active conversation and proposed legislation reforming the statutes that allow a school to leave its unified district. We are watching this legislation carefully as it may provide opportunities for Ripton to rejoin the ACSD were the feasibility of our independent district be determined to be untenable. We recognize that our town voted to leave the ACSD and believe that vote was an affirmation of our desire to retain an elementary school in Ripton. We believe it is our responsibility now to determine the most healthy and sustainable way to achieve this.

For the school year 2022-2023 budget the RSD Board has budgeted \$35,000 for the cost of consultants, legal fees, memberships, and town office services (See Table 1).

On March 1st, 2022, Ripton voters approved a warning to expand the number of school directors from three to five. We look forward to expanding the board and all the work ahead for the new, larger board. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve the students and families of Ripton. Thank you for your support.

The Ripton School District Board
Steve Cash, Chair, Molly Witters, Joanna Doria

Table 1. Ripton School District 2022-2023 Budget

Item	Estimated Cost
Business services (RHR Smith)	\$8,000
Legal Services	\$10,000
Supervisory Consulting	\$6,000
Curriculum Consulting	\$6,000
Job Advertising and Recruiting	\$2,000
Virtual Meeting Subscription	\$250
Town Office Services	\$2,750
Total	\$35,000

RIPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal's Report

Ripton Elementary School continues to focus on the well-being and growth of every student. I commend the amazing students and staff at RES for their flexibility, positivity and resilience. Our school-wide expectations to *Be Safe, Be Kind, Work Hard and Work Together* have been as important this year as ever. Weekly we recite our school pledge together during our Zoom All School Meetings which helps us stay grounded in our priorities and agreements as a learning community: *“At Ripton Elementary School, we come to learn new things, think creatively and work with others. I will practice being brave, try again when I make mistakes, and show respect and kindness towards others. I will do my best to make my school, my community, and the world a better and more peaceful place for all.”* I am grateful for the Ripton school community's willingness to work through challenges, trust one another's best intentions, and prioritize the safety and wellbeing of each member of our community.

This year, we are once again taking full advantage of our beautiful natural setting as students are frequently exploring and learning in outdoor classrooms and spaces. There is no substitute for having students in-person for learning and growing together. We are hopeful the impact Covid is having on our communities will stabilize as the year continues, but are grateful to be able to have students in school and to be able to resume many of our favorite activities.

We are looking forward to cross country skiing at Rikert again starting in late January, downhill skiing at the Snow Bowl in March, and welcoming Jeh Kulu for a week-long Artist in Residency in late March/early April.

The Ripton Elementary School community continues to grapple with many unknowns around the future of our school. Our decision to have two multi-age classes has worked nicely for this year's group of 45 K-5 students, while we anticipate next year having three classes with two grades in each. We anticipate having the same number of teachers and support staff next year which is instrumental in providing the thoughtful and highly skilled support and instruction all our students deserve.

I look at the months ahead with much anticipation, but also optimism about what the future holds. This community of amazing students, staff, families, and friends will continue to support one another, learn together, and show kindness and respect towards others. In the midst of a pandemic, and in the face of much uncertainty, I believe these are the things that matter the most.

Tracey Harrington, Principal

Friends of the Ripton School and 2021 Ripton Ridge Run

2021 Ripton Ridge Run report: The 34th Annual Ripton Ridge Run was able to be an in-person event with about 150 participants at the race and about a dozen taking part virtually. Since the school wasn't open to the public, the entire event took place outside: registration was under a tent and lunch was pre-bagged. Thanks to registration fees, generous sponsors and the help of many, many local volunteers, the 2021 Ridge Run raised \$7608.16 for FORS. For information to volunteer or to participate in the 2022 event Sunday, Oct. 9, go to <http://www.riptonridgerun.org>, contact Barry King at 388-4082 or talk with Tracey at school.



Photo credits: Wendy Flinner

MIDDLEBURY UNION MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal's Report

The staff at MUMS recognizes that the middle school years are some of the most significant transitions for adolescents. The importance of allowing students to truly find themselves in a supportive and nurturing environment guides our work each and every day. Our historic 2021-22 school year welcomed a new grade configuration of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to MUMS. The incredible energy that this cohort of students has brought to our school has provided our staff with an opportunity to appreciate new experiences and personal growth. As we continue to build a positive school culture, I am eager to work with our community to reflect on and identify additional opportunities to enhance students' experiences and positive outcomes. Our staff have worked incredibly hard to provide our students with the best possible learning environment to meet the needs of all learners. The school community is focused on meeting our challenges with a renewed focus on regulation, relationship, and learning. Our goal is to provide students the skills and tools that they need for success in their high school years and beyond. Additionally we strive to build a renewed sense of community, ownership, and belonging.

As an instructional leader, I firmly believe that reflective practice encourages insight and complex learning. Reflective practice also fosters curiosity and allows us to make meaning of the world around us. Our curricular and instructional practices remain rigorous and lend themselves to students exploration of what is real and relevant in the classroom. Each classroom observation proves to be a powerful learning experience for both teacher and student. We remain focused on increasing student achievement and providing students with a safe and nurturing learning environment. Demonstrating the value of personal responsibility and service to others, our students continue to actively engage in their school and greater community in a number of ways. MUMS students volunteer their time to tutor their peers and have drafted service learning projects to benefit their community. Students also spearheaded several fundraising and community efforts, including a canned food drive and SPIRIT days at the middle school. Many other grade-level team initiatives, leadership experiences, and student clubs supported our students in discovering their talents and interests. Additionally, our early release days have allowed us to host exploratory electives while utilizing the beautiful outdoor spaces on our campus.

"Tiger Pride" continues to grow on the athletic fields, courts, and music venues. MUMS student-athletes have shown resilience, respect, and an appreciation to learn and play as a team. This fall, 82 members of MUMS choral program gathered to pay tribute to the late, great Stephen Sondheim. Upon his passing, all three choirs at MUMS learned "No One is Alone" from Sondheim's iconic musical *Into the Woods*. After recording the piece, students watched the 1989 PBS-released video of the original Broadway production and shared a parent-donated meal together. The experience was moving for adults and students alike. The students felt the power of being part of something bigger than themselves.

This year has been a unique moment in our history. Challenges offer an opportunity for reflection, and space to consider areas of opportunity for growth and improvement. I would like to offer a sincere appreciation to our communities, town officials, district staff and administration, and our teachers for their support and dedication to meet the needs of all of our students.

It is an honor to serve a community dedicated to meeting the needs of all students. Community support of the arts, athletics, and academic programs in the district have allowed us to remain committed to facilitating students' exploration of themselves and the world around them. MUMS faculty and support staff work tirelessly on behalf of our students. As we move ahead this year, we will do so with optimism, hope, and resilience.

Michael Dudek, Principal

MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH SCHOOL Principal's Report

Middlebury Union High School (MUHS) is an authorized International Baccalaureate (IB) World District School. The IB provides our school with cutting edge curricular resources, teacher training in researched best practices and a vast array of connections throughout the United States and abroad. Our incredibly talented educators leverage the power of the IB to make sure all MUHS graduates have the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful whether they move on directly to the workforce or choose to further their education.

Our Middle Years Program (MYP; grades 6 - 10) curriculum is coordinated across the middle and high schools. Our teachers continue to collaborate on redesigning and tweaking units to offer students an experience that emphasizes transferable understandings, skill development, inquiry, personalization and criterion-related assessment.

As a culminating experience of the MYP, all Grade 10 students participate in the Personal Project, which is an opportunity for students to demonstrate the skills they have been explicitly taught over the course of the entire Middle Years Program.

List of example unit inquiries from the 2021-2022 school year from MUMS and MUHS:

Language & Literature	<i>Ways of Living</i> : Storytelling reveals a variety of belief systems which expand the audience's perspectives on philosophies and ways of living (10th grade).
Language Acquisition	<i>Traveling in the Natural World</i> : A journey can develop empathy and shape our understanding of inequality, difference and privilege in order to imagine a more hopeful future (10th grade Spanish).
Science	<i>Human Impact</i> : When humans interact with the environment, we can change the environment resulting in positive and negative consequences (6th grade).
Design	<i>Artificial Intelligence Chatbot Programming</i> : How communication can be a catalyst for inventive methods of learning (8th grade).
Math	<i>2D Geometry</i> : Form can be used to scale measurement and space (7th grade)
PE/Health	<i>Target Sports</i> : Refinement and interactions during competitive and cooperative activities can build strong relationships (9th grade).
Individuals & Societies	<i>Intro to Civics</i> : An inquiry into how government systems divide power (6th grade).
Arts	<i>Music in Advertising</i> : Effective communication requires an understanding of one's audience (8th grade General Music).

Nearly 20% of the Class of 2022 is enrolled in the IB Diploma Program (DP), as diploma candidates, IB's most academically rigorous offering. These students have all recently

completed their extended essay and, therefore, all deserve a hearty congratulations. An additional 20% of our seniors are 'certificate candidates', meaning they will also sit for IB exams in May in individual subjects of their choice. The junior class currently has 32 full diploma candidates, roughly 22% of the class. Juniors, who are not full diploma candidates, will communicate their desire to earn certificates in various subjects in the fall of their senior year.

There were 104 students in the Class of 2021 at MUHS; 66% are attending four-year colleges and universities, an additional 9% are enrolled in one or two-year colleges. Of those pursuing higher education, 13 were first generation college-bound. Approximately 17% of the class sought employment, an apprenticeship or joined the military, and 2% of the class took a gap year. Graduates of the MUHS Class of 2021 matriculated at the following colleges and universities - the numbers in parentheses indicate if we have more than one student enrolled:

Boston University, MA	Georgetown University, DC	St. Michael's College, VT
Bryn Mawr College, PA	Hartwick College, NY	Southern Utah University, UT (2)
Castleton University, VT (3)	High Point University, NC	Springfield College, MA (2)
Champlain College	Lake Forest College, IL	St. Lawrence University, NY
College of Charleston, SC	Macalester College, MN (3)	St. Olaf College, MN (2)
University of Chicago, IL	University of Maryland-College Park, MD	Sweet Briar College, VA
Clark University, MA	University of Massachusetts-Boston	University of Tampa, FL (2)
Clarkson University, NY	University of Miami, FL	University of Northwestern Ohio, OH
Community College of Vermont (8)	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	Utica College, NY
University of Connecticut	Middlebury College, VT (2)	Vermont Technical College, VT (2)
Davidson College, NC	University of New Hampshire, Durham	University of Vermont, VT (7)
Denison University, OH	Queen's University, ON	Villanova University (3)
Dickinson College, PA (2)	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, NY	Washington University-St. Louis, MO
Emmanuel College, MA	Rose Hulman Institute of Technology, IN	Wheaton College, IL
Florida Institute of Technology, FL	Rivier University, NH	Williams College, MA
University of Florida, Gainesville	Sacred Heart University, CT	Worcester Polytechnic Institute, MA

We are very grateful to our staff for continuing to persevere in this difficult time. No matter what is asked, they work with our students in mind, first and foremost. As an example, the MUHS Individuals & Societies teachers worked with an IB consultant from Toronto to review and reflect on the curriculum they've been building for the last 5 years. Following the workshop, the consultant wrote: "I was sincerely impressed with Middlebury teachers' integrated inquiry-based approaches to teaching and learning and with all the very hard work they put into developing their units. I was also impressed with their authentic conceptual teaching, thoughtful [statements of inquiry] and unit plans which reflected cohesive planning. They are developing such rich assessment tasks!" Thank you teachers!!

Justin Campbell, Principal

ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Report of the Board Chair

This past year has required our entire community to find strength and compassion. It has caused frustration and fatigue. And it has demonstrated levels of resilience and patience that go beyond expectation or norm. And through all of this, we have, as a community, worked together.

The ACSD 2022–2023 budget sees an increase in education spending of 5.2%. This increase is driven by factors such as increasing health care and transportation costs and a decrease in General Fund revenues. Our estimated per pupil spending will be \$20,076.16 representing a \$6.1% increase over the previous year. It is important to note that this percentage increase has been affected by our decision last year to use \$550,000 of reserve funds to prevent us from going over the spending threshold. Absent that action, our actual increase would have been 4.3% over last year's spending per equalized pupil.

This budget reflects our commitment to ensuring the academic and social-emotional foundations we have put in place to support all students, especially as their needs continue to grow. Over the past year we have witnessed the effects of the strain our society is under. We have seen it in our hallways and in our classrooms. We have seen it on the faces of our students and our staff. And we have seen our families and caretakers struggle to understand how best to help those in their care. Yet, through all of this, we have also witnessed what makes ACSD and the community we serve, unique. We have seen staff and families come together to find creative solutions. We have seen students support their peers and lend a helping hand. And we have had discourse that is respectful and honors our right to disagree. We've persevered and, in so many ways, flourished.

The budget presented is aligned to our priorities as a district. We are committed to providing all students with the necessary tools and resources to be successful, and we recognize their unique abilities and needs. Investments in staffing, behavioral specialists and student support services is required now more than ever. Our systems are under unprecedented strains and as I have shared before, no one institution or stakeholder will be the answer to the needs of our children. While we must continue to invest, we must also find ways to support one another as we overcome daily challenges and recognize our accomplishments along the way.

Our challenges are real. Our costs continue to increase and our projections for district-wide enrollment continue to decline. This formula is not sustainable. While we are benefiting this year from Federal Covid relief funds, decreased FY22 spending in certain areas due to the pandemic, and another year without being held to the spending threshold, these circumstances are fiscally untenable. As a Board we are committed to ensuring our long-term fiscal viability. It is this commitment that will ensure our opportunity to support all students, regardless of their needs or situation. This work is hard, and at times, seems to be getting only harder. But it is with confidence and commitment that we present this budget to our community for your support.

Thank you for all you do to support ACSD and we look forward to the work ahead.

Mary Cullinane, Board Chair

ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Report of the Superintendent

Our FY23 budget responds to an unprecedented educational environment. With the increased social and emotional needs of our students, we have shifted the way our schools operate and adapted traditional educational approaches to meet each student where they are. At the budgetary level, this has consisted of shifts and increases in staffing where our teachers, students, and families require more support and structure given the weight of the pandemic on our combined community resources.

Over the last two years we have gained an understanding of the unique needs of our students. We have tailored supports to ensure students are successful and engaged in the learning process under extenuating historical impacts. Overall, this budget reflects a continued investment in staffing that is critical to the academic, social, and emotional health of our students. It prioritizes individualized support in light of the many learning disruptions our students have faced during the pandemic. Both local education spending and one-time federal grant funds are being used to provide additional targeted supports to students.

In the midst of current challenges, we continue to prioritize a student-centered approach to learning that puts engagement and inquiry at the center of the learning process. This philosophy of *learning as discovery* is central to our classrooms in ACSD from PreK through graduation. The budget is built on prior work of the district to create a cohesive and coordinated curriculum through the International Baccalaureate (IB) program.

As we move through the impacts of the pandemic, one thing has become increasingly clear: when our community comes together, we can meet the needs of our students and build forward to provide hope and possibility. Thank you for being a part of ACSD and for supporting all of our schools as we rise to the challenges and move toward a shared commitment to the success of our students!

Peter Burrows, Superintendent
Addison Central School District

ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FY23 Tax Calculation

Our total Local Education Spending amount of \$34,563,318 is the first and only figure used in calculating our tax rate, and the only one over which we have control. The other components in the formula are supplied by the VT Tax Department or Agency of Education and *are subject to changes by the State Legislature.*

Projected Property Yield:	\$ 12,937.00
ACSD Equalized pupils:	1,721.61

ACSD Tax Rate Calculation

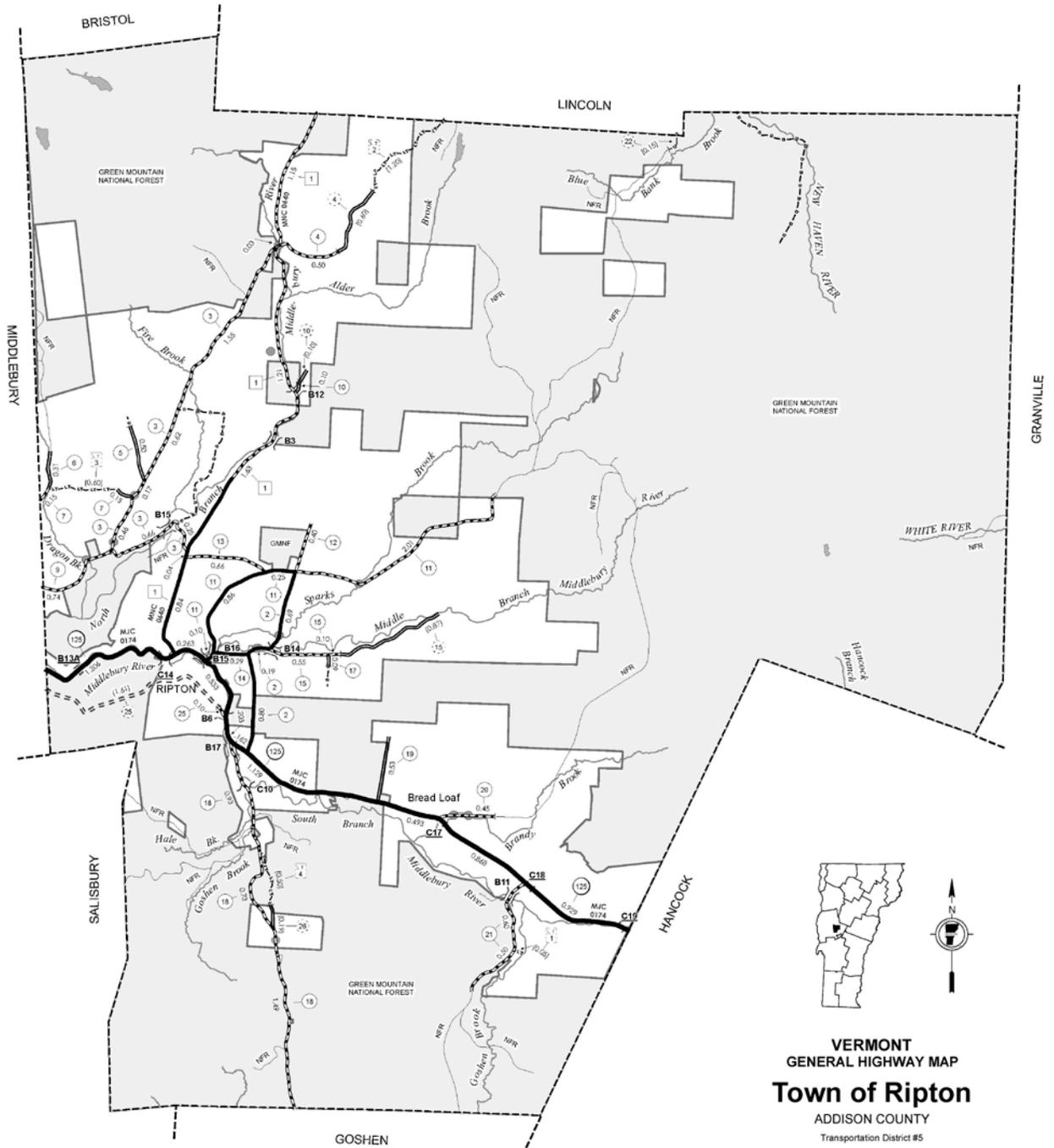
Local Education Spending	\$34,563,318.00
Divided by Equalized Pupils	<u>÷ 1,721.61</u>
Education Spending / Equalized Pupil	\$20,076.16
Education Spending / Equalized Pupil	\$20,076.16
Divided by the Property Tax Yield	<u>÷ \$12,937.00</u>
Equalized District Tax Rate	\$1.55

Equalized District Tax Rate:	\$1.55 <i>(pre CLA adjustment)</i>
	0.09 decrease from current year

The estimated district tax rate is then 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 (FY23)</u>	<u>Estimated Town Tax Rate</u>	<u>Change</u>
Bridport	\$1.55	90.58%	\$1.71	- 0.08
Cornwall	\$1.55	90.02%	\$1.72	- 0.02
Middlebury	\$1.55	93.40%	\$1.66	+0.01
Ripton	\$1.55	83.61%	\$1.85	+0.01
Salisbury	\$1.55	87.27%	\$1.78	- 0.10
Shoreham	\$1.55	94.08%	\$1.65	- 0.03
Weybridge	\$1.55	96.53%	\$1.61	- 0.10

Ripton Town Highway Map



VERMONT
GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP
Town of Ripton
 ADDISON COUNTY
 Transportation District #5
 Prepared by the
 Vermont Agency of Transportation
 Division of Policy, Planning and Intermodal Development
 in cooperation with
 U.S. Department of Transportation
 Federal Highway Administration
Map as of February 10, 2021
 Map prepared June 30, 2021

Town Directory

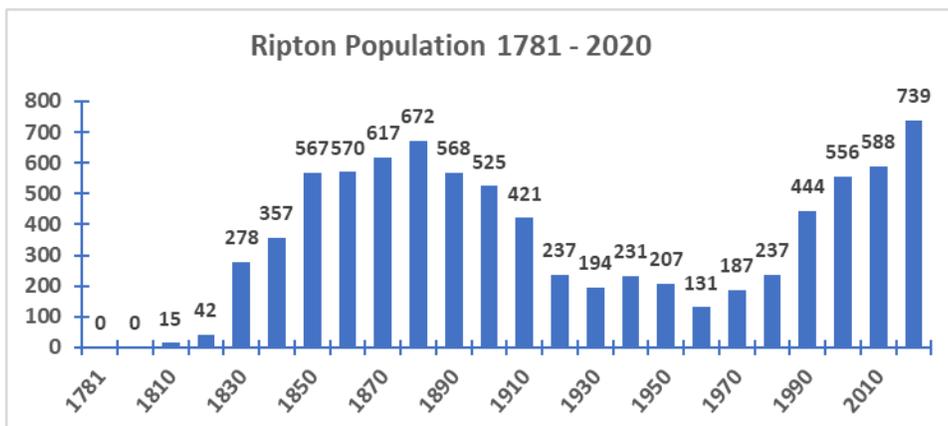
EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

www.ripton.vt.org

Town Office	388-2266
Elementary School	388-2208
Fire Station (non-emergency)	388-4506
Burn Permits: Erik Eriksen	388-3629
Acting Road Commissioner: Tim Hanson	388-2546
Zoning Administrator, Jonathan Heppell	zoning@ripton.org
Animal Control: Chris Smith	388-0337
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: 739 (based on 2020 U.S. Census)
Density: 15 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: 29.166 miles total (excludes Class IV and Legal Trail Mileage)
 Class I (State Rte 125): 5.786 miles Class II (Lincoln Rd): 4.9 miles
 Class III: 18.48 miles Class IV: 3.52 miles
 Legal Trail: 2.35 miles



Back cover