

ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2019 TOWN of RIPTON, VERMONT



Photo: Middlebury College Archives

Town Meeting: March 2, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Election Day Voting: March 3, 2020, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Ripton Community House

Please bring this Report with you to Town Meeting

Please bring this report with you to the

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Monday, March 2, 2020

7:00 p.m. Ripton Community House

PRE-MEETING SUPPER

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

If you wish, bring a dessert to share.

(finger foods only please)

Call Barry King at 388-4082 for more information.

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

Call the School at 388-2208 for more information.

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

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

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

VOTER INFORMATION

If you are not registered to vote in Ripton, you may register at the Town Office or online at
<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/registration/>

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

You may also request an absentee ballot at

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

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Photo: Middlebury College Archives

Warning - Town of Ripton Annual Meeting

**The legal voters of the Town of Ripton are warned to meet at the Ripton Community House,
Monday, March 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to transact the following business:**

- Article 1:** Will the Town vote the sum of **\$656,692** to pay General Fund and Highway Fund expenses for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, divided as follows:
- General Fund \$235,642
Highway Fund \$421,050
- 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, 2020 – June 30, 2021?
- Article 3:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$6,000 to the Ripton Cemetery Commission to pay expenses for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021?
- Article 4:** Will the Town vote to have current property taxes collected by the Treasurer with a tax due date of November 1, 2020; payments due in the Town Office by 6:00 p.m. Monday November 2, 2020 because the 1st is a Sunday, postmarks not accepted?
- Article 5:** Will the Town vote to declare the following:
- that we are in a time of climate crisis
 - that a goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2030 should be set
 - that the Energy Committee shall convene a public meeting of local citizens to brainstorm, make recommendations and action plans to achieve this goal
 - that we urge our State and Federal governments to take immediate action through legislation?
- Article 6:** Other Business: Discussion items to include
- Town Office building – renovate, build a replica, or relocate the office?
 - Sand and salt shed project
 - Articles to be voted by Australian ballot – Will the Town request the Board of the Addison Central School District be directed to amend Charter Articles 8 and 14 of the Agreement? (see ballots)

The Meeting will recess until 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

**Polls in the Ripton Community House are open 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2020
to vote by Australian ballot - Article 7: Officers, Article 8: Funding Requests,
Articles: 9 & 10 to Amend ACSD Charter.**

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

Laureen Cox, Chair
Ripton Selectboard, January 27, 2020

Timothy Hanson

Ronald Wimett

Annual Town Meeting Ballot 2020

Article 7

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

Selector for a 3-year term Vote for no more than one Laureen (Laurie) Cox----- <input type="checkbox"/> _____(Write in)	Constable for a 1-year term Vote for no more than one Perry Hanson ----- <input type="checkbox"/> _____(Write in)
Moderator for a 1-year term Vote for no more than one Molly Witters ----- <input type="checkbox"/> _____(Write in)	Lister for a 3-year term Vote for no more than one Alison Joseph Dickinson----- <input type="checkbox"/> _____(Write in)
Delinquent Tax Collector for a 1-year term Vote for no more than one Kathleen B. Sullivan----- <input type="checkbox"/> _____(Write in)	Cemetery Commissioner for a 5-year term Vote for no more than one Karen B. Heppell ----- <input type="checkbox"/> _____(Write in)
Town Agent for a 1-year term Vote for no more than one Wendy Harlin----- <input type="checkbox"/> _____(Write in)	

Ripton Town Meeting Article 9

Will the Town request the Board of the Addison Central School District be directed to amend the Charter Articles of the Agreement, which was approved by District voters March 1, 2016, as follows?

Article 8: “Directors shall be elected by the voters of all forming towns of the district” shall be amended to read, *Each director shall be elected by the voters of the District town in which the director lives?*

YES ☐

NO ☐

Ripton Town Meeting Article 10

Will the Town request the Board of the Addison Central School District be directed to amend the Charter Articles of the Agreement, which was approved by District voters March 1, 2016, as follows?

Article 14: This sentence shall be added: *No District elementary school shall be closed unless a majority of the registered voters at a duly warned special meeting of the town in which the school is located vote to close the school?*

YES ☐

NO ☐

Article 8: Mark YES or NO with a check or X to approve or disapprove the following allocations from the General Fund, total \$29,226.

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		
Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR)	\$ 1,901.00		
Age Well	\$ 750.00		
Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO)	\$ 1,500.00		
Charter House Coalition	\$ 1,600.00		
Counseling Service of Addison County	\$ 1,400.00		
Elderly Services	\$ 600.00		
End of Life Services	\$ 500.00		
Green Up Vermont	\$ 50.00		
Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects (HOPE)	\$ 3,000.00		
Homeward Bound	\$ 750.00		
John W. Graham Emergency Shelter	\$ 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		
Turning Point Center of Addison County	\$ 1,000.00		
Vermont Adult Learning	\$ 300.00		
WomenSafe, Inc.	\$ 1,250.00		

**WARNING
ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

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

The legal voters of the Addison Central School District are hereby warned to meet at the Middlebury Union High School in Middlebury, Vermont on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 7:00 PM, to transact the following business:

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

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

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

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

**PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING
FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

The legal voters of the Addison Central School District are hereby warned to meet at the Middlebury Union High School in Middlebury, Vermont on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 7:00 PM, for a Public Information meeting to discuss Australian Ballot articles warned for vote on Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

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

Linda J. Barrett, Clerk
Addison Central School District

Peter Conlon, Chair
Addison Central School District

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

WARNING
ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 3, 2020

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

The legal voters of the Addison Central School District are hereby warned to meet at the following polling places on March 3, 2020 to vote by Australian Ballot on the following article(s) of business:

<u>District</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Polling Hours</u>
Bridport	Bridport Community/Masonic Hall	7:00 AM-7:00 PM
Cornwall	Cornwall Town Hall	7:00 AM-7:00 PM
Middlebury	Middlebury Recreation Center/Gym 154 Creek Road	7:00 AM-7:00 PM
Ripton	Ripton Community House	7:00 AM-7:00 PM
Salisbury	Salisbury Town Office	8:00 AM-7:00 PM
Shoreham	Shoreham Town Office	7:00 AM-7:00 PM
Weybridge	Weybridge Town Clerk's Office	7:00 AM-7:00 PM

ARTICLE 1: Shall the voters of the Addison Central School District vote to authorize the ACSD school board to expend **\$39,507,837** which is the amount the ACSD school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of **\$18,855.85** per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is **7.76%** higher than spending for the current year.

ARTICLE 2: Shall the voters of the Addison Central School District vote to authorize the ACSD school board to appropriate **\$1,282,303** of the FY 2019 Unassigned Fund Balance (estimated at **\$1,282,303**) to the ACSD Education Reserve Fund?

ARTICLE 3: To elect four (4) school directors from the nominees to serve on the Addison Central School District Board for the following terms:
Two (2) who are residents of Middlebury for a three-year term.
One (1) who is a resident of Bridport for a three-year term.
One (1) who is a resident of Salisbury for a three-year term.

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

Linda J. Barrett, Clerk
Addison Central School District

Peter Conlon, Chair
Addison Central School District

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ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Linda J. Barrett, Clerk
Addison Central School District

Peter Conlon, Chair
Addison Central School District

Elected Officers

	Name (term expires)	Phone	
Selectboard	Laureen Cox, Chair (20) Timothy Hanson (22) Ronald Wimett (21)	388-7820 388-9977 388-7346	lcx@riptonvt.org thanson@riptonvt.org
Justices of the Peace	Aaron Coburn (21) Richard "Kim" Kimler (21) Warren King (21) Tim Hanson (21) Amy McGlashan (21)	388-4082 388-2546 388-7080	
Board of Listers	Alison Joseph, Chair (20) Erik Eriksen (22) Beth Eliason (21)	388-2266	listers@riptonvt.org
Cemetery Commission	Elizabeth Walker, Chair (22) Carole Cummings (21) Samantha Smith Lau (23) Bonnie Swan (24) Marlene Thompson (20)		Contact Chair Liz Walker at 388-1634
Moderator	Molly Witters (20)	388-2266	
Delinquent Tax Collector	Kathleen B. Sullivan (20)	388-3471	
Constable	Perry Hanson (20)	388-9977	
Town Agent	Wendy Harlin (20)	388-2266	

Meeting Schedule

All meetings are open to the public.

Selectboard: 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, 7:00 PM, Town Office

Ripton Fire & First Response: General meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month, 6:30 PM, Fire Station

Planning Commission/ZBA/Historic District Commission: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 PM, Town Office

Cemetery Commission: 1st Wednesday of the month March - December, 7:30 PM, Town Office

Conservation Commission: 2nd Monday, every other month, dates posted, Town Office



Photo: Bread Loaf Campus. Middlebury College Archives

Selectboard Report

For such a small town, a lot happened during this past year. For the Selectboard, that included Perry Hanson's stepping down and the election of Tim Hanson, last March. A significant amount of the year's action, however, relates to town infrastructure, including buildings and roads.

Buildings: 2019 began with a series of events (*basement flooding/furnace failure/burst pipes*) that led to significant water damage in the **Community House**. Fortunately, most of the roughly \$50,000 repair costs were covered by insurance. The upside was that we now have handicapped accessible bathrooms, increased energy efficiency and electrical code compliance, and an improved kitchen layout. To avoid any repeat performances, an alarm system was installed which, among other things, sends an alert when water begins to accumulate in the basement furnace area. Also, a second sump pump has been added. Half of the cost of the alarm system was covered by the insurance company.

A building still in the planning stages is the **sand/salt shed**, for which we received a \$356,000 grant last year. After reaching out in many directions to find a suitable and available site, we are pursuing a plan which would locate it on property just south of the school. Since the grant is from the State, there are many procedures involved, including hiring an Engineer/Consultant. The site has been assessed for environmental concerns, as well as for anything of archeological or historical interest. There is a wetland area on the site which needs to be avoided, putting some limitations on exactly how the fairly large (72' x 136') building can be sited. A Local Concerns Meeting was held in July, and a Public Information Meeting was held in early December. Discussion with neighbors and interested parties has led us to consider a minor boundary adjustment with the school property that would allow the building to be set back farther from the road, so there could be more screening by trees and brush. However, no land purchase can take place until all steps required by the State are complete.

We continue to have concerns about the **Town Office** building regarding its vulnerability to flooding, energy efficiency, structural issues, and general layout. Fortunately, it does not appear to contain asbestos, and the most immediate structural needs were dealt with. A heat pump was installed in the main office space which should help with overall temperature stability. We decided to place any decisions or significant work on this building on hold until the sand/salt shed project is completed. Cost estimates of renovating the current building versus replacing it with a visually identical but new, very energy efficient building are comparable (although a wholly new building would cost a little more). This is a decision we feel is important enough that the whole town should have a chance to weigh in. Meanwhile, we are continuing to do any necessary maintenance.

The **Town Shed** got a new look with all new doors, the cost of which was partially covered by a grant from the Solid Waste District (ACSWMD). This has allowed the building to be locked between recycling days with much less inappropriate material being left on the premises. To accommodate those who are unable to make the usual 1st and 3rd Saturday recycling times, an additional evening was added from 5-7 PM on the 1st Wednesday of each month. The building's wiring was repaired and we increased lighting both in and outside the building. Additionally, there will be cameras to monitor activity in the area. The need for this was highlighted by an event in August when someone drove a stolen tractor into the side of the building, damaging the new small door as well as part of the wall.

Roads: While the majority of information regarding our roads and bridges is covered in the Road Commissioner's Report, there are some items worth special notice here. Of significance to many will be our efforts to improve visibility for drivers emerging from **Natural Turnpike onto Route 125**. The steep bank on the uphill side can make it difficult to see on-coming traffic. The bank is outside of the state right-of-way and belongs to the National Forest. We met with the District Ranger who felt we could get the okay to re-shape that bank if we submit an engineered plan. This is in the works and will hopefully happen this summer.

VTRANS has informed us that they plan work on Rte. 125 this summer, replacing riprap and **guardrails** in the section between the Middlebury town line and Old Town Road. These guardrails will most likely be the traditional galvanized w-beam, since the oxidized box beam guardrail has not held up.

It is worth noting that during a few **storm** events which caused significant damage to roads in other parts of the county this year, Ripton weathered them with relatively minimal impact.

A planning grant allowed us to have an engineering study done at the site of the bridge connecting Old Town Road with Route 125. This study gives us the initial plan and costs for an eventual replacement of that bridge. While such a replacement is not in any State or Town plans, the possibility of losing the bridge in a flood or a replacement grant coming available at some point makes it worthwhile to do such planning. In the long term, we realize **Old Town Road** and its continuation (currently not passable) down to Middlebury could well become an important emergency access for the community if there were to be a significant flood in the nature of Tropical Storm Irene, which left towns such as Rochester completely isolated. With that in mind, we plan on improving sections of the Class IV part of this road each year to allow it to be traveled by more than tracked vehicles if ever necessary. There is a possibility that we might be able to work with Green Mountain Power (who use this right-of-way for electrical maintenance) and the Forest Service to make this access work better for all parties.

With the suggestions of the **Conservation Commission**, we are planning roadside mowing in a way that will help halt the spread of invasive species such as poison parsnip. Also, ash trees along the roadside are being mapped so they can be watched and removed before ash borer damage which can make them highly brittle.

Office/Administration: Our town is lucky to have an excellent team keeping the business of the town on track in spite of all positions being part-time. There now are contracts for each position, and we have transitioned to an annual cost-of-living wage increase for the three office employees rather than re-negotiating each year. In addition, we have agreed to six 4-hour paid holidays when those holidays fall on a day that would normally be a workday.

This year we established a “Policy Regarding Conflict of Interest and Ethical Conduct” as well as a grant management policy to keep us in line with state and federal requirements, especially involving grants or FEMA reimbursed projects. In addition, we set up a 3 to 4-year work plan to keep ideas or projects on schedule or, at least, not forgotten.

Energy: At a meeting with the District Ranger, our Energy Committee asked about the possibility of siting community solar on National Forest property. It seems there might be a possibility of this happening sometime in the future. As the town government, we will continue to look for ways we can become more energy efficient, and certainly welcome ideas from the community to that end.

Dogs are very much a part of our community, and frequently show up as an item on the Board’s agenda. If you have a dog, make sure you get it licensed. It is cheaper for you and involves less time for town employees and officials if you do this before April 1. Whether you have a dog, or your **neighbors** do, get to know each other so that you can more easily resolve issues when they arise. This helps even when dogs are not part of the equation!

Tax Sale: In June, after many attempts to work out another solution, the property at 1568 North Branch Road went up for tax sale. There being no other bidders, the Town purchased the property for the amount of the back taxes. Legally, the previous owner has one year to pay off the debt and regain ownership. If this does not happen by mid-June 2020, and the previous owner is still in residence, the Town will have to evict the owner. This is not an event that has happened in Ripton during recent history, which is why we are sharing the information here. If that is the way this situation unfolds, the Town will then sell the property on the open market. Any money beyond what the Town is due in taxes, interest, and fees, will then go to the previous owner.

Ripton School: As the “town parents”, we have kept abreast of the discussions and studies by the district school board and others regarding future plans and facilities with particular interest in any plans regarding the Ripton School. It is our concern that the school is particularly central to the health of our community, given our geographical separateness from the other towns which make up our district. We have communicated our concerns to the ASCD board and will continue to do so as we feel necessary.

We are blessed to live in a community which includes so many people who are active and involved. While there are always times when anyone can speak up about an idea or a concern, there are also many ways to **get involved** more formally in the life of the town or its government. Let us know of your interest. Attend board or committee meetings, all of which are open to the public, to get a better idea of what goes on and where your skills or interests might be of use. And at the very least, **come to Town Meeting!** There will be food preceding the meeting (so you don’t need to worry about making dinner) plus the chance to meet or catch up with your neighbors. There is bound to be something on the agenda of interest to you, and you will get to be involved in democracy at its most basic level.

Laurie Cox, Selectboard Chair

Road Commissioner Report

Winter 2018-19 was very long, and the winter budget was overspent, mostly on sand and sanding. Summer 2019 was a busy one, with fast rains and windstorms. But we got through it. We did go over budget on gravel, but it was well spent on all roads that needed resurfacing.

We replaced four culverts and did a lot of ditching on the North Branch Road, from the Middlebury line to Boyle Bridge. On the Goshen Road we cleaned and reshaped ditches from Silver Towers Camp to the Poachers Paradise camp (812 - 2383 Goshen Road). We applied hydroseed to all disturbed areas. With a grant through the Addison County Regional Planning Commission we removed berms from the Lincoln Road shoulder and cleaned ditches. They are continuing to fund this work with a grant this year.

Paving was done from approximately 448 – 804 Natural Turnpike, and at the intersection of Robbins Crossroad. This year we will replace culverts and pave (resurface) a portion of Peddlers Bridge Road from the top of Holbrook’s hill towards the recycling shed (61-333 Peddlers Bridge Road).

The Town maintains the first 300’ of Old Town Road as a class III road, and the remainder as a class IV road. A class IV road is only maintained by the Town during summer months, May 1 – Sept. 1. That said, we increased the class IV road budget so that we can start to upgrade the approximateley two miles of road toward the Middlebury end, for emergency use. This is a long-term project that will benefit all Riptonites, and the power company. This year we will fix culverts and wet areas.

Ronald Wimett, Road Commissioner



Photo. Joanna Doria

Selectboard Budget Narrative

This report relates to the fiscal year that ended June 2019, a review of the status of the current year's budget (voted March 2019) and a discussion of key elements of the proposed budget to be voted on at Town Meeting March 2, 2020.

Financial Status: As reported in the auditor's financial statements, at the end of the fiscal year 2018-2019 (FY19) the Town has a combined fund balance of \$862,793, compared to \$692,814 at the end of 2018. The FY19 increase includes \$91,669 raised by the Fire Department campaign drive for a mini-pumper vehicle.

General Fund Revenues for FY 19: General Fund revenues were essentially as anticipated. Because the entire Current Use payment from the State had been credited to the General Fund, but are now, for purposes of equity, split between the General Fund and Roads, it appears that the General Fund took more than a \$10,000 hit in that line, but the funds were credited to the Road Fund.

General Fund Expenses for FY 19 were within \$1,000 of anticipated. Most lines in the budget were modestly underspent, which offset the unanticipated expense for the repairs due to water damage to the Community House (much of the cost of which was covered by insurance). The transfer to Reappraisal Fund shows an amount over the budget because of funds received but not transferred in prior years.

Road Income FY 19 was nearly \$10,000 more than anticipated, due to the above-mentioned split of the Current Use funds between the General Fund and Roads. Other lines were very close to what was anticipated.

Road Expenses FY 19 were close to budget in spite of significant over-budget spending on plowing, sanding and buying and trucking sand—it was a long, cold and snowy winter. A significant amount of gravel was put down as well, partly to fix the winter damage. Overspending was offset, mostly by zero spending of the \$25,000 Major Reconstruction line, which is intended to pay for major repairs or upgrades to roads beyond regular maintenance. There were several projects done in FY 19, but the costs were covered by grants. Road expenses also include an annual \$10,000 payment to the Major Project Fund, which had a balance at the end of FY 2019 of \$205,400.29, and an annual set aside of \$10,000 that can be used to pay the Town's share of a State or Federal road grant that may come available.

Current year Budget 2019-2020 (FY 20) voted March 2019.

Income for FY 20 as of December, current year funds are in line with estimates—the General Fund has already received more than 90% of its expected revenue, and the Road Fund is almost as robust, with more than 80% of the funding received. We expect no real surprises in income for the year.

Expenses for FY 20 for the General Fund are tracking close to budget. This FY we made the last payment (\$24,460) to the Vermont Bond Bank for the 2008 flood, and we no longer have any long-term debt.

Proposed Budget 2020-2021 (FY 21) Anticipated General Fund revenues for **FY 21** are expected to be more or less the same as in the last FY. We anticipate a modest increase in income from recording fees as the recording cost per page (set by the State) has increased. The College payment to the Town (PILOT—payment in lieu of taxes) will be greater as that amount is pegged to the property tax rate (in 2019 it was \$95,000). General Fund expenses include an increase of \$300 to enable a \$100 increase for each member of the Selectboard. The last increase was in 1998. The office team (Town Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Town Clerk and Listers) received a cost of living adjustment (see Selectboard Report). The line for legal services has been increased by \$2,500 in anticipation of dealing with the tax sale and possible eviction as described in the Selectboard's report. NEMRC fees increase as of July 1 due to cybersecurity costs.

Road Income for FY 21 is anticipated to increase by about \$24,000, due to increases in the College's PILOT payment and an increase in tax income. The Town is always searching for grants to help pay for road work, and we have been very successful in the past. Much credit goes to Selectboard Administrator Alison Joseph for her grant-writing skills.

Road Expenses for **FY21** are budgeted to increase by 7%. Most of this increase is due to the need to anticipate more winter work (sanding and plowing) as our winters become more erratic and extreme in their swings, and the need to continue to spread gravel to maintain the structure of the gravel roads. If the winter is less snowy and icy, then the winter-work line will be underspent. The budget also includes a modest increase in the budget line for work on Class IV roads, specifically in this case Old Town Road. See the Selectboard's narrative for further discussion. We have also included a \$5,000 increase in the Cutting Roadside Brush line so we can start to deal with the expected ash borer infestation.

Laurie Cox, Chair
Selectboard for the Town of Ripton

Timothy Hanson

Ronald Wimett

Auditors' Report

Telling & Hillman, P.C. audited the Town's financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2019.

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: Warren King

General Fund Budget

GENERAL FUND BUDGET	Budget FY19	Actual FY 19	Budget FY20	Budget FY21
Non-Tax Revenue				
Recording Fees (fee increase 07/19)	7,000.00	6,950.00	7,000.00	8,000.00
Copier & Vault Time	2,000.00	1,229.41	1,500.00	1,500.00
Dog Licenses	800.00	793.00	600.00	800.00
Liquor Licenses	300.00	370.00	300.00	370.00
Zoning Permit Fees	2,000.00	2,420.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Compliance Letr & Hearing Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
Recycling Donations	2,000.00	1,780.99	2,000.00	2,000.00
Sheriff Fines	7,000.00	5,999.06	6,500.00	7,000.00
Marriage Licenses	100.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
Land Posting	30.00	30.00	25.00	40.00
Green Mountain Pass	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00	50.00	100.00
Reappraisal	3,500.00	3,604.00	3,500.00	3,600.00
State Funds for Listers	800.00	424.00	430.00	424.00
Current Use * split with HWY Fund	27,000.00	*15,739.50	16,000.00	16,500.00
Interest	300.00	517.11	400.00	500.00
Rent: Community House	2,000.00	1,250.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
College PILOT (adjusted by tax rate)	84,000.00	88,979.05	89,000.00	95,000.00
Total Non-Tax Revenue	138,840.00	130,226.12	131,345.00	139,774.00
Expense				
Selectboard Stipend (3 x 750)	1,950.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	2,250.00
Selectboard Administrator/Clerk	22,000.00	20,172.56	22,600.00	23,000.00
Town Clerk	16,000.00	13,325.59	16,500.00	16,800.00
Town Treasurer	16,000.00	14,728.50	16,500.00	16,800.00
Assistant Town Clerks & Treasurer	17,000.00	16,811.04	17,500.00	18,000.00
Elections	1,000.00	793.38	400.00	1,200.00
BCA Hearings	100.00	73.50	100.00	100.00
Delinquent Tax Collector	7,000.00	4,145.52	5,000.00	4,200.00
Listers	8,000.00	7,040.84	8,500.00	8,500.00
Lister Training	500.00	0.00	500.00	200.00
Planning Commission	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,550.00
Zoning Administrator	3,500.00	2,520.98	3,500.00	3,000.00
Animal Control Officer	400.00	423.18	800.00	500.00
Health Officer	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Officers Training	1,000.00	279.50	1,000.00	1,000.00
Facilities Management	2,000.00	2,221.50	2,000.00	2,000.00
Emergency Mgmt Coord.	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00
Payroll Taxes	8,000.00	7,147.70	8,000.00	8,000.00
Office Supplies	1,000.00	992.33	1,000.00	1,200.00
Office Equipment/Furnish	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Photocopier	1,500.00	1,494.96	1,500.00	1,500.00

GENERAL FUND BUDGET	Budget FY19	Actual FY 19	Budget FY20	Budget FY21
Computer/Tech	5,000.00	2,572.99	5,000.00	5,000.00
Telephone	900.00	986.03	900.00	1,000.00
Internet	900.00	1,540.16	1,200.00	1,600.00
Website	400.00	315.80	400.00	800.00
Postage	1,000.00	827.45	800.00	800.00
Legal Notices	400.00	605.40	400.00	400.00
Document Preservation	4,000.00	4,505.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Clerk & Treasurer Expense	200.00	75.00	100.00	100.00
Listers Expenses	500.00	385.00	500.00	400.00
Planning & Zoning Expense	1,000.00	282.45	1,000.00	500.00
State Treasurer (now automatic)	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Insurance	16,000.00	12,186.50	14,000.00	14,000.00
Workers Comp Ins	1,000.00	637.50	1,000.00	1,000.00
Town Report	1,500.00	1,364.43	1,500.00	1,500.00
Legal Services	5,000.00	2,596.38	5,000.00	7,500.00
Audit	8,250.00	7,710.00	8,500.00	8,500.00
Generator	350.00	361.00	400.00	400.00
Recycling	11,000.00	10,729.40	11,000.00	12,000.00
Animal Damage	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Transfer to Reappraisal Fund	3,500.00	11,210.50	3,500.00	3,500.00
Bank Fees	0.00	30.15	0.00	30.00
Miscellaneous (auditor's adjustment of tax sale \$)	0.00	-2,551.02	104.88	200.00
Conservation Commission exp	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Buildings & Grounds	17,000.00	27,024.77	17,000.00	17,000.00
Town Office Fuel	2,000.00	2,558.96	2,000.00	2,000.00
Town Office Electric	800.00	748.00	800.00	800.00
Community House Fuel	4,000.00	3,608.75	4,000.00	3,500.00
Community House Electric	800.00	1,416.32	800.00	800.00
Transfer to Town Buildings Fund	9,000.00	9,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Public Telephone	630.00	540.00	630.00	600.00
Streetlights	1,100.00	932.82	1,100.00	1,000.00
Town Shed Electric	0.00	885.83	0.00	800.00
Waste Disposal	800.00	725.13	1,000.00	800.00
VLCT Dues	1,685.00	1,685.00	1,726.00	1,795.00
Regional Planning Dues	747.00	747.18	758.52	767.00
Addison County Sheriff	11,000.00	10,704.94	11,000.00	11,000.00
Addison County Tax	3,000.00	2,952.82	2,950.60	3,000.00
Animal Holding Facility	400.00	450.00	400.00	450.00
Tax Mapping	950.00	950.00	950.00	1,000.00
NEMRC - programs/fees	2,000.00	1,898.26	2,500.00	5,000.00
VT Bond Bank 2008 Flood	27,400.00	26,385.68	26,000.00	0.00
Tax Sale	0.00	7,882.27	0.00	0.00
Total General Fund Expense	254,362.00	253,287.93	253,170.00	235,642.00

GENERAL FUND BUDGET	Budget FY19	Actual FY 19	Budget FY20	Budget FY21
Voted Items				
Ripton Fire Department	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00
Cemetery Commission	7,000.00	7,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Funding Requests	22,316.00	22,316.00	23,816.00	29,226.00
Total Voted Item Expense	70,316.00	70,316.00	70,816.00	76,226.00
Total General Fund	254,362.00	253,287.93	253,170.00	235,642.00
Total Voted Item Expense	70,316.00	70,316.00	70,816.00	76,226.00
Total Highway Fund	359,400.00	341,142.87	397,100.00	421,050.00
Total Municipal Expense	684,078.00	664,746.80	721,086.00	732,918.00
Tax Revenue				
General Fund	113,324.00	58,611.00	120,127.00	110,700.00
Highway Fund	168,861.00	153,445.00	183,545.00	198,300.00
Education Tax transfer to ACSD	970,242.38	956,330.37	967,037.34	999,999.00
Education Tax credit from State	7,000.00	7,960.09	7,000.00	7,000.00
	1,259,427.38	1,176,346.46	1,277,709.34	1,315,999.00
Delinquent Taxes collected	55,000.00	53,830.77	55,000.00	54,000.00
Interest: Delinquent Tax	3,000.00	3,375.98	3,000.00	3,400.00
Penalty: Delinquent Tax	7,000.00	3,962.20	7,000.00	4,000.00
Legal Fee: Delinquent Tax	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
Delinquent Tax Revenue	65,500.00	61,168.95	65,500.00	61,400.00



Photo: Warren King

Highway Fund Budget

Highway Fund Budget	Budget FY19	Actual FY19	Budget FY20	Budget FY21
Revenue				
Property Tax - Roads	168,896.00	153,445.00	183,545.00	198,300.00
Overweight Permit Fees	300.00	785.00	355.00	750.00
State Aid to Highways	48,204.00	48,204.63	48,200.00	49,000.00
College PILOT Roads	84,000.00	88,979.06	89,000.00	95,000.00
USFS PILOT Payment	58,000.00	61,364.00	60,000.00	61,500.00
Current Use/Hold Harmless	0.00	15,739.50	16,000.00	16,500.00
Total Revenue	359,400.00	368,517.19	397,100.00	421,050.00
Expense				
Ditching	19,000.00	5,022.21	19,000.00	17,000.00
Grading	16,000.00	16,512.50	16,000.00	18,000.00
Chloride	8,500.00	5,950.60	8,500.00	7,000.00
Sweeping Roads	8,000.00	9,250.00	8,000.00	10,000.00
Culverts	5,000.00	5,968.33	7,000.00	7,000.00
Guardrails	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Gravel	32,000.00	45,316.61	32,000.00	40,000.00
Storm Damage	5,000.00	5,575.69	7,000.00	9,000.00
Road Signs	1,000.00	722.89	1,000.00	1,000.00
Cutting Brush	5,000.00	2,455.00	5,000.00	10,000.00
Mowing: Roadside	5,000.00	4,208.00	5,000.00	5,200.00
Mowing: Boom	2,500.00	682.50	2,500.00	2,500.00
Road Commissioner	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
Training	300.00	0.00	500.00	300.00
Class IV Road Work	5,000.00	4,700.70	5,000.00	10,000.00
Paving	50,000.00	49,898.10	50,000.00	50,000.00
Major Road Reconstruction	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
Municipal Rds State Permit	0.00	1,750.00	0.00	1,750.00
Grant Match Fund	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Transfer to Major Project Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Misc. Summer Work	1,500.00	1,587.47	1,500.00	1,500.00
Buy/Screen Sand	35,000.00	41,202.00	37,000.00	40,000.00
Truck Sand	18,000.00	22,795.00	22,000.00	24,000.00
Salt	7,000.00	7,530.94	7,200.00	7,200.00
Sanding Roads	35,000.00	40,075.00	40,000.00	42,000.00
Plowing Roads	40,000.00	49,897.50	55,000.00	55,000.00
Winter Storm Damage	5,000.00	2,265.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Culvert Thawing	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Misc. Winter Work	2,000.00	4,176.83	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Expense	359,400.00	341,142.87	391,800.00	421,050.00

Town Grants

Grants		Actual FY19	Budget FY20	Budget FY21
Revenue				
VTrans sand and salt shed		0.00	40,000.00	316,000.00
VTrans Better Roads		22,293.94	12,356.00	10,000.00
Municipal Rds Grants-in-aid		5,300.00	6,100.00	6,710.00
FEMA reimbursement		2,248.68	39,832.38	0.00
NRCS Wagon Wheel Rd grant		0.00	24,180.00	0.00
TAC study grant		0.00	10,000.00	0.00
Recycling shed		2,062.00	0.00	0.00
Total Grants		31,904.62	132,468.38	352,710.00
Expense				
VTrans sand and salt shed		6,008.13	40,000.00	316,000.00
VTrans Better Roads		20,610.72	25,455.00	2,000.00
Municipal Rds Grants-in-aid		1,225.00	6,481.57	8,338.00
FEMA expense		4,550.00	49,706.09	0.00
NRCS Wagon Wheel Rd grant		0.00	32,240.00	0.00
TAC study grant		0.00	1,525.00	0.00
Recycling shed		4,124.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expense		36,517.85	155,407.66	326,338.00

Most of our grants require a local match from town funds or in-kind services, noted as “match” in the descriptions below.

Grants completed in FY19

- FEMA DR4356 Oct. 29-30, 2017 disaster: storm debris. In FY19 received payments of \$23,955.30 + \$904.88 for work done in FY18 = \$24,860.18
- DEC Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid – for work on the Lincoln Road: FY18 grant \$6,100, match \$1,525, total project \$7,625
- VTrans Better Roads BR0372 - Lincoln Road ditching and culvert replacement: awarded FY18, completed FY19; grant \$16,959.84, match \$4,239.98, total project \$21,199.82
- VTrans Better Roads BR0373 - North Branch Road ditching, stone, culvert: awarded FY18, completed FY19; grant \$5,334, match \$1,620.87, total project \$6,954.87
- VTrans Better Roads BR0518 Lincoln and Pearl Lee Roads - ditching, stone, and drainage improvements. This grant was awarded and completed in FY19, grant \$16,607.50, match \$4,151.88, total project \$20,759.38.
- ACSWMD Municipal Diversion Grant: grant \$2,062.00, match \$2,062.00 for recycling shed doors.
- The Conservation Commission was awarded a \$400 grant for tools – see their report.

Grants completed FY 20

- FEMA DR4330 June 29 – July 1, 2017 disaster - 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, known as Potash Bridge. The repair

work deadline was extended to Sept. 2019. The road washout repair (ditching, lining, seeding) cost \$23,106.09. The bridge repair was completed for \$26,600. There is a small State share due to reimburse the Town. This grant was audited by the VT Dept of Public Safety in July/August 2019.

- DEC Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid – for work on the Lincoln Road: FY19 grant \$6,100, match \$1,606.57, total project \$7,706.57.
- Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) planning study grant. ACRPC awarded \$12,000 for a planning study for replacement of the Old Town Road/Potash Bridge, match \$1,525, total project \$13,525. ACRPC pays the consultant directly.

Grants to complete

- DEC Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid - for work on the Lincoln Road: FY20 grant \$6,710, match \$1,678, total project \$8,388.
- 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.
- 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.
- VTrans Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program FY19 - construction of a sand/salt shed: grant \$356,000, match \$89,000, total grant \$445,000. In FY19 \$6,008.13 was spent and in FY20 to January 20th \$15,404.17 was spent, total \$21,412.30.
- VTrans Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program FY20 – Peddlers Bridge Road TH#2 culvert project: grant \$627,600, match \$156,900 for replacing the culvert on Peddlers Bridge Road near the recycling shed with a bridge; contract to be confirmed for FY21.
- An application was submitted to the Better Roads program for a grant for a road and culvert inventory that complies with the State Municipal Road General Permit requirements. It is an \$8,000 grant with a \$2,000 match, total \$10,000.



Photo: Joanna Doria

Volunteer Fire and First Response Department Report

Thanks to your terrific support, the fund drive for the new utility vehicle surpassed our expectations with more than \$90,000 raised. We thought we could get a used vehicle but found the market unsatisfactory. We checked with various dealers and chose G. Stone Motors to build a utility. They have done rigs for other departments, so this kind of work is not new to them. The vehicle will be a 2020 Ford F-550 4 x 4 with an extended cab, a Darley skid-mount pump, 300-gallon water tank, and a utility body for more flexibility. It will carry hose, medical equipment and our assorted tools.

The tanker and Engine 1 were undercoated this year. We will do this with all rigs every 2 – 3 years.

We thank Carrie Wulfman for donation of an AED (automated external defibrillator) for use in the Community House.

Again – we are very grateful for your support and please remember that volunteers are always needed.

Erik Eriksen, Chief

Roster January 2020

Chief: Erik Eriksen

Assistant Chief: Chris Pike

Captains: Ross Elliot, Jay Harrington, Will Mathis

Lieutenants: Mark Nelson, Alison Joseph (Admin)

Members: Justin Allen, John Hughes, Gary Smith, of Salisbury; Phil Bowman, Jake Coddington, Marty Kulczyk, Erica Mathis, Reid Peck

Activity Report 2019	# Calls	Hours
Fire calls	15	140
Medical calls	26	79
Motor vehicle accidents	6	81
Search & rescue	6	70
Fire training		228
Medical training		103
Maintenance		110
Meetings		142
Community Service		191
Total calls & hours (excluding admin)	53	1,144

Account Balances June 30, 2019	
Checking	\$1,951.21
Savings	\$33,444.86
Balance checking + savings	\$35,396.07
Vehicle Replacement Fund	\$120,752.59

RVFD/TOWN PICNIC LAST SATURDAY IN JULY – JULY 25, 2020 NOON

RVFD Budget Report

Account	Budget FY19	Actual FY19	Budget FY20	Budget FY21
Revenue				
Town Payment	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00
Grants	2,500.00	5,962.00	600.00	1,240.00
Donations & fundraising	1,000.00	1,463.00	600.00	2,000.00
Field Days in donation in prior yrs	0	0	0	290.00
Interest - Savings	5.00	9.10	10.00	10.00
Total Revenue	44,505.00	48,434.10	42,210.00	44,540.00
Prior year carry over	1,145.00		4,640.00	
	45,650.00		46,850.00	
Expense				
Gear/Tools/Equipment	11,000.00	3,693.09	11,000.00	6,000.00
Vehicle Repair/Maint	5,000.00	10,251.23	6,000.00	10,000.00
Fuel	600.00	424.69	600.00	500.00
Administration	800.00	961.88	1,800.00	1,800.00
Stipend - chief	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Insurance	4,000.00	4,048.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Field Days	0.00	0.00	0.00	290.00
Training, Meetings	3,000.00	671.00	3,000.00	2,000.00
Events (formerly in other lines)	0.00	0.00	0.00	800.00
Computer & Internet	1,000.00	809.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Dispatch	2,500.00	2,487.80	2,500.00	2,500.00
Electricity	1,200.00	1,113.76	1,200.00	1,200.00
Telephone	1,100.00	1,084.70	1,300.00	1,100.00
Heat/Propane	3,000.00	1,646.20	3,000.00	2,500.00
Furniture & Equipment	500.00	375.00	500.00	500.00
Hydrants	4,000.00	2,909.84	500.00	500.00
Maintenance	500.00	597.09	3,000.00	2000.00
Plowing	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
Fundraising expense	0.00	1,392.50	0.00	400.00
<i>Sub-total Operating budget</i>	40,150.00	34,415.78	41,350.00	39,040.00
Payment to vehicle fund	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Total Expense	45,650.00	39,915.78	46,850.00	44,540.00
Vehicle Replacement Fund				
Town payment	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Vehicle Campaign	0	91,669.00	0	0
Interest - Vehicle Fund	5.00	15.00	8.00	15.00
Vehicle Sale				500.00
Total	5,505.00	97,184.00	5,508.00	6,015.00
Vehicle Replacement Fund Balance Dec. 31, 2019: \$122,736.89				

2019 Vehicle & Major Equipment Inventory	
Pumper. 1993. KME/International	Ladders. 2-roof, 2-24', 1-8', 2-attic
Tanker. 2005. Freightliner	Chainsaw. Jonsered
Pumper. 1988. FMC	Fan. SuperVac GE
Utility vehicle. 1998. Ford	Thermal Imaging Camera
Pump, portable. Hale HPX400	CO monitors – 2
Pump, portable. Hale HP300	Air pump. Porter Cable
Portable pond. 1,000 gallons	Compressor. Porter Cable, 3 hp
Portable pond. 2,000 gallons	Defibrillator. Medtronic Lifepak 500
Generator & light, portable. Honda (2)	Defibrillator. 2 Medtronic Lifepak 1000
Generator, station. Honda	Defibrillator. Laerdal Heartstart
Generator, portable. Generac	Defibrillator. Phillips Heartstart

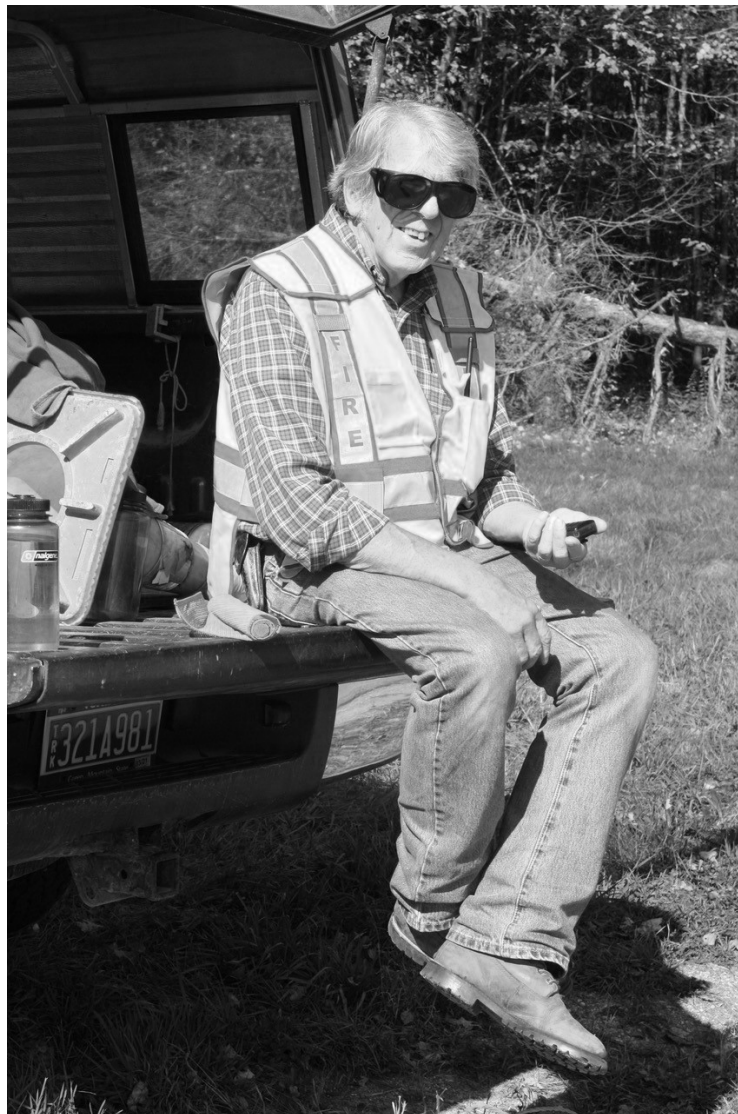


Photo: Fran McIntosh

Cemetery Commission Report & Budget

Tree cutting and brush clearing continued at Cook and Galvin. Depth probing, installation of iron stakes for lot layout, and map updating with probing information and a modified entrance design for Galvin Extension was done by Otter Creek Engineering. Replacement fencing will be installed at Cook this spring, as well as auxiliary signs at Cook and Galvin. Ripton had six burials and sold one cemetery lot this year. Follow up for cornerstone and memorial placement continues for five lots. The Town, with assistance from Jim Barlow, Esq., clarified state law that governs cemetery lot sales, use and rights of a lot purchaser and the Town. State Statutes will be added to relevant sections of the Ripton Cemetery Rules & Regulations currently being updated to include winter burial and plowing restrictions. The Commission would like to thank Marlene Thompson for her contributions during the past 5 years since she will not be seeking another term. We will miss her ideas and good nature.

The Commission is asking Ripton residents for your support in the 2020/21 fiscal year to continue the work of operating, restoring and improving Ripton's Town Cemeteries. Requested funds will pay for yearly mowing, cleaning and landscaping, tree and brush cutting and work on interments and restoration throughout the year. Installation of a road frontage fence at Gee Cemetery is planned to protect monuments in the cemetery which is close to the road.

The Ripton Cemetery Commission was established in 2014 to administer Ripton's public cemeteries: Cook, Galvin, Gee & Cushman. The Commission meets monthly at the Ripton Town Office, March through December. The public is welcome to attend. 2019/2020 Commissioners are Carole Cummings, Marlene Thompson, Bonnie Swan, Samantha Lau and Elizabeth Walker. The Commission welcomes volunteers to help clean monuments and clear overgrown shrubs and plantings throughout the year.

Elizabeth Walker, Chairperson

Revenue	Budget FY19	Actual FY19	Budget FY20	Budget FY21
From account balance	100.00	500.00	4,200.00	5,500.00
Sale of Plots	1,000.00	300.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Town Payment	7,000.00	7,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Total Revenue	8,100.00	7,800.00	11,200.00	12,500.00
Expense	Budget FY19	Actual FY19	Budget FY20	Budget FY21
Dues/Admin	150.00	55.00	150.00	100.00
Stipends	1,250.00	1,250.00	1,250.00	2,000.00
Sexton stipend	400.00	400.00	400.00	0.00
Mowing	2,500.00	1,750.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Tree & brush cut & removal	1,500.00	1,700.00	1,000.00	1,500.00
Fencing	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
Repair	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00
Monument cleaning & repair	100.00	0.00	100.00	400.00
Development-Cook	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Development Galvin	1,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Landscaping	1,000.00	0.00	600.00	0.00
Total Expense	8,100.00	5,155.00	11,200.00	12,500.00

Account Balance June 30, 2019: \$16,202.75

2020 Funding Requests

Ripton votes funding requests by Australian (paper) ballot at the polls, Tuesday March 3, 2020. Summary information for organizations, with service to Ripton residents if known, is below. Full reports are available online or at the town office.

Addison Central Teens (ACT) “provides a safe and welcoming place for teens to socialize after school and throughout the year.” 18 Ripton teens participated in programs in 2019. **Request: \$1,900**

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

Addison County Parent/Child Center “provides parenting education classes and workshops, community playgroups, home visits, pregnancy prevention programs, job training, academic classes, transportation, and childcare.” An estimated 33 Ripton residents received services in 2019. **Request: \$600**

Addison County Restorative Justice Services “provides a community restorative justice response focusing on the “balanced approach” in meeting the needs of the victim, the community and the offender.” Ripton residents received services from the following programs in FY 2019: 2 court diversion, 3 driving with license suspended, 3 reentry navigation participants. **Request: \$170**

Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative requests funds to support water quality testing in the Middlebury River. River Watch volunteers monitor the Middlebury River at the Natural Turnpike. **Request: \$400**

Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) During the past year, your support helped us provide 1,453 free Dial-a-Ride trips for Ripton residents... In addition, the Snow Bowl Shuttle provided 1,611 rides through Ripton in the last year. **Request: \$1,901**

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

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

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

Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) provided 13,875 hours of service to residents of Ripton who had mental health, substance abuse, or developmental disability needs in 2019. **Request: \$1,400**

Elderly Services served 216 elders at Project Independence Adult Day Center in 2019, including 4 from Ripton. Also in 2019, Ripton residents received 3,102 hours of care, 1,187 hot meals, 1,112 van rides, which cost the agency \$60,363. Ripton seniors participated in the ESI College Lifelong Learning Center, 8 family caregivers received respite. **Request: \$600**

End of Life Services provides free hospice programs and bereavement support services. Ripton services for 2019 included providing 2 hospice patients with a volunteer visit, 4 residents with 98 hours of comfort and support through Wellspring singers & Harp Therapy, 2 people with 64 hours of bereavement/grief support. Ripton currently has 12 volunteers. **Request: \$500**

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

Homeward Bound is a “private, open-admission animal shelter.” Programs include education, Pets in Crisis, Pets Eat, Too!, investigations, microchipping, lost and found, Trap-Neuter-Return. In 2019 Ripton residents adopted ten animals and one stray was returned. Two strays were brought in, two animals were surrendered by their owner, and one low income client received food. **Request: \$750**

Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects (HOPE) requests funds to help defray the costs of providing Ripton residents with heat, housing, food, clothing, medical items, and more. HOPE assisted 48 Ripton residents in 2019. **Request: \$3,000**

John Graham Shelter provided more than 16,000 bed nights of food, shelter, services and hope to more than 300 people at our shelter (100 families with children); provided rapid re-housing, counseling, case management and support services. **Request: \$1,600**

Middlebury Regional EMS (MREMS) provides ambulance and heavy rescue service to the area. **Request \$5,880**

NeighborWorks of Western Vermont promotes safe and affordable housing, focusing on sustainable homeownership. **Request \$300**

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

Otter Creek Child Care Center supports young children and families in achieving their goals by providing high quality early care and education. Ripton residents served included 4 children and 3 families for a cost of \$18,700 per resident. **Request: \$1,000** to support tuition assistance

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

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is a volunteer management program that coordinates volunteers for their programs and local non-profit organizations. Through RSVP, Ripton residents volunteered over 360 hours last year. Service to Ripton residents in 2019 included free income tax return preparation, osteoporosis prevention classes, and food and clothing distributed through the elementary school. **Request: \$475**

Turning Point provides peer-based recovery support to all people affected by substance use disorders and addictive behaviors. **Request: \$1,000**

Vermont Adult Learning “offers a variety of learning opportunities to help adults achieve their educational goals and enhance their quality of life. We are grateful to the townspeople of Ripton for supporting the services we provide.” 2019 Ripton service: 1 resident. **Request: \$300**

WomenSafe offers a 24-hour hotline, transitional housing, advocacy and outreach services, support groups, supervised visitation and monitored exchange, and education. Ripton service: at least 7 residents including parents of at least 8 children exposed to violence. **Request: \$1,250**

Statement of Town Indebtedness

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

	Payment Date	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Payment Due	Payment Made
Loan Amount	7/21/09	\$275,000.00				
	11/15/09		1.391%	\$2,605.02	\$2,605.02	\$2,605.02
	5/15/10			\$3,606.95	\$3,606.95	\$3,606.95
	11/15/10	\$30,000.00	1.391%	\$3,606.95	\$37,213.90	\$37,213.90
	5/15/11			\$3,398.32	\$3,398.32	\$3,398.32
	11/15/11	\$30,000.00	1.691%	\$3,398.32	\$36,796.64	\$36,796.64
	5/15/12			\$3,144.69	\$3,144.69	\$3,144.69
	11/15/12	\$30,000.00	1.801%	\$3,144.69	\$36,289.38	\$36,289.38
	5/15/13			\$2,874.56	\$2,874.56	\$2,874.56
	11/15/13	\$30,000.00	2.201%	\$2,874.56	\$35,749.12	\$35,749.12
	5/15/14			\$2,544.43	\$2,544.43	\$2,544.43
	11/15/14	\$30,000.00	2.651%	\$2,544.43	\$35,088.86	\$32,544.33
	5/15/15			\$2,146.80	\$2,146.80	\$2,146.80
	11/15/15	\$25,000.00	2.931%	\$2,146.80	\$27,147.00	\$27,147.00
	5/15/16			\$1,780.44	\$1,780.44	\$1,780.44
	11/15/16	\$25,000.00	3.201%	\$1,780.44	\$28,560.88	\$26,707.42
	5/15/17			\$1,380.33	\$1,380.33	\$1,380.33
	11/01/17	\$25,000.00	3.491%	\$1,323.99	\$26,323.99	\$26,323.99
	5/15/18			\$943.97	\$943.97	\$943.97
	11/01/18	\$25,000.00	3.691%	\$943.97	\$25,903.07	\$25,903.07
	4/01/19			\$482.61	\$482.61	\$482.61
	10/14/19	\$25,000.00	3.861%	\$482.61	\$25,460.40	\$25,460.40
	Totals	\$275,000.00		\$47,154.88	\$339,441.36	\$335,043.37

In FY19, **\$26,385.68** was paid to the Vermont Bond bank. The bond payment is complete in the current budget year, FY20.

Financial and Tax Reports

Account Balances

Account Balances June 30, 2019

Intermediate Account: includes General Fund & Highway Fund	\$309,605.32
Checking	\$20,388.70
Major Projects Highway Fund	\$205,400.29
Town Building Fund	\$100,367.74
Reappraisal Fund	\$37,593.55

Statement of Taxes

Tax Calculation for Year Ending June 30, 2019

Property Tax Rates	Tax Rate	Grand List	Total Raised
Non-Residential Education	1.7713	274,186.00	485,665.63
Homestead Education	1.7649	365,701.00	645,425.71
Local voted exemption	0.0099	639,887.00	6,334.81
Highway Fund	0.2398	639,887.00	153,444.97
General Fund	0.3157	639,887.00	202,012.25
Total municipal rate	0.5654		
Total non-residential rate	2.3367		
Total homestead rate	2.3303		
Total education tax			1,131,109.13
Total municipal tax			361,795.03
Total Tax			1,492,904.16
Total State Payments			180,178.58

Tax Calculation for Year Ending June 30, 2020

The total education tax may change for June 30th after a final education tax reconciliation.

Property Tax Rates	Tax Rate	Grand List	Total Raised
Non-Residential Education	1.7697	260,108.00	460,313.17
Homestead Education	1.7579	382,011.00	671,537.15
Local voted exemption	0.0099	642,119.00	6,356.96
Highway Fund	0.2856	642,119.00	183,389.20
General Fund	0.3061	642,119.00	196,552.63
Total municipal rate	0.6016		
Total non-residential rate	2.3713		
Total homestead rate	2.3595		
Total education tax			1,131,850.30
Total municipal tax			386,298.79
Total Tax			1,518,149.09
Total State Payments			193,055.68

Town Clerk Report

Document Preservation: We continue to digitize the land records index and to preserve and bind early grand list books. Effective July 1, 2019, the Vermont legislature, per Act 38 (H.526), requires each town to establish a fund for “restoration, preservation, digitization, and conservation of municipal records.”

The value of the Town’s preserved records is shown in Charles A. Billings’, *A History of Ripton, Vermont, The Story of a Green Mountain Town, 1781-1981, Volume I.* It is a far easier read than our old books, and it is exciting to see this history published.

Dogs: To ensure rabies vaccination and protect public health, Vermont law requires dog licenses. Licenses also help reunite lost dogs with their owner. The annual deadline for licensing is **April 1**. You can license via the mail or by using the drop box outside the office, if we have a current rabies vaccine certificate. Fees are \$9 for neutered or spayed dogs and \$13 for those that are not. Penalties are added after April 1. In 2019, **130 dogs** were licensed – thank you to their owners.

Elections: Residents may register to vote at the town office, through the DMV when renewing a driver’s license, or online at the Secretary of State 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. Early voting may be done at the town office or by absentee ballot. All election day voting is in the Community House. Election dates 2020 are:

- **March 2** **Town Meeting floor vote**
- **March 3** **Town Meeting and School District Australian ballot voting and Presidential Primary**
- **August 11** **Vermont State Primary**
- **November 3** **General Election – President, State**

Voter Participation

Town Meeting			State & Federal Elections		
Year	Total Voters	Voted	Election	Total Voters	Voted
2019	430	145 (33%)	General 2018	429	304 (71%)
2018	408	134 (33%)	Primary 2018	414	167 (40%)
2017	415	119 (29%)	General 2016	429	313 (73%)
2016	406	216 (53%)	State Primary	419	128 (31%)
			Pres Primary	406	216 (53%)

Recording: Act 38 increased document recording fees as of July 1, 2019 from \$10 per page to \$15 per page, with \$4 per page to be allocated to a *Restoration and Preservation Reserve Fund*. The Act also increased the filing fee for a survey plat from \$15 per sheet to \$25 per sheet and established a requirement for digital filing. Assistant clerk, Paula Scott, does most of our land records recording, summarized below.

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

Vital records: As of July 1, 2019, per Act 46, birth and death records are in a Vermont Department of Health vital records system, rather than in town records. You may request a vital record directly at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/stats/vital-records>. You may still request a copy of a vital record from our

office; we enter a request and download the certificate from the State system. An exception is marriage records. We may still issue licenses and provide certified copies from our records.

Vital Records	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Births	1	0	6	6	9
Marriages	5	3	4	6	4
Deaths	2	5	4	5	5

2020 U.S. Census: The U.S. Constitution requires that everyone in the country be counted every ten years. The 2020 Census will determine distribution of more than \$675 billion annually to states and localities through more than 65 federal programs. These programs include special education funding, school lunch programs, meals on wheels, fuel assistance, Medicare, housing rehabilitation, community economic development and revitalization block grants, early childhood education, cooperative extension offices, and more. PLEASE PARTICIPATE!

In March you will receive a letter from the Census Bureau with a questionnaire or instructions about how to respond online. We can help you reply online at the town office. Computer terminals will also be available at the Ilsley Library in Middlebury for census responding. If you do not respond online after the first letter, you will receive another, and another. If you do not respond, you will be visited by a census employee. Your information is protected and is confidential. It is against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household.

Census JOBS are available now - \$20 per hour, including training.

FEMA Mapping: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in coordination with the U.S. Geological Service (USGS), is remapping the Otter Creek Watershed. The project will help provide new flood hazard information and will update our 1985 Flood Insurance Rate maps.

Alison Joseph Dickinson
Town Clerk



Photo: Beth Eliason

Board of Listers Report

Grand List: The grand list shows property ownership and assessed value as of April 1st. Assessed values are based on the last town-wide reappraisal year, 2011. The 2019 grand list increased \$223,200 from 2018, up 0.3%.

CLA and COD: The common level of appraisal (CLA) is the ratio of the grand list value to an “equalized” 100% value determined by the State. As of December 2019, the CLA is 89.39% down from 90.07% in 2018 (but near 89.2% from 2017). The coefficient of dispersion (COD) is a measure of how fairly property tax is distributed. The 2019 COD is 10.81 %, up from 9.18% in 2018, but still a good number. Towns must reappraise when the number reaches 20.

Current Use exemptions: Thirty-nine properties are enrolled in the Current Use Program. Current use land is assessed at its agricultural or forest use value as opposed to market value. In 2019 forestland was valued at \$145 per acre; if greater than a mile from a class 2 or 3 road at \$109 per acre.

Homestead Declarations: Vermont requires residents to file a homestead declaration by **April 15th**. The declaration determines eligibility for a property tax adjustment credit. **PLEASE FILE ON TIME.**

Sales: The table below shows three years of sales data. Sales that are arms-length transactions determine the CLA.

Location	Description	Seller	Month	Sale Price	Grand List Value
Lincoln Rd	28 acres	Hunter	Nov-19	\$40,000	\$99,600
Old Goshen Rd	0.49 acre	Ross	Nov-19	\$10,000	\$13,000
27 Robbins Crossroad	5.8 ac & house	Stewart	Oct-19	\$185,000	\$209,600
58 Peddlers Bridge Rd	7.2 ac & house	Brown	Oct-19	\$275,000	\$249,900
1625 Lincoln Rd	2.5 ac & house	Wimett	Sept-19	\$185,000	\$144,900
Billings Farm Rd	6.56 acres	Billings	July-19	\$34,000	\$32,100
732 Maiden Ln	0.74 ac & house	Billings	June-19	\$200,000	\$155,300
162 Hemlock Ln	10 ac & camp	White	June-19	\$65,000	\$54,800
47 Scott Rd	7.2 ac & camp	Ellis	June-19	\$57,000	\$55,200
503 Pearl Lee Rd	30 ac & house	Morse	June-19	\$420,000	\$468,600
371 County Cross Rd	13.7 ac & house	Kleine	May-19	\$140,000	\$141,500
3791 Lincoln Rd	13.63 ac & house	Ramsey	May-19	\$195,000	\$153,000
1410 Lincoln Rd	1.01 ac & house	Prager & Wheeler	Apr-19	\$235,000	\$186,100
753 Pearl Lee Rd	1.5 ac & house	Alexander	Feb-19	\$136,000	\$131,700
Hemlock Lane	10.02 acres	McLaughlin	Dec-18	\$32,000	\$33,700
Pearl Lee Rd	17 acres	N'Shaiha	Dec-18	\$55,000	\$54,600
395 Natural Turnpike	7.8 ac & house	Woodhams	Nov-18	\$90,000	\$116,600
1192 Rte 125	0.5 ac & store	Collitt	Nov-18	\$175,000	\$154,700
Pearl Lee Rd	1 acre	Stahl	Oct-18	\$2,500	\$9,400
441 Maiden Lane	2.3 ac & house	Dunakin	Oct-18	\$240,000	\$213,800
220 Wagon Wheel Rd	14 ac & house	Read	Sep-18	\$275,000	\$180,000
113 Murray Lane	1.45 ac & house	Cornell	Sep-18	\$180,000	\$143,400
1207 Lincoln Rd	17 ac & house	Martin	Sep-18	\$187,500	\$191,800
Old Town Rd	87.4 acres	Cincotta	Aug-18	\$100,000	\$176,600
3087 Natural Turnpike	17.71 ac & house	Pike	Aug-18	\$385,000	\$254,000
2777 Rte 125	1.4 ac & house	Ryan	Jul-18	\$100,000	\$157,400
498 Scott Rd	27.38 ac & house	Gray	Jul-18	\$201,825	\$180,300

Location	Description	Seller	Month	Sale Price	Grand List Value
2338 North Branch Rd	9.9 ac & house	Nikitin	May-18	\$400,000	\$369,700
3792 Lincoln Rd	1.5 ac & house	Larocque	May-18	\$65,000	\$117,800
301 Dugway Rd	10 acres	Cash	May-18	\$53,000	\$45,500
1078 Natural Turnpike	1 ac & house	Corbin	May-18	\$145,000	\$150,500
1797 North Branch Rd	2.5 ac & camp	Herringshaw	Apr-18	\$50,000	\$81,900
89 Wagon Wheel Rd	4 ac & camp	Haerle	Mar-18	\$90,000	\$83,200
4358 Lincoln Rd	2.8 ac & house	Manning	Mar-18	\$42,200	\$42,200
Eagles Nest Rd	11.25 acres	Harms	Feb-18	\$35,000	\$48,100
301 Dugway Rd	10 acres	Cash	Dec-17	\$48,000	\$45,500
701 Barrows Rd	10.1 ac & camp	Curler	Dec-17	\$35,000	\$49,800
2124 Rte 125	3.64 ac & house	Murphy	Nov-17	\$275,000	\$182,700
471 Robbins Crossroad	10.9 ac & house	Beck	Nov-17	\$292,000	\$283,800
N Branch Rd	23.8 acres	Wisell	Nov-17	\$70,000	\$73,900
1426 Natural Turnpike	5.2 ac & camp	Gerow	Oct-17	\$50,000	\$67,400
1411 Rte 125	0.3 ac & house	Konopke	Sep-17	\$178,000	\$156,500
847 N Branch Rd	3.7 ac & MH	Clark	Sep-17	\$129,000	\$90,000
947 Lincoln Rd	5.6 ac & camp	Clark	Sep-17	\$63,000	\$53,600
344 Hemlock Lane	10 ac & camp	Lavalette	Sep-17	\$40,000	\$39,000
9 Lincoln Rd	0.3 ac & house	McElhaney	Aug-17	\$163,000	\$165,500
1049 Lincoln Rd	5.5 ac & house	Steinberg	Aug-17	\$223,125	\$227,700
1062 N Branch Rd	4.1 ac & house	Gerhart	Aug-17	\$305,000	\$274,100
639 Robbins Crossroad	3.5 ac & house	Christner	Aug-17	\$340,000	\$291,300
28 Fire Brook Rd	20.37 ac & house	Sampson	Jul-17	\$294,000	\$361,500
2000 Chandler Hill Rd	11 ac & camp	Farr	Jul-17	\$40,000	\$56,600
702 Maiden Lane	0.7 ac & house	Fisher	Jul-17	\$59,900	\$58,200
947 Natural Turnpike	1 ac & house	Gardner	Jul-17	\$245,000	\$221,000

Key:

- 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.

Board of Listers

Alison Joseph, Beth Eliason, Erik Eriksen

01/20/2020
05:24 pm

2018 Ripton Billed Grand List
Form 411 - (Town code: 522)
Main District

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

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

01/20/2020
05:26 pm

Ripton 2019 Billed Grand List
Form 411 - (Town code: 522)
Main District

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

REAL ESTATE Category/Code	Parcel Count	Municipal Listed Value	Homestead Ed Listed Value	Non-Resi Ed. Listed Value	Total Education Listed Value
Residential I R1	114	19,782,300	15,362,000	4,420,300	19,782,300
Residential II R2	125	35,756,900	23,819,800	11,937,100	35,756,900
Mobile Homes-U MHU	2	114,300	0	114,300	114,300
Mobile Homes-L MHL	12	994,300	628,000	366,300	994,300
Seasonal I S1	17	960,300	69,400	890,900	960,300
Seasonal II S2	28	2,505,300	0	2,505,300	2,505,300
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	1,039,800	0	1,039,800	1,039,800
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	3,200,400	0	3,200,400	3,200,400
Miscellaneous M	66	3,494,700	53,700	3,441,000	3,494,700
TOTAL LISTED REAL	399	70,811,500	40,305,500	30,506,000	70,811,500
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		70,811,500	40,305,500	30,506,000	70,811,500
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	39/39	6,212,500	2,024,400	4,188,100	6,212,500
Special Exemptions	0		0	0	0
Partial Statutory	0/0	0	0	0	0
Sub-total Exemptions		6,599,600	2,044,400	4,198,100	6,242,500
Total Exemptions		6,599,600	2,044,400	4,198,100	6,242,500
TOTAL MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST		642,119.00			
TOTAL EDUCATION GRAND LIST			382,611.00	263,079.00	645,690.00
NON-TAX 28 NON-TAX PARCELS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE 411					

Delinquent Tax Report

Delinquent Tax Sale: After three years of tax owed and no payment plan agreement, the Randall property at 1568 North Branch Road was subject to tax sale June 18, 2019. With no bidders, the Town purchased the property for the \$7,882.27 due. The owner may redeem the property from the Town by paying the \$7,882.27, plus 1% interest per month, by June 18, 2020.

FY 19 Delinquent Tax: Total due June 30, 2019: **\$13,990.51**

As of June 30, 2019, delinquent tax, and/or penalty and interest was owed by:

David Bralow
Joseph Charest & Carolyn Malzac
Daniel Coughlan
William Howard & Diana Whitney
Javier & Julie Marion
Ian, Brian, John Sr. Peck
James Thompson

Current Year Delinquent Tax: Total due Jan. 30, 2020: **\$31,113.73**

As of January 30, 2020, delinquent tax, and/or penalty and interest was owed by:

David Bralow
Joseph Charest & Carolyn Malzac
Daniel Coughlan
Anthony & Roy Gover
William Howard & Diana Whitney
Cheryl Larocque
Justin Malzac
Javier & Julie Marion
Ian, Brian, John Sr. Peck
Pamela Randall
Ronald Stevers
James Thompson

Revenue	Budget FY19	Actual FY 19	Budget FY20	Budget FY21
Delinquent Taxes	55,000.00	53,830.77	55,000.00	54,000.00
Interest: Delinquent Tax	3,000.00	3,375.98	3,000.00	3,400.00
Penalty: Delinquent Tax	7,000.00	3,962.20	7,000.00	4,000.00
Expense				
Delinquent Tax Collector	7,000.00	4,145.52	5,000.00	4,200.00

Zoning Administrator's Report

SUMMARY OF PERMIT ACTIVITY -

Calendar Year 2019

New dwellings	
Permanent/seasonal houses	0
Camps.....	2
Apartments/accessory dwellings.....	0
Mobile homes	0
Replacements.....	1
Renovations/additions.....	9
Accessory outbuildings/structures	7
Exempt agricultural outbuildings.....	0
Access drives/roads/work in right-of-way.....	0
Ponds/dams/other land development	0
Renewable resource uses (wind turbines, solar panels)	0
Temporary uses.....	1
Signs	0
Subdivisions	
Single-lot	1
Multiple lot.....	0
Boundary adjustments.....	2
Planned unit developments (PUDs).....	0
Renewals of permit	0
Conditional uses.....	2
Certificates of occupancy	12
Verifications of compliance	6
Notices of Violation.....	0
Hearing applications	
Zoning Board of Adjustment	
Conditional use	2
Site Plan Reviews	0
Variances/Waivers	0
Appeals.....	0
Planning Commission	
Subdivisions/PUDs	0
Site plan reviews	0
Historic District Commission	
Historic District developments	1

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan C. Heppell, Zoning Administrator

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

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

In May the Zoning Board of Adjustment approved a Conditional Use Permit for an “Outdoor Camp” at a private residence. In July, the Zoning Board of Adjustment approved a Conditional Use Permit for a ground mounted solar array. In September, the Historic District Commission approved a permit for construction of a wooden deck on the Ripton Country Store. In October, the Zoning Board of Adjustment approved a Conditional Use Permit for a limited after school program at a personal residence.

There are ongoing discussions regarding a new Town sand shed, affordable housing, short term rentals, cell phone reception, internet access, and a proposed energy plan. It is anticipated that there will soon be public hearings on both the energy plan and new Town sand shed in coming months.

Marty Kulczyk, Chair

Warren King, former Chair

Energy Coordinator’s Report

The Ripton Energy Assistance Program (REAP) provides firewood or payments for fuel oil, kerosene or propane for households that qualify under criteria provided by HOPE, with which REAP has a collaborative arrangement. Wood can be made available in an emergency or to avert a likely emergency. In the winter of 2018-2019 REAP provided 3 orders of propane and 2 cords of firewood. Volunteers will be 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 drafted an energy plan that we believe 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 draft has been approved by the Energy Committee and has been reviewed by the Ripton Conservation Commission and the Ripton Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will hold a hearing on it in February 2020, after which the Ripton Selectboard will review it for approval.

Warren King

Conservation Commission Report

Highlights of 2019 activities for the Ripton Conservation Commission:

Conservation Speakers – In 2019, The Ripton Conservation Commission hosted 3 speakers:

- March 28: *Vermont's Wildlife in a Changing Climate*, presented by Tom Rogers, Outreach Division for VT Fish and Wildlife Department
- May 30: *Invasive Plants in Ripton, What You Can Do*, presented by Elizabeth Spinney, Invasive Plant Coordinator for VT Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation
- November 14: *Emerald Ash Borer coming to Ripton*, presented by Ginger Nickerson, Forest Pest Education Coordinator for UVM Extension, and Chris Olson, Addison County Forester

Beaver Meadows Wetland Complex – In 2019, the Beaver Meadows wetland complex was recognized as a Class I wetland. This resulted from the Ripton Conservation Commission filing a Petition to classify the area as a Class I wetland in 2017. The 66-acre Beaver Meadow wetland complex is located within the towns of Ripton and Bristol with a small section in Middlebury, and is wholly within the Green Mountain National Forest. The Beaver Meadows wetland complex provides immense ecological value as habitat for wildlife and plants, including a number of rare, threatened and endangered species. The wetland complex also provides important watershed functions, including floodwater storage and surface and groundwater protection.

Invasive Plant Control – In 2019, the Ripton Conservation Commission was approved for a \$400.00 Tiny Grant from the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions. The funds were used to purchase tools to assist with removing invasive plants – 5 Parsnip Predators and 1 Uprooter. Invasive plants in Ripton are monitored and each year the Ripton Conservation Commission organizes work dates to pull invasive plants. Below are the 2019 activities:

- June 5: pulled garlic mustard and chervil near the Frost Bridge on Rt 125 for 4 person hours
- June 8: pulled garlic mustard on North Branch Rd west of the Dugway for 1 person hour
- June 9: pulled garlic mustard on North Branch Rd east of Dragon Brook Rd for 1.5 person hours
- July 31: pulled wild parsnip at north end of Dragon Brook Rd for 4 person hours

Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) Annual Summit – The 2019 AVCC Annual Summit was held at the Bread Loaf Campus in Ripton. The summit focus was Vermont Conservation Design; Maintaining and Enhancing an Ecologically Functional Landscape. Several members of the Ripton Conservation Commission attended the summit.

Emerald Ash Borer – The Emerald Ash Borer has been identified in Bristol and it is only a matter of time before it appears in Ripton. The Ripton Conservation Commission has started work to map ash trees that are in road right of ways.

The Ripton Conservation Commission welcomes anyone that is interested in learning more about our work and who is interested in protecting the natural resources of our town. Ripton Conservation Commission meeting dates and contact information can be found on the town website.

Mark Nelson, Chair

Recycling Information

DUMPSTER OUTSIDE SHED

- Corrugated cardboard only, broken down and flattened

BIG RED ROLL-OFF CONTAINER INSIDE SHED

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

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

ELSEWHERE INSIDE THE SHED

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

NO, we cannot take the following

- **Plastic bags of any kind!** However, you can now recycle many kinds of plastic bags and wrap by bringing them to the Transfer Station yourself. For information go to AddisonCountyRecycles.org or ask for a flyer at the town office.
- Containers with food residue
- **No Styrofoam** peanuts, blocks, chunks, sheets or trays, even with a recycling symbol
- Plastic containers without the recycling symbol
- Loose bottle and jar caps
- Sheet glass, dishware, goblets and drinking glasses, Pyrex, light bulbs
- Coated cardboard milk or juice containers, waxed, carbon or metallized paper, ribbon, plastic-lined grain sacs, or other compound materials
- Car batteries (take to Transfer Station).
- Fluorescent bulbs (take to Transfer Station)
- Paint cans, even if the paint is dry (Transfer Station takes full or largely full paint cans.)
- **No books, personal or household items!** (Bring to Transfer Station, donate to HOPE or another organization)

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

Recycling Report

The excessive burden imposed on volunteer help who clean up nonrecyclables has caused the town recycling shed and dumpster to be locked when not open and supervised. We apologize for the inconvenience. Recycling and trash drop-off take place from 9 a.m. to noon on the first and third Saturdays of each month and recycling only, no trash, on the first Wednesday of each month from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Recycling drop-off is free. A contribution of \$3 will help offset the cost of recycling. Trash drop-off ends at 11:45 a.m. on recycling Saturdays. Trash disposal is \$3-5 per bag depending on weight.

Burning household waste in burn barrels is illegal, subject to a fine. The fumes pose a serious danger to downwind neighbors.

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

Under assumptions similar to those made since 1994, Ripton's total waste stream in 2019 was 174.2 tons, a decrease from 234.5 tons in 2018. Recyclables comprised 32.7 percent of the total, well below 2018's amount, an unsatisfactory percentage.

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

Recycling Committee

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

Green Up Day

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

In 2020 Green Up Day is Saturday, May 2. Contact Steve Zwicky (388-2301) or Warren King (388-4082) to find out how you can participate.



Ripton Community Coffee House Report

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

We hosted eleven concerts in 2019 including our last concert to be held in July. In January we had to relocate to the multi-purpose room at the Ripton Elementary School due to the burst pipes at the Community House. We were at the Ripton School for February as well and then were at Burnham Hall in Lincoln for our March and April shows. We were incredibly happy to return to the beautifully restored Community House for our May concert. Our concerts had an average attendance of about 125 people. Five of our featured performers were from Vermont. We had forty open mic performers, including people from Ripton and from all over our area. We continue to encourage anyone interested in performing for the open mic to sign up. We have four 12-minute open-mic slots at each concert, so even if you have only limited talent, it just needs to stretch to fill twelve minutes!

Our organization is completely volunteer run. The refreshment sales at our concerts are fundraisers for nonprofit organizations. In 2019 the beneficiaries were the Friends of the Ripton School, Friends of the Ripton Church, Otter Creek Daycare, Wren's Nest Preschool, the OVUHS Theater Group, and the Ripton Community Coffee House. If you are interested in running the refreshment sales to make money for your nonprofit organization, please contact Andrea Chesman at 388-9782.

If you haven't been to the coffeehouse, or haven't been for awhile, please come by for a friendly, all-ages evening and hear some great music. To find out more about the Ripton Community Coffee House visit our website at www.rcch.org.



Photo: Ripton Community Coffeehouse

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, and occasionally at members' homes or at Ripton Community Church. RHS seeks to collect, preserve and restore Ripton's diverse history, and to present that history to the community. Members also seek out and enjoy different aspects of our regional and Vermont history by attending events sponsored by other organizations. For 2019, Ripton Historical Society engaged in a range of activities. Ten monthly meetings were held, the new computer equipment was used by archivist Paula Scott to archive some historical photos, Jamie Cammack added to the Society's digital equipment with her donation of a Canon Inkjet Pixma ip100 photo printer, Ian Malin made some progress in making the RHS website <http://riptonhistoric.org> and expects to be more fully engaged in this endeavor in 2020 to make the site fully functional. In June, Paula Scott and Charles Billings joined members of other local societies at Burnham Hall in Lincoln for Vermont Historical Society's Local History Engagement session. In July, some Ripton residents and residents of other towns joined RHS in a visit to the Ralph Farnsworth Museum in New Haven to enjoy the three-buildings collection of old tractors, cash registers, gas pumps, signs, phonographs, jukeboxes, dairy items, model automobiles, Coke and Pepsi memorabilia, old signs, and much more. In September, *A History of Ripton, Vermont, Volume I*, the first comprehensive history of our town, became available. This is available from Ripton Historical Society, Ripton Country Store, Sheldon Museum, and Vermont Book Shop. Purchases made directly from RHS will financially benefit the society. In October, RHS sponsored a talk by architectural historian Glenn Andres. In his illustrated lecture Professor Andres explored the significance of Addison County's persons and events that impacted local, national, and even international politics, education, manufacturing, abolitionism, conservation, and same-sex marriage. In November, Charles Billings attended East Middlebury Historical Society's walk to Mud Pond and the following week Charles, Paula Scott, and Ripton resident Tom Smith joined East Middlebury Historical Society's historic village walk. EMHS has put together a brochure for the walk to illustrate the historic homes and businesses in the village; you can pick up the brochure at Waybury Inn and do your own historic tour. RHS will be sending 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. Thanks to the "leg-work" of Treasurer Jerry Shedd, your donations to Ripton Historical Society are deductible for Vermont and Federal filings. Ripton Historical Society officers are: President-Charles Billings; Secretary-Alison J. Dickinson; Webmaster-Ian Malin; 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.

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 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.

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

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

Thanks for your cooperation!

Laurie Bertrand
Ripton Postmistress



Photos: Eva Hoffman



Annual Report –Year End June 30, 2019

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) provided the following technical assistance and planning to the Region during its 2019 fiscal year:

Regional and Municipal Planning and Mapping

- Assisted member municipalities creating, adopting and regionally approving their municipal plans.
- Assisted member municipalities creating and adopting local regulations implementing their municipal plan.
- Provided data and mapping products to support on-going municipal planning activities.
- Provided technical assistance to municipal officials concerning municipal government.
- Represented the Region in Act 250 and Section 248 hearings.
- Assisted municipalities in applying for Village Center Designation.

Educational Meetings and Grants

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

Emergency Planning

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

Energy Planning:

- Assisted a third round of five towns, Bristol, Whiting, Vergennes, New Haven and Shoreham in strengthening their energy plans by adding goals and policies supporting renewable energy.
- Began working with Efficiency Vermont and municipalities to implement enhanced energy plans.

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 inventories for local roads.
- Assisted Towns with bike and pedestrian, structures, and stormwater grants.
- Served as a Municipal Project Manager for sidewalk construction projects in Middlebury and Weybridge.
- Sponsored town transportation planning studies, and supported municipal capital budget development.
- Hosted regional Walk/bike council and began planning for the May 2020 Bike/Ped Summit in Middlebury.

Natural Resources Planning

- Actively support the efforts of the Addison County River Watch Collaborative.
- Worked with municipalities to support conservation commissions.
- Participated on the Lake Champlain Basin Program technical advisory committee.
- Provided educational outreach supporting the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan update.
- Assisted in stormwater planning projects and Ecosystem Restoration Program grants.



ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

District Office and Transfer Station

Telephone: (802) 388-2333

Fax: (802) 388-0271

Website: www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org

E-mail: acswmd@acswmd.org

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

Office Hours: M-F, 8 AM–4 PM

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

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

2019 Highlights

Waste Diversion. In 2019, the Universal Recycling Law was amended to require haulers to offer curbside food scrap collection only to nonresidential customers and apartment buildings with 4 or more residential units. By 7/1/2020, **all** generators must divert food scraps (except for bones and meat scraps), and a VT landfill ban on food scraps takes effect. The District is committed to working with each of its member towns, haulers and businesses to plan for the new mandate. The VT Materials Management Plan required all solid waste planning entities to measure the diversion rate of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) that was recycled, reused, reduced and composted in 2018. The District's 2019 Solid Waste Implementation Report showed that the District reached a MSW Diversion Rate of 55.82% in 2018, a record for the District. The District has exceeded the State goal of 50% diversion since 2006, due to the amazing efforts of our residents and businesses to source separate their items, thereby reducing the waste sent to the landfill for disposal.

Recycling. The decline in market prices for most recyclables continued in 2019. Fortunately, the District has been able to weather the recycling losses, which are estimated to reach \$35,000+ by the end of the year. In spite of this, the District's commitment to recycling remains steadfast. Act No. 69 (S.113), adopted this last Legislative session, will take effect on 7/1/2020. It will enact multiple requirements for single-use products provided by a store or food establishment, which will also be prohibited from providing single-use plastic carryout bags. Expanded polystyrene food service products will not be allowed to be sold in VT. Plastic straws will be available upon request only, and plastic stirrers will be banned. A study committee has emerged from Act 69 to further examine ways to manage packaging and printed materials.

Product Stewardship. As a method of controlling costs and keeping unwanted and banned items out of the landfill, the District has continued to be a strong advocate for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws. EPR laws help distribute the cost of recycling and safe management of these products among industry, government and consumers. EPR can alleviate the financial burden on municipalities and residents, while mitigating environmental impacts by increasing collection and recycling rates of covered products. VT now has the second highest number of EPR laws in the U.S. The success of these laws and their economic benefits to the 21 District towns has prompted efforts by the VT Product Stewardship Council, of which the District is a member, to investigate the feasibility of similar laws for household hazardous waste, as well as packaging and printed materials.

Illegal Burning/Disposal. The District contracted with the Addison County Sheriff's Department in 2019 to enforce its Illegal Burning & Disposal Ordinance. The District served again as County Coordinator for Green-Up Day, assisting the many area volunteers who organized collection of roadside litter. The District provided free disposable gloves, prizes for kids, and free disposal of all roadside waste. The District subsidized the disposal of 17.80 tons of roadside trash, 7.49 tons of tires, 3 auto batteries, 11 E-Waste items, 9 appliances, and various other hazardous items, for a total economic benefit to its member towns of \$3,622.

2020 Annual Budget

The District adopted a 2020 Annual Budget of \$3,523,752, a 9.3% increase. The Transfer Station tip fees will increase to \$128/ton for MSW and C&D. The rate for Single Stream Recyclables will increase to \$120/ton. Rates on some other items will have nominal increases. New fees: The District Fee will increase to \$34/ton on all waste destined for disposal. A fee of \$110/ton will take effect for the new Asphalt Shingle and Drywall C&D Recycling program. **There will be no assessments to member municipalities in 2020.** For a copy of the full 2019 Annual Report and Adopted 2020 Rate Sheet, please give us a call, or visit the District website at www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org.



Green Mountain National Forest Town Meeting Report

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

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

Land Acquisition

There were no additional acres acquired in the year of 2019. However, the program remains very active in that we are currently working on a large acquisition located in the towns of Chittenden, Killington and Mendon and a smaller parcel in Dorset. We have further opportunities in the towns of Lincoln, Warren, Ripton and Wallingford. We have been supported by each of the town select boards for these parcels. The addition of these public lands would not be possible without the assistance of The Trust for Public Land, The Conservation Fund, and the support of our local communities.

Road, Dam, & Facility Construction & Maintenance

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

Forest Road Improvement Projects: Improved 5.87 miles of National Forest System roads in towns including Towns of Goshen, Granville, Hancock, Ripton, and Rochester. This work included the replacement of culverts, stabilization of embankments, repairing storm damage, and resurfacing of roads.

Forest Road Maintenance: Maintained 97.43 miles of National Forest System roads in the Towns of Ripton, Rochester, Chittenden, Goshen, Hancock, Mount Tabor, Peru, Readsboro, Somerset, Stamford, Sunderland, Wallingford, Winhall and Woodford. This work included grading, culvert cleaning, mowing and brushing.

Road-Stream Crossing Improvements: Completed an Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) project in the Town of Goshen on Forest Road 24B, Voter Brook Overlook. This project not only restores aquatic organism passage but also improves the flood resiliency of the road.

Local Efforts

Forest Service staff partnered with BHOC, CTA, GMC, MA, VAST, RASTA, VYCC, VMBA, and local contractors to repair trails and replace / upgrade 17 trail bridges in Barnard, Chittenden, Goshen, Killington, Mendon, Middlebury, Pittsfield, Ripton, Rochester, Stockbridge, and Warren.

Goshen, Leicester, Ripton, Salisbury: Numerous partners, agencies and organizations joined forces to discuss management of the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area. Strategic planning continues -- if you are also interested in helping, please contact the Rochester Ranger District.

Ripton: Robert Frost renovations are underway with a new kiosk and boardwalk nearly complete to welcome visitors of all abilities.

Wilderness

The GMNF continued to implement the National Wilderness Stewardship Performance measures, including developing and implementing a Wilderness Interpretive Plan. A 2019 stewardship grant enabled the Forest Service to partner with the Society of Wilderness Stewardship to monitor and manage ecosystem processes with an emphasis on non-native invasive species and hydrology. Additionally, the Forest Service hired a Wilderness Technician to educate visitors about Leave No Trace principles while conducting monitoring efforts and data collection in wilderness areas.

Botany Program

Botanical inventory for rare plants and non-native invasive plants was completed as part of the following projects:

- Sites for 15 small projects in Bennington, Manchester, Peru, Readsboro, Ripton, Rochester, Mount Tabor, Stratton, Weston, and Winhall.

In support of the Upper White River Cooperative Weed Management Association, of which the GMNF is a founding member, staff, with the help of Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, accomplished non-native invasive plants activities including data collection and hand-pulling.

In addition to infestations controlled within the Upper White River Cooperative Weed Management Association boundary, many other small infestations were controlled by staff, contractors, volunteers, and partner organizations, including Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, Green Mountain Club, and Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

- Ripton: 58.9 acres of wild chervil and 0.1 acres of wild parsnip along various Forest roads and the Robert Frost trails.

Educational experiences were provided to Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and Sierra Club volunteers in return for their volunteer invasive plant control efforts. A snowshoe trip to look at winter plant and animal life was offered in Ripton.

Forest Vegetation Management

- The Forest awarded contracts for timber stand improvement and crop tree release work on 97 acres of young forest in the towns of Chittenden, Granville, Ripton and Winhall.
- Permits were sold for approximately 333 cords of firewood, 400 (estimated) Christmas trees, 840 pounds of wild apples, 2 tons of boughs, 400 pounds of spruce tips, and 200 pounds of wild mushrooms.
- Staff continued work in restoring native trees (including butternut, American chestnut and beech) with research partners. GMNF employees located “challenged” beech trees that appeared to be resistant to beech scale insect in order to test their resistance.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement

Wildlife habitat was improved and maintained through the creation and maintenance of early successional habitat important to many species. Approximately 200 acres of permanent upland openings were maintained by prescribed fire, mowing, or mastication in the towns of East Dorset, Goshen, Granville, Hancock, Hartford, Lincoln, Manchester, Mount Holly, Mount Tabor, Pittsfield, Pomfret, Ripton, Rochester, Warren, Stockbridge, Salisbury, South Wardsboro, Stratton, Woodford, and Winhall.

In a partnership with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, GMNF staff continued a program to monitor for the possible presence of the federally-threatened Canada lynx through the use of camera traps. This program began in response to two confirmed lynx sightings in 2016 near GMNF lands. The goal was to determine if a breeding population occurs on the GMNF while also collecting valuable data on other carnivores. Camera traps were monitored across the GMNF in the towns of Chittenden, Hancock, Glastenbury, Granville, Killington, Leicester, Lincoln, Manchester, Mount Holly, Mount Tabor, Peru, Readsboro, Ripton, Searsburg, Somerset, Stamford, Stratton, Sunderland, Wallingford, Wardsboro, Warren, Weston, Wilmington, Winhall, and Woodford. Despite the camera trapping effort, monitoring has not provided evidence of a breeding population in the Forest.

Long-term Ecosystem Monitoring

During 2015, a group of collaborators from the RSENr, the Vermont Department of Forests Parks and Recreation and the FEMC developed a state-wide network of forest health monitoring plots, building on past and existing forest health monitoring initiatives, including plots on the GMNF associated with the GMNF LEMP project, the

Forest Service's Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, and the State's Hardwood Health Survey. This partnership led to the inclusion of a total of 12 plots on the GMNF as part of this network, in the towns of Bristol, Lincoln, Ripton, Salisbury, Leicester, Hancock, Rochester, Wallingford, Peru, Winhall, and Woodford. Monitoring at these locations will provide insight into long-term changes occurring in relatively undisturbed forest ecosystems in response to stressors such as atmospheric deposition, climate change, and invasive pests. These plots were monitored in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Wildfire and Prescribed Fire Activities

Fire management personnel on the GMNF were very active this past season accomplishing twentytwo prescribed fires, including 10 acres of blueberry patches in Ripton, while suppressing four GMNF wildfires. The fire management staff would like to thank the dedicated firefighters from the volunteer and local fire departments that responded to and assisted in the suppression of the wildfires that occurred this past year on the GMNF.

Public Outreach / Conservation Education

Again in 2019 the GMNF partnered with Shelburne Farms to support the Forest for Every Classroom, Climate Resiliency program which works to educate New England-based teachers about forest stewardship issues, provide tools to develop place-based service-learning curricula that meet current educational standards, and use local landscapes, resources and community to connect classroom learning to real world application. Over the course of the year-long program participants integrate hands-on natural and cultural explorations into curriculum to address concepts in ecology, sense of place, stewardship, and civics. Participants in turn implement their learning into their instruction during the school year, then share out and reflect on their experiences with their fellow peers. The program continues to be a huge success in helping educators transfer and translate sustainability concepts into their curriculum, instruction, and life.

Another critical program that we are proud to support is the Vermont Envirothon. The Vermont Envirothon helps students focus on Vermont's environmental issues related to forestry, wildlife, soils and water resources through real-world learning in a teamwork environment. We would like to thank the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts for coordinating this important program and the many agencies and natural resource and conservation partner organizations that work hard to make the Vermont Envirothon possible each year. The program provides an opportunity for hands-on field experiences and activities with professionals in the field and serves as a way for high school-aged students to actively learn more about the natural world around them while they work together. Students learn to incorporate science-based investigations in helping to explore environmental issues. The 24th Vermont Envirothon was held on May 22, 2019 at Vermont Technical College in Randolph, Vermont. Eight schools across the state explored the Envirothon curriculum this year. Ten teams were able to join for the culminating event.

Another key component of the Envirothon program in 2019 was the Training Day held on April 3 at Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Historical Park and Billings Farm and Museum in Woodstock. A total of 70 people participated in this event.

Again, thank you for your support of your National Forest. Together, we will continue to maintain and improve this valuable treasure for generations to come. Our offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM. You can also visit us and learn more about the GMNF at our website online: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/gmfl>. **Like us on** Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GreenMountainFingerLakesNF/>

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

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Local Health Report for Addison County

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. Your district office is in Middlebury at the address and phone number above. We provide a wide range of resources and services to the community and local partners with the goal of promoting health and wellness for all Vermonters. For example, in 2019 we:

Supported health in the community: United Way of Addison County received funding from the Health Department to coordinate evidence-based prevention strategies to address youth alcohol use, marijuana use, and prescription drug misuse. New Haven improved bike-ability by widening shoulders when repaving local roads in response to a request from the Addison Walk Bike Council.

Provided WIC food and nutrition education to families: In Addison County, we served 785 Vermont families and children with the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Education and Food Supplementation Program, which provides individual nutrition education and breastfeeding support, healthy foods, and a debit card to buy fruit and vegetables.

Ensured emergency preparedness: Worked with local partners, including schools, hospitals, and emergency personnel, to ensure we are prepared to distribute medicine, supplies, and information during a public health emergency.

Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease: Responded to 110 infectious disease cases in our region. We participated in the statewide effort to prevent the spread of Hepatitis A disease by conducting vaccine clinics in several locations in Addison County. We conducted community education to raise awareness about the increase in diseases spread by ticks. We also helped statewide and national health partners understand the risk of vaping and e-cigarette use.

Student health and youth empowerment: According to the 2017 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 30 % of students in Addison County feel they do not matter to people in their community. In 2018, we collaborated with community organizations to improve youth resiliency by launching the OK. You've Got This campaign. www.okyouvegotthis.org

Substance misuse and abuse: Our new Substance Abuse Prevention Consultant is making local connections in the field of substance use, with partners and projects ranging from prevention to treatment and recovery.

Learn more at <https://healthvermont.gov/local>
Join us on <https://www.facebook.com/vdhmiddlebury>

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, and show that our positive net position continues.

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 inquiries. In 2019, VLCT continued to provide members with timely legal and technical assistance, including answering more than 4,000 legal questions and publishing legal compliance guidance, templates and research reports, many of which are available to our members on our website.
- **Training programs on topics of specific concern to officials** who carry out the duties required by statute or are directed by town meeting mandates. The League provided training on various topics related to municipal law and governance to more than 1,000 members this past year.
- **Representation before the state legislature and state agencies**, 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 achieve tangible results on pressing issues such as road and bridge repair, cybersecurity, housing and economic growth, renewable energy, emergency medical services, reducing carbon emissions, and ensuring water quality. Members are also represented at the federal level primarily through our partner, the National League of Cities, as well as directly with Vermont's Congressional delegation.
- **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 Trust (VERB) provides unemployment insurance, life, disability, dental, and vision insurance products to members at a competitive price. Both programs provide 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 visit the VLCT office anytime to review the operations of the organization, to ask questions, and to access resources that can help each individual official and employee carry out the important work of local government.

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



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

White River Junction VA Medical Center

215 North Main Street

White River Junction, VT 05009

866-687-8387 (Toll Free)

802-295-9363 (Commercial)

In Reply Refer to: 405/00

December 23rd, 2019

Dear Veteran,

The White River Junction VA Medical Center is attempting to contact all Veterans in our catchment area of Vermont and New Hampshire who are not enrolled or are enrolled and no longer utilizing our services. If you currently receive our services, please pass this note on to a Veteran who may benefit.

We offer a wide variety of services including assistance to Veterans who are homeless or unemployed to providing primary and specialty care. We have a robust mental health department offering one-on-one counseling, peer support, group sessions, and more. There is a designated treatment area for our women Veterans at the Women's Comprehensive Care Clinic; a safe space.

The White River Junction VA Medical Center has seven community-based outpatient clinics. They are located in Bennington, Rutland, Brattleboro, Newport and Burlington, Vermont; in New Hampshire we offer services in Keene and Littleton. We are here to serve all Veterans, please do not hesitate to contact us, if for no other reason than to register/enroll with us in case of future need.

Our eligibility office in White River Junction can be reached at 802-295-9363 extension 5118. A single form - VA form 10-10EZ – and a copy of the DD214 is all that is needed.

The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have full time service officers that are knowledgeable about our programs. These independent organizations serve all Veterans including nonmembers in processing disability and pension claims. They can be reached in White River Junction at:

American Legion	802-296-5166
Disabled American Veterans	802-296-5167
Veterans of Foreign Wars	802-296-5168

Thank you for your service to our nation. On behalf of the White River Junction VA Medical Center team, we look forward to serving you.

Respectfully;

Becky Rhoads, Au.D.
Associate Medical Center Director

Minutes of the 2019 Town of Ripton Annual Meeting

Approximately 75 Ripton voters met Monday, March 4, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Community House to act upon Articles 1-5 of the Annual Town Meeting Warning, and to discuss Other Business items under Article 6. Moderator Tim Hanson called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. He reviewed the process for discussion and voting prior to reading Article 1.

Article 1: Will the Town vote the sum of **\$650,270** to pay General Fund and Highway Fund expenses for July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020, divided as follows:

General Fund \$253,170 Highway Fund \$397,100

Moved Carol Ford/Second Barry King

Selectboard chair, Laurie Cox, explained there are no significant budget changes. There is a change in the revenue line for Current Use funds. The Current Use allocation was previously shown as going entirely to General Fund revenue. However, it was split between the General Fund and Highway Fund when setting the tax rate, so is now shown that way in the FY 2020 budget. Some expenses such as for work on the town buildings are not directly in the budget. Community House repairs, needed because of water damage at the beginning of January, will be covered by insurance.

Ron Wimett explained weather related Highway Fund budget increases for sanding, plowing, and storm damage. Ms. Cox pointed out the roadwork grants listed on page 22 of the town report. The grants help offset cost increases and along with our tax dollars allow us to do excellent roadwork.

Marty Kulczyk asked why delinquent tax revenue was \$102,973 but the budget amount was \$50,000. Ms. Cox explained the unknown factors around delinquent tax due and collected make the budget figure an approximation. For fiscal year 2018, the delinquent tax collector was very successful collecting.

Charles Billings asked if property sales in the listers' report indicate young families were moving into town. Alison J. Dickinson pointed out that three years of sales were listed in the report; several sales were to young families, some with children.

Charles Billings asked if we owe the grants to Alison's work. Laurie Cox responded, yes; applause followed. Ms. Cox referred to our success at receiving road grants since Tim Hanson's time as selectboard clerk. Every year we've received grants that allow us to have good infrastructure. Ron Wimett noted pros and cons - the grants come with stipulations and rules. We now even need permits to work on our town roads that are close to water, so that we don't put silt in the river.

Dick Collitt asked if there are corrective measures, such as alarms, to prevent water damage from happening again in the Community House. Ms. Cox explained that there is an alarm light in an east window and that other systems will be installed. Mar Harrison commented on the light system.

Seeing no further discussion, the moderator read the question and called for a vote.

APPROVED by voice vote

Article 2: Will the Town vote to apply \$50,000 from the 2017-18 General Fund surplus to the Town Building Fund?

Moved David Harple/Second Richard Ruane

Ms. Cox explained that voters must be asked what to do with a General Fund surplus. The surplus is \$86,855. The board proposes putting \$50,000 into the Town Building Fund for work needed at the town office building. The work ranges from mundane maintenance to full renovation with access to the second floor. The board obtained basic architectural plans to compare renovation versus new construction. The two are in the same ballpark cost-wise. Ms. Cox noted the town office building is the center of three iconic structures.

The board will now look for more solid plans for solid numbers. They may look for grants and donations, may need a bond for the work, and will bring proposals to the voters. Mia Allen asked if the upstairs is rented. The answer is no, it is used for some meetings. Tom McElhaney asked what becomes of the rest of the surplus. Ms. Cox said the board may keep a cushion to help with cash flow and stabilizing taxes when setting the tax rate. The approximately \$36,000 is an appropriate amount.

APPROVED by voice vote

Article 3: Will the Town vote the sum of \$41,000.00 to the Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department to pay expenses for July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020?

Moved Jeremy Grip/Second Norm Tjossem

Chief Erik Eriksen described the Department's campaign to raise funds to replace its 1998 utility truck and 1988 pumper with one newer model 4-wheel drive mini-pumper. Approximately \$50,000 has been raised by direct solicitation and response to a recent mailing.

Jerry Shedd, Paula Scott, Molly Witters, Mar Harrison, Sue Collitt, Tom Smith, and Barry King joined in discussion with Chief Eriksen. Topics included the fundraising letter statement about access to structures, existing funds, fundraising goal, vehicle needs, and if this discussion had anything to do with the budget in Article 3. Chief Eriksen responded that many driveways and class IV roads are difficult to access. The goal of \$90,000 is to retain some of the Vehicle Replacement Fund for other vehicles. The department needs a basic mini rig that can pump water and carry medical equipment. Federal grants are population driven and require purchase of a new vehicle, so are not a good option for us. With no questions about the budget, the Article was moved.

APPROVED by voice vote

Article 4: Will the Town vote the sum of \$6,000.00 to the Ripton Cemetery Commission to pay expenses for July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020?

Moved Richard Ruane/Second Carol Ford

Chair Liz Walker explained last year's expenditure for fencing at Galvin Cemetery, asked for questions, and invited all to their monthly meetings.

APPROVED by voice vote

Article 5: Will the Town vote to have current property taxes collected by the Treasurer with a tax due date of Thursday, November 1, 2019, postmarks not accepted?

Moved Richard Ruane/Second Erik Eriksen

Alison J. Dickinson explained that this changes the date from the first Thursday of the month, to the first day, and from accepting postmarks to not. For many years, November 1 was the due date, but the date was moved to help those who received payments the first of the month. Now those payment dates vary. People sometimes remember the past year's date as the due date and mistakenly pay late. A fixed day may prevent that. Envelopes are not always postmarked. This was a problem last year. Virginia Clark asked what happens if the first is on Saturday or Sunday. Treasurer Carolyn Smith responded that if the first is a Saturday, she will be in the office. If the first is a Sunday, taxes will be accepted Monday.

APPROVED by voice vote

Article 6: Other Business

- A. Sand/salt shed project: Selectors Laurie Cox and Ron Wimett explained the problems of the current winter sand storage location, and a grant the Town received to relocate the sand pile. The selectboard

is working with an engineering firm but does not have a site. They are looking for at least two acres not far from the center of town and have contacted many property owners. Lyle Webb, Zapata Courage, Gary Wisell, Molly Witters, Laura McIntosh, Tom McElhaney, Virginia Clark, and Tom Smith participated in discussion with the selectboard. Topics included the existing site, environmental benefits of a new site, winter access, aesthetics, the Stewart property, US Forest Service property or a special use permit, timeframe, school and RVFD land, Sparks Pit, and realtors.

B. Trash and recycling

- a. Locked shed: Warren King introduced the plan to lock the recycling shed because of the intolerable amounts of non-recyclables left when the shed is unattended. He explained what is recyclable and not. Though recycling drop-off is free, Mr. King asked that people continue to donate to help offset costs. Walter O'Donahue, Charles Billings, Laura McIntosh, Mac Cox, Lyle Webb, Mindy Harvey-Salomon, Tom Cabot, Jeremy Grip, Jaime Cammack, Zapata Courage, and Mar Harrison participated in discussion. Topics included: dumping, cameras, bottle caps, thanks for those who clean the shed, adding the cost of disposal to taxes for municipal services, a coupon system, what happens to recyclables downstream, the market for recyclables, non-conforming items, books, and compost collection at ACSWMD.
- b. Additional drop-off hours: Evening drop-off on the 1st Wednesday each month was described by Warren King in item a.

Break for State Representative: 8:25 – 8:35 PM

The moderator asked and the meeting APPROVED to suspend business to allow Representative Peter Conlon to speak. Representative Conlon spoke of being in his third year and that it was his honor and privilege to be the messenger of House Concurrent Resolution 47 in honor of Dick and Sue Collitt for their forty-plus years of dedicated proprietorship of the Ripton Country Store. The Collitts were called forward and received a standing ovation. Representative Conlon then described expense and revenue issues and bills under consideration, and left copies of his annual town meeting report.

The business of the meeting resumed 8:35 PM.

C. Ripton Elementary School (RES) & Friends of the Ripton School (FORS)

Ripton School Principal, Tracey Harrington, offered to answer questions. Voters applauded Perry Hanson and thanked him for his time on the Addison Central Supervisory District (ACSD) Board and the Ripton Selectboard. Amy McGlashan spoke of her candidacy for the ACSD Board and her experience on the Ripton Elementary School Board. Bonnie DeGray, also a former RES Board member, offered to be a write-in candidate for the ACSD Board. Laura McIntosh spoke for FORS and invited all to the next FORS event, a March 31 spaghetti dinner at the school.

D. Any other business:

- Charles Billings referred to the Ripton Historical Society (RHS) Report on page 38 of the town report, and the photo of School No. 1 and students on page 2. He noted Paula Scott is the current archivist, and Ian Malin replaced Brian Alexander, who has moved, as webmaster. Charles' book on the history of Ripton is expected to be published this year. He described activities and welcomes new members to RHS.
- Zapata Courage pointed to the Ripton Conservation Commission Report on page 33. She announced upcoming speakers, and invasive species management days.
- Marty Kulczyk reminded residents to post reflective 911 street number signs to help fire and rescue responders.
- Marty Kulczyk recognized Warren King, who resigned as chair of the Ripton Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment and Historic District Commission, after 16 years, in Oct. 2018. Warren remains a member, which he has been for 25 years.
- Barry King asked for volunteers to sign-up for recycling duty.

E. Motion to Adjourn Richard Ruane/Second by Erik Eriksen, approved

The Moderator adjourned the floor portion of the meeting at 8:50 PM

The Meeting recessed until 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2019, with polls in the Ripton Community House open 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. The following articles were voted by Australian ballot.

Article 7: Officers – elected

- Selector: Timothy Hanson
- Moderator: Molly Witters
- Delinquent Tax Collector: Kathleen B. Sullivan
- Constable: Perry Hanson
- Cemetery Commissioner: Bonnie Swan
- Lister: Erik Eriksen
- Town Agent: 6 names written-in, of those Wendy Harlin appointed

Article 8: Funding requests – all approved

Alison Joseph Dickinson, Town Clerk
Laureen Cox, Selectboard Chair
Timothy Hanson, Moderator



Photo. Eva Hoffman

No. R-59. House concurrent resolution honoring Susan and Richard Collitt for their 40-plus years of dedicated proprietorship of the Ripton Country Store.

(H.C.R.47)

Offered by: Representative Conlon of Cornwall

Offered by: Senators Bray and Hardy

Whereas, the population of the rural Addison County municipality of Ripton numbers approximately 600 persons, and

Whereas, located on Route 125, the primary highway that traverses the town, and not far from Middlebury College, the Ripton Country Store serves as a hub of local commerce and community socializing, and

Whereas, in the mid-1970s, Sue and Dick Collitt and their children resided in a Philadelphia suburb, and

Whereas, upon reading a *Wall Street Journal* advertisement announcing the sale of the Ripton Country Store, Sue and Dick Collitt were intrigued and became the store's new owners, and according to the available documentation, they were the fifth owners since the store opened in 1879, and

Whereas, ownership of this iconic Vermont mercantile institution, featuring a potbellied stove and an intentionally misspelled ice sign, became an all-encompassing venture for Sue and Dick Collitt, as the Ripton Country Store is open for 12 hours per day, Monday to Friday, 10 hours daily on Saturday and Sunday and is closed only on Christmas and part of Thanksgiving Day, and

Whereas, the Ripton Country Store features a diverse inventory of commercially marketed products, including groceries, penny candy, rock salt, kitty litter, bootlaces, baking supplies, and laundry accessories, and

Whereas, locally produced products, ranging from eggs to pickled beets, are also offered for sale, and

Whereas, the local post office's colocation with the store and the store's proximity to local Alpine and Nordic ski facilities create a steady flow of visitors, and

Whereas, when the Collitts decided to sell the business, Ripton resident and noted environmental activist and author Bill McKibben wrote an affectionate and informative classified ad on behalf of his friends, in the form of an illustrated *New York Times* op-ed that drew many inquiries, and

Whereas, after over 40 years of admirable stewardship, Sue and Dick Collitt have sold the Ripton Country Store, and it will continue the traditions of convenience and hospitality for which it has been known, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Susan and Richard Collitt for their 40-plus years of dedicated proprietorship of the Ripton Country Store, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Sue and Dick Collitt and to the Ripton Country Store.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ripton Elementary School, along with the other ACSD schools, is committed to providing a safe, creative, courageous and inquisitive learning environment for all our students. The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program supports this mission by putting students in the center of their learning --working with them to guide their thinking while using questioning and inquiry to build understanding and self-awareness. This year we have adopted a school pledge that is posted around the school and recited together at our weekly All School Meeting. It states, *"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."* We are a close-knit community with many valued connections between school, home and the larger Ripton/Granville/Hancock community. This pledge helps us remember what we are striving to accomplish each day we are together.

The six transdisciplinary units of inquiry within the International Baccalaureate framework encourage us to ask big questions and think broadly about important concepts from perspective, to change, to connection, to cause and effect. In addition, we incorporate our school-wide behavior expectations (Be Safe, Be Kind, Work Hard and Work Together) with the Learner Profile Attributes to provide explicit guidance and instruction on students' social-emotional growth and development. As a whole-school, we have been exploring how our experiences in life shape our beliefs and values, and that our beliefs and values make us who we are and influence how we live and the choices we make. The second half of the year promises to provide a variety of valuable learning experiences related to this big idea, one of which is a series of five workshops with retired Alexander Twilight Artist in Residence and professor of American negro spirituals and their effect on world music at Middlebury College, Francois Clemmons. We want to thank the Vermont Arts Council and Friends of Ripton School, Inc for their artist in residency grants to make this experience possible.

Winter and spring in Ripton allow for a variety of outdoor experiences for our students and staff, from Nordic and alpine skiing, to exploring the rivers and trails nearby, to a week-long stay on Lake Dunmore at the Keewaydin Environmental Education Center for our 5th & 6th graders. Our dedicated parent and community volunteers continue to support community engagement and student programs from the Ripton Ridge Run in October to a Community Thanksgiving Luncheon, gift making and holiday gift programs, pizza bakes, guest performances, field trips and many volunteer hours both in and out of the classroom. We are grateful for their enthusiasm and support; we are fortunate to have such a compassionate and engaged school community and district.

Tracey Harrington, Principal

RIPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FY21 Budget Summary

	FY20 Budget	FY21 Proposed	% Difference
1100 - Direct Instruction	506,709	504,299	-0.48%
1120 - PreK Program	0	27,208	
1400 - Athletics and After School Program	19,764	17,377	-12.08%
2100 - Support Services - Regular Education	500	500	0.00%
2120 - Guidance	18,394	17,670	-3.94%
2130 - Health	16,029	17,886	11.59%
2150 - Speech and Language Pathology	6,824	0	-100.00%
2220 - Media	36,827	39,202	6.45%
2410 - Administration	108,340	112,234	3.59%
2600 - Facility Operations	20,132	27,397	36.09%
2720 - Transportation-Field Trips	300	300	0.00%
5100 - Debt Service	18,392	18,047	-1.87%
5310 - Fund Transfers to Food Service	7,500	7,500	0.00%
Total Budget	759,710	789,621	3.94%

1100: PreK portion shown in 1120
 1120: Previously shown in 1100, required to be coded separately per state
 1400: Based on estimated costs
 2130: Wage and benefit changes, health insurance premium increase
 2220: Increase in health insurance premium
 2600: Staff turnover, increased supply line

Friends of the Ripton School

Friends of the Ripton School (FORS) is a group of volunteers who work together to make the Ripton Elementary School the best it can be. We offer our assistance to the school when needed and organize fundraising and other events at the school and in the community. Because of our community's generosity in donating to FORS and in supporting our fundraisers (the Ripton Ridge Run, Pizza Bakes, apparel and High Mowing Seed sales, redeemable bottle collections, and Coffee House bake sales) FORS has been able to fully or partially fund a variety of activities and events. This past year has included a Multicultural Artist in Residency with artists Will Kasso and Christal Brown. Will Kasso worked with the students on mural-making and left Ripton Elementary School with a spectacular full-sized mural in the gym. Christal Brown worked with the kids on movement and dance, and the students performed their work at Grandfriends' Lunch in May. In addition, FORS helped make possible the 5th/ 6th grade class trip to Osmore Pond, an all-school performance from the VT Symphony Orchestra Fiddlesticks, the annual Thanksgiving Community Luncheon, an all-school ice-skating trip, May Day Baskets, a daily fruit or veggie snack, the Evening of Discussion with our community and ACSD board members, musical instrument scholarships, and much more.

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

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

For more information please contact Laura McIntosh at forsincvt@gmail.com.

2019 Ripton Ridge Run

The 32nd Annual Ripton Ridge Run raised about \$8,800 for FORS through the efforts of many generous local sponsors plus about 60 Ripton volunteers. A big thanks to all! About 185 runners and walkers participated including plenty of Ripton residents and school children. For information about the 2020 event for volunteering (beforehand, during or after the event) or participating on Sunday, Oct. 11, go to the Ridge Run website <http://www.riptonridgerun.org>, contact Barry King at 388-4082 or talk with Wendy Leeds at school.

ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Like many communities across Vermont, we are experiencing significant demographic changes that have a direct impact on our budget. ACSD's student population has dropped by 100 students over the last two years as a wave of larger classes have graduated, and we expect our population to continue to decline through 2025. This shift has brought a renewed focus to budget development as we look at continuing to provide exceptional educational experiences for our students while reckoning with losses in revenue. It's clear that our work is to be as proactive as possible in leveraging our strengths and building forward so that we do not move into a reactive response to our financial pressures that brings isolated and fragmented problem solving.

In addition, health care costs continue to increase at significant rates. For the FY21 budget, we are facing a 13% increase in health care premiums, along with an increase in costs moving forward as a result of the new statewide educator health care system. With exemptions, ACSD will not face additional tax consequences despite the fact that we are spending above the excess spending threshold for the first time as a unified district. This spending threshold is set annually by the state, and will be discussed at our Annual Meeting on February 25 at 7:00 PM at MUHS.

It's critical as we look at our budgetary challenges in the years ahead that we stay true to our vision as a community of doing our best and taking care of each and every student in our schools. I am grateful for the support that our communities provide for our students, which makes an impact every day on their lives. I look forward to working together as a single community of ACSD to work through our challenges, recognize the considerable strengths we hold, and focus on providing our students the very best.

Sincerely,
Peter Burrows, Superintendent
Addison Central School District

ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR

The Addison Central School District proposed 2020-2021 school budget represents shifts in spending based on enrollment changes, but no significant programmatic changes from the current year. In some schools, staffing increased along with enrollment. In others, staffing decreased for the same reason. Overall, however, the district continues to provide the same excellent educational opportunities going forward.

The factors leading to our budget-to-budget increase of 3.74 percent to \$39.5 million for next year include a large increase in health care cost for our employees – about 13 percent – contractual obligations for salaries and other benefits, and significant increases in busing costs. No new programs have been added.

As the district continues to adjust to enrollment declines and acting as a unified district, one clear benefit is the ability to offer teachers who may be caught in a reduction in staff at one school, a vacant position at another. This year, that provided all affected teachers the opportunity to remain part of ACSD.

The ACSD continues to be focused on its Facilities Master Plan, carefully studying our current capacity for educating our students, the condition of our buildings, and the opportunities for equity and value to taxpayers that adjustments can provide. The board hopes to have the plan and its guiding decisions wrapped up by the end of this school year.

This work of the board has generated strong community interest and will continue to do so. That community input to date has proven valuable, and the opportunities for further public conversation will continue through the spring. Despite the challenging nature of the Facilities Master Plan work, the ACSD board greatly appreciates not only the public's interest, but civil, thoughtful and well-intentioned interactions that have taken place throughout the fall and winter.

We are fortunate to live in a community that takes public education seriously and consistently supports the needs of its students.

Peter Conlon, Board Chair
Addison Central School District

ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Year to Year Budget Summary

Expenditures		FY20 Revised Budget	FY21 Proposed	% Change
	Student Instruction	22,885,869	23,842,589	4.18%
	Special Education	5,453,167	5,537,917	1.55%
	Universal Pre-K	483,264	496,080	2.65%
	Technical/Career Center Education	1,108,509	1,246,668	12.46%
	Transportation	872,306	916,509	5.07%
	Facilities	1,505,538	1,682,165	11.73%
	Technology	1,085,224	1,116,957	2.92%
	District Office Administration	1,124,450	1,166,543	3.74%
	Professional Development	302,210	330,507	9.36%
	Curriculum	373,087	296,969	-20.40%
	Board of Education	509,490	466,755	-8.39%
	Debt Service	332,956	339,405	1.94%
	Contingency	310,000	310,000	0.00%
Cost Neutral Expenditures	State Grant Related Expenditures	15,000	15,000	0.00%
	Consolidated Federal Program	951,120	904,294	-4.92%
	Special Education Federal Grant Expenditures	553,084	611,926	10.64%
	Other programs (Medicaid, EPSDT)	162,538	167,388	2.98%
	Special Funds	54,607	55,478	1.60%
	Total Expenditures	38,082,419	39,507,837	3.74%
Separately Warned Articles	Special Article - Ed Reserve Fund	-	1,282,303	
	Special Article - Capital Reserve Fund	123,801		
Revenues	Local	1,177,794	991,597	-15.81%
	State	3,754,524	3,808,298	1.43%
	Federal	1,504,204	1,516,220	0.80%
	Other	217,145	227,553	4.79%
	Total Revenues	6,653,667	6,543,668	-1.65%
	Prior Year Fund Balance	123,801	1,282,303	
Total Local Education Spending	Education Spending	31,428,752	32,964,170	4.89%
	Equalized Pupils	1,796.17	1,748.97	-2.63%
	Education Spending/Equalized Pupil	17,497.65	18,855.85	7.76%

ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FY21 Tax Calculation

Our total Local Education Spending amount of \$32,964,170 is the first and only figure used in calculating our tax rate that we have control over. The other components in the formula are supplied by the Tax Department or Agency of Education.

All figures are subject to changes by the State Legislature

Projected Property Yield:	\$10,883
Projected Income Yield:	\$13,396
Projected Non-residential rate:	\$1.6540
Projected Spending Threshold:	\$18,756
ACSD Equalized pupils:	1,748.22

ACSD Tax Rate Calculation

Local Education Spending	\$32,964,170
Divided by Equalized Pupils	$\div 1,748.22$
Education Spending/Equalized Pupil	\$18,855.85

Education Spending/Equalized Pupil	\$18,855.85
Divided by the Property Tax Yield	$\div \$10,883$
Equalized District tax rate	\$1.7326

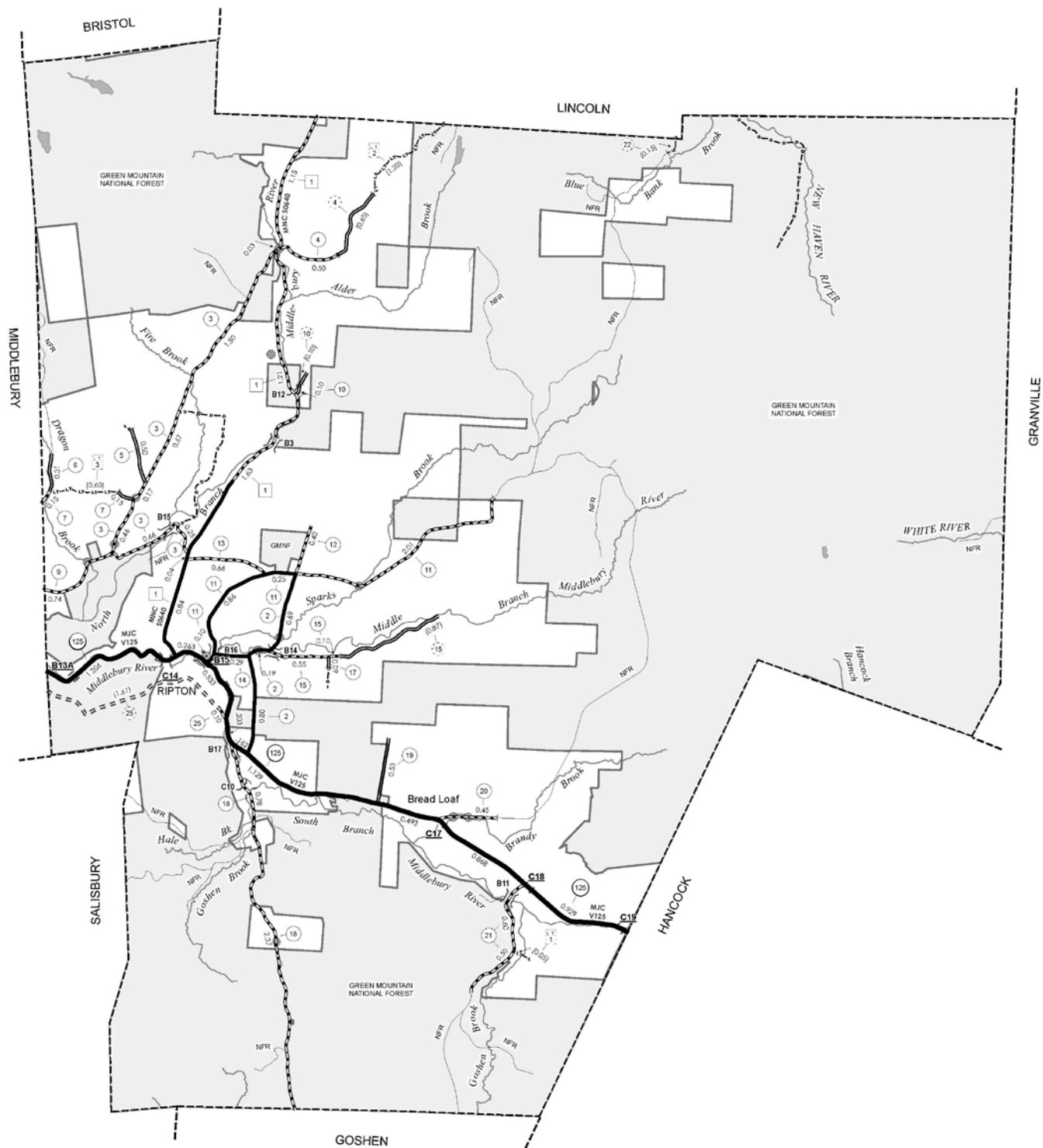
Equalized District tax rate	\$1.7326	
Less the consolidation incentive	$- \$0.04^*$	*incentive decreases \$.02 each year*
Estimated District tax rate	\$1.6926	(pre CLA adjustment)

.1093 increase over last year

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

<u>Town</u>	<u>ACSD Tax Rate</u>	<u>CLA (FY21)</u>	<u>Estimated Town Tax Rate</u>
Bridport	\$1.6926	95.93%	\$1.7644
Cornwall	\$1.6926	97.24%	\$1.7406
Middlebury	\$1.6926	103.06%	\$1.6423
Ripton	\$1.6926	89.39%	\$1.8935
Salisbury	\$1.6926	93.29%	\$1.8143
Shoreham	\$1.6926	97.76%	\$1.7314
Weybridge	\$1.6926	96.21%	\$1.7593

Ripton Town Highway Map



Town Meeting Notes

Town Directory

EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

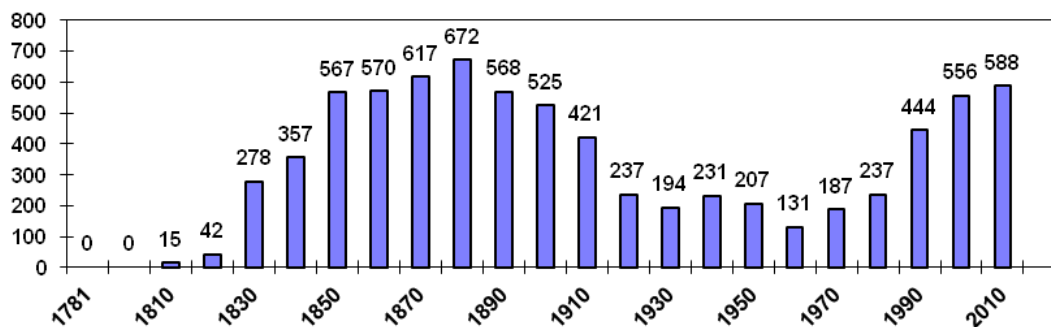
www.ripton.vt.org

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

Ripton Facts

Chartered:	April 13, 1781
Organized:	1828
Total Land Area:	32,704 acres
National Forest:	22,201 acres (68% of total land area)
Middlebury College:	2,308 acres (7% of total land area)
Population:	588 (based on 2010 U.S. Census)
Density:	12 people per square mile
Altitude:	1,025 feet (village)
Mountains:	Battell Mountain 3,482' Bread Loaf Mountain 3,835' Boyce Mountain 3,062' Mount Roosevelt 3,323' Robert Frost Mountain 2,513' Wilson Mountain 3,780'
Town Highways:	29.166 miles total
	Class I (State Rte 125): 5.786 miles Class II (Lincoln Rd): 4.9 miles
	Class III: 18.48 miles Class IV: 3.33 miles
	Legal Trail: 1.85 miles

Ripton Population 1781-2010



Back cover