

# TOWN OF CABOT, VERMONT

Chartered 1781



Saw Mill Road Bridge, Courtesy of Michael Hogan

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN OFFICERS**

For the Period  
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 (FY23)

**PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING ON AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ARTICLES**  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 7:00 p.m. at the Willey Building

**TOWN ANNUAL MEETING**  
Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 10:00 a.m. at the Willey Building

**AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTING**  
Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Willey Building  
(Willey Building, 3084 Main Street, Cabot, VT)

## CABOT TOWN CLERK

3084 Main Street \* PO Box 36 \* Cabot \* Vermont 05647

E-mail: [tc@cabotvt.us](mailto:tc@cabotvt.us) \* [www.cabotvt.us](http://www.cabotvt.us)

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### TOWN OFFICERS' TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Town Clerk/Treasurer's Office	563-2279
Town Clerk Fax	563-2423
Town Garage	563-2040
Cabot Public Library	563-2721
Fire Warden: Andrew Luce	563-2723
Cabot School	563-2289
Superintendent's Office	684-3801
Cabot Fire Department (EMERGENCY)	911
Cabot Ambulance (EMERGENCY)	911
Zoning Administrator: Brittany Butler	563-2041
Health Officer: Jenn Miner	563-2279
Listers	563-3139
Cabot Chronicle	279-6897
Cabot Community Association	279-4309

#### JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

(Elected at General Election)

Cedric Alexander	563-3259
Sue Carpenter	426-4192
Fred Ducharme	563-2102
Roman Kokodyniak	563-2999
Caleb Pitkin	563-9965
Judy Pransky	563-2730
Carla Payne	563-2390

#### DOG LICENSES

**Neutered or Spayed: \$10:00**

**Un-neutered or Un-spayed: \$15.00**

**FEES INCREASE 50%**

**AFTER APRIL 1, 2024**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO  
LICENSE YOUR DOG BY**

**APRIL 1, 2024**

**(You must license your dog in the  
Town where the dog resides)**

#### MEETING DATES

Selectboard	1st & 3rd Tuesday: 6:00 p.m.
Planning Commission	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday: 5:00 p.m.
Fire Department	2nd & 4th Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.
Listers	as needed
Conservation Committee	2nd Monday: 7:00 p.m.
CCIF Committee	2nd Tuesday: TBD
Cabot Trails Working Group	3rd Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.
School Board	1st & 3rd Monday: 6:00 p.m.
Development Review Board	as needed
Cemetery Commissioners	as needed
Willey Building Committee	Last Tuesday of the month: 6:00 p.m.

#### TOWN PERMITS

Driveway Access:	\$60.00
Development Review Board:	\$125.00
Zoning Permit Fee:	\$60.00 Allow at least 15 days
Fire Permit:	Permits obtained from Fire Warden
Other Permits	See Cabot Town Website: <a href="http://www.cabotvt.us">www.cabotvt.us</a>

**BULK REMOVAL DAY FOR CABOT RESIDENTS ONLY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

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## WARNING

**11-13**

## SCHOOL REPORT MAILED INDEPENDENTLY OF THE TOWN OF CABOT ANNUAL REPORT

**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
CABOT TOWN OFFICERS  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023 (FY23)**



Courtesy of NEK Images Photography Miranda Hunt

## THE 2024 ANNUAL REPORT IS DEDICATED TO BONNIE STEVENS DANNENBURG



Bonnie was born on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 1947 to Warren Willard Stevens and Margaret Elizabeth Joyal Parent in Hampton, Virginia, where her father, who was in the US Army Air Corps, was stationed. Bonnie's father Warren was killed on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1947, at age 20, while home on leave, by lightning while haying on what later became Melvin Churchill's farm. He is buried in Durant Cemetery. Bonnie was only six months old at the time. Bonnie and her mother lived on Warren's parent dairy farm near Molly's Pond, where the Lesperance's now live. Bonnie's mother was born on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1927, in Colchester, VT. She later remarried. She died September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1998, in Torrington, CT, and is buried in Durant cemetery.

Bonnie stayed on the farm and was raised by her grandparents Florence & Harry Stevens. Bonnie attended Cabot schools. When she went to high school in Cabot Village, she was a cheerleader and she often stayed with her maternal grandfather, Joseph T. Joyal, in the house at 79 Elm Street. This house has been owned by Bonnie's maternal family for more than a century. During school vacations, Bonnie stayed with her mother in Millbrook, NY. After graduating from Cabot High School in 1965, Bonnie went to Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie, NY, earning an Associate's degree with a concentration in institutional child care.

There in NY, she met Peter Dannenburg and married in 1967. They have two daughters, Allison & Stephanie, grandchildren and great grandchildren, many nieces, nephews & cousins.

Bonnie served the community of Cabot for decades. She was a dedicated volunteer, president of the Cabot Historical Society for more than 20 years, maintaining two museums with collections from Cabot's past. She was instrumental in organizing, cataloging and arranging the wonderful displays in the Main Street Museum and the West Hill Schoolhouse. She had a vast range of knowledge about each item that was amazing. She cared deeply about the Historical Society, its members and the collections.

She led the annual Cabot Apple Pie Festival. A lifelong Democrat, Bonnie served as chair of a revitalized Cabot Democratic Committee, delegate to Washington County Democratic Committee and delegate to the state convention. She was a Cabot Justice of the Peace for several years. She researched and published a detailed family genealogy back to 1676 in France. Bonnie and her husband were team leaders for Episcopal Marriage Encounter seminars throughout the US and Canada.

Bonnie raised funds for the Cabot Alumni Association by hosting fancy teas. She was also a lifeguard, calligraphy instructor and a 4H leader. Her varied activities also included gardening, cat shows, fine felting, crocheting and knitting. Bonnie died suddenly in her home on Elm Street in Cabot on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, at the age of 76, with her husband of 56 years by her side. She was very active in helping the community and her family until the day she passed away.

## **CABOT VERMONT ANNUAL EVENTS 2024**

**Tuesday, March 5, 2024  
TOWN MEETING  
& PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY**

**Sunday, March 31, 2024  
CABOT UNITED CHURCH  
EASTER DAWN SERVICE**

**Saturday, May 4, 2024  
GREEN UP DAY**

**Saturday, June 29, 2024  
TOWNWIDE YARD SALE**

**Thursday, July 4, 2024  
INDEPENDENCE DAY  
CELEBRATION**

**July 26 & 27, 2024  
CABOT ARTS  
& MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**Sunday, July 28, 2024  
CABOT UNITED CHURCH  
175th ANNIVERSARY**

**Tuesday, August 13, 2024  
PRIMARY ELECTION**

**Sunday, September 8, 2024  
RIDE THE RIDGES**

**Friday, September 13, 2024  
CABOT UNITED CHURCH  
HARVEST SUPPER**

**\* Saturday, September 28, 2024  
CABOT FALL FOLIAGE,  
CHEESE & CULTURE FESTIVAL  
& TURKEY DINNER**

**Saturday, September 28, 2024  
CABOT BULK DISPOSAL DAY**

**Tuesday, November 5, 2024  
GENERAL ELECTION**

**Monday, November 11, 2024  
CABOT VETERANS DAY LUNCH**

**December 8, 2024  
CABOT COMMUNITY MEMORIAL TREE**

**December 13, 14 & 16, 2024  
TOY & WARM CLOTHING SHARE**

**\* Saturday, December 14, 2024  
CABOT HOLIDAY FESTIVAL  
& OUTDOOR MARKET**

**Wednesday, December 25, 2024  
CABOT COMMUNITY  
CHRISTMAS DINNER**

**January 3 & 4, 2025  
5th ANNUAL CABOT VILLAGE  
12th NIGHT CELEBRATION**

\* Date and Time Tentative

## **CABOT BULLETIN BOARD**

### **Linda Savoca Receives Cabot Community Award By Cabot School Board**

The June edition of the *Cabot Chronicle* detailed Linda Savoca's 16-years of service to Cabot School. During Cabot High School's graduation ceremony on June 7, 2023, Linda was selected by the students to provide the commencement speech and was also provided the Cabot Community Award, in recognition of her service and commitment to the town of Cabot as well as the students, families, faculty, and staff of Cabot School.

The Cabot Community Award is given annually at graduation to recognize achievements and service provided to the community. Linda's recognition this year may be considered "lifetime achievement" for her dedicated work on behalf of the school and going above and beyond to support students and families. Beyond her role as the face (and eyes and ears) of Cabot School, Linda has been instrumental in extending education on Vermont's Abenaki history and culture to the school and community.

Linda's role as graduation speaker was a perfect capstone, and although she is "graduating" to retirement, she will always be a part of the school community and a leader to look up to in the town of Cabot.

### **CABOT'S BETH WADE IS VERMONT LIBRARY TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR**



## **JULY 2023 FLOOD OBSERVATIONS AND POST FLOOD UPDATE:**

Standing on my porch the night of the storm and hearing the roaring of the water like a freight train in the brook behind my home, made me realize we had a massive task before us. What was important in dealing with the aftermath of this storm? Are people safe? How would we rescue folks from their homes and also protect them from further damage, was the village center still there, will the power and cell service be available, where is the funding coming from, are there any temporary shelters available, and the questions were nonstop.

I found a compilation of videos of the flood that was incredible. We are very fortunate as a community to have survived those days and be sitting here talking about mitigation and measures to deal with future events. We have a lot to be thankful for!

We were hit by a 100-year flood! The Perfect Storm as they say. After a summer of saturating rains, the amount of rain falling on July 10-11 tipped the scales. Cabot, like so many other towns along the Winooski could not handle the volume of water and the speed it moved along and the devastation in its wake. By the way: the Winooski River crested at 20.88 feet in Montpelier.

The Governor called a state of emergency on Sunday July 9 based on the forecast of excessive rainfall in Central Vermont and other areas of the state. Having received lots of rain prior to this event, the ground was saturated, and the streams were getting higher with each passing day. I couldn't get out of my area in Lower Cabot as 215 was flooded all the way to the village. Lots of cars were trapped and folks were stuck until the waters receded. By the dawn of July 11, the majority of Cabot's rural roads were impassable or barely one lane. We have taken hundreds of pictures, and they show the story better than my words.

I took I drive around Cabot's roads at first light to inventory their condition and was speaking with our Road Foreman what he saw for damage. I was shocked at the damage, especially in the village. I did find out that morning that volunteers the previous evening with excavators and tractors removed trees and rocks that were coming down the hill behind the Willey Building and directly in line with the Cabot Garage and further down at the bridge north of town on 215. If those folks were not there, a good portion of the business district would be gone.

When you are in the midst of a disaster of this magnitude, your only concern is the safety of your family and your neighbors. I saw and heard of great acts of heroism of people in this community who put their lives out there to help their neighbors. Cows that were moved to higher ground were helped by neighbors. People rescued from houses and cars were a very common occurrence.

The morning after a storm is usually the hardest day as you face the reality of the damage and what it's going to do to people's lives. I'll try and give a quick overview of what we faced the first day and I will start from Lower Cabot and work towards the village:

### **The SB met very soon after the storm and prioritized some things to deal with the emergency.**

- We borrowed up to a million dollars to pay for repairs in lieu of being reimbursed by FEMA.
- We focused on people, homes, town infrastructure – buildings and roads.
- Public Safety response- fire department and ambulance.
- Willey Building became the command center for the storm and was busy nonstop for months.

- Communications were opened up between state and federal authorities.
  - Flood Debris drop off was established and refined over time.
  - Contractors were kept busy working with the Highway Department repairing roads and culverts.
  - FEMA stayed in town coordinating their response to people's needs.
  - Normal business was going on in the TC office in the midst of all this.
  - Volunteer efforts were organized and coordinated with rescue efforts from out of state.
- **The Clarks Sawmill Dam** was breached and most of its structure and years of built-up sediment went downstream and was deposited in fields directly in line with the dam. All that debris and more landed in local fields and most likely found its way to Montpelier and beyond. We are hoping there are some mitigation measures in place that can fix some of the damage. The bridge on Sawmill Road sustained little damage and the road was reopened in a few days. The Town is working to have the Sawmill area cleaned up and we are speaking with our attorney on legal questions regarding future ownership.
  - **The Winooski Watershed:** The Winooski River (known as the Onion River) is a tributary of Lake Champlain. It is 90 miles long in Northern Vermont. It rises in Cabot and flows southwest to Montpelier. It changes from year to year with various storms and droughts and eventually finds itself as a beautiful body of water utilized by many people for various activities. The July flood changed everything, especially in our area. The amount of erosion of the banks along the Winooski is shocking to the eye. The loss of pastureland in Lower Cabot and widening of the stream bed is a powerful picture of the power of water and what damage it can do unchecked. The undermining of the banks along the west side of 215N beyond the bridge into the village is very serious. The Town is working with the state to address flood mitigation measures through various funding streams. This is going to take some time and will be a lengthy project.
  - **Bridge** by Don Mitchell's home had minor damage and lots of "shot rock" had to be dumped around it to prevent further flooding of that area. That bridge is on the list to be replaced in the next few years.
  - **The Fire Station** was evacuated as the banks behind the building were eroding and dangerously close to falling into the river. The State Fire Marshall yellow tagged the building and allowed limited access and advised that all the apparatus be moved to other locations. The building will be red tagged this week and condemned. The Town is currently working with FEMA to have a temporary building constructed with plans to build a permanent structure. The State Emergency Operations Center saw this as a very important issue as it concerns public safety. (**Note\*** The Fire Department Building is being razed after being red tagged by the State Fire Marshall and coordinating these efforts with FEMA).
  - **Temp Fire Station** building is going up with plans for a permanent structure moving forward. FEMA is involved in the process and is very helpful and has been from day one. The roof and walls went up this past week and the interior work is being done as of the writing of this note. All the fire apparatus should be in the building by the middle of February 2024.

- **Main Village and Business District:**
  - **Willey Building:** If you drive through the village this morning, you can see that some of the damage of the storm is still visible. The morning after was another picture. The Willey Building suffered water damage to the Town Clerk's Office and had to vacate to the main floor on a temporary basis. All that damage was assessed, and repairs are under way. The parking lot was filled with deep mud and wrecked cars from the previous nights' events. A lot of mud and water came down Whittier Hill into the village and made it almost impassable. The parking lot is cleared, and repairs are ongoing to show that things eventually return to normal.
  - **Business District:** The damage to Main Street was bad but could have been worse if the double culvert under the road had not been cleaned out by amazing volunteers. The power and force of the water was so great that as we were excavating the pavement that was damaged, we found a large piece of wood that was forced under the blacktop and then the road settled over it. All the businesses suffered damage to various degrees. A wastewater line was destroyed and had to be repaired, which took a number of days due to the damage and debris around all these businesses. Each of them has a story to tell which I hope they do in this or future editions. **(The village is back in business as of today, but the effects of the flood are long lasting. There is no fuel available in the village as the pumps and tanks had to be removed due to flooding. That is another discussion for needed economic growth)**
  - **Homes in the Village:** Most of the homes on Main Street were affected by the flood. Teams of volunteers were sent throughout the village to help pump out basements and muck out lots of mud! Volunteer groups from in state and out of state were reaching out to Cabot wanting to help. It was amazing to see the unselfish acts of love. FEMA came through and went house to house getting people signed up for assistance.
  - **Two residences are potential flood buyouts- working with state on next steps.**
  - **215N Bridge and Recreation Field:** My words can't do justice to the mess at the north end of the village. There were trees wrapped around and under the bridge and in local neighbor's yards. A wastewater line was destroyed and had to be repaired. The bridge has been inspected and is ok but should be replaced in the next few years. The recreation field was under water and covered with mud and silt. The field is currently being scraped of mud and silt with plans to bring it back to recreational use. **Repair and drainage work to be done in Spring 2024.**
  - **Roads, Bridges and Dams:** All the bridges that are in the state inventory have been inspected. Sawmill Dam and West Hill Pond dam were inspected days after the flood and will have reinspection's shortly. Thanks to our Road Crew and the many businesses and volunteers, our roads are all fixed. The major repairs are done, and the final work will be ongoing to get them ready for winter. Lots of culverts were replaced and a bridge was installed over Menard Road. Some of the larger culverts are temporary and will have permanent ones installed spring 2024.
- **Volunteers:** The overwhelming support of this community to reach out and help others has been amazing. Lots of water, tools, dehumidifiers, shop vacs, shovels, trash bags and so much more was donated. Nonstop food was donated by Neighbors in Action for meals day after day. People

showing up from out of town looking to help. It was an amazing experience to behold. At least a thousand hours of volunteer time with no compensation!

**Lessons Learned: This is not a complete list, just things I observed.**

- More communication locally on impending storms of any type. Utilize every platform we have to get the message out. All the way from social media to a simple phone chain.
- Ready to go list of volunteers for emergency needs.
- Up to date contact information- Emergency Operations Plan for Cabot.
- Staging of equipment to deal with emergency- excavators, tractors, trucks.
- Emergency Temporary housing at town facilities- generator backup
- Clear chain of command of who does what!
- State and Federal resources contact information. Keep updated!
- Food and clothing resources. Fuel. Donations and fundraising sources.
- Information technology needs.
- Follow up and follow up with state and federal resources for answers. Don't stop calling!
- Serious mitigation efforts to deal with future events. How have other towns dealt with major flooding?

**Final thoughts:** The Town is currently working on a required Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in conjunction with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. A series of meetings and surveys are being done as required by FEMA. In addition, shortly after the flood the Selectboard established a Flood Resiliency Taskforce that is reviewing all the impacts of the flood and plans to address mitigation steps to minimize damage from future storms.

Thank you again to all the volunteers who really care about this Town!

Michael Hogan-Chair Cabot Selectboard/Flood relief Coordinator



## RECORD OF 2023 BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES

### Births

01/06/2023 Vivian Ellen Hogan  
01/19/2023 Christopher William McDowell  
06/03/2023 Inti Gaia Boyer  
06/07/2023 Finnley Briar Turco  
06/15/2023 Indigo Ignacio Troche  
06/20/2023 Sophia Gail Sikora  
07/14/2023 Rebecca Lorraine Cavarretta  
08/04/2023 Emorene Foy Randolph  
10/10/2023 Olivia Jane Kellner-Rowe  
10/11/2023 Eli Benjamin Brandt  
10/19/2023 Charlotte Mae DeForge  
10/20/2023 Austin Allan Mayo  
11/30/2023 Murphy Kathryn Nelson



Courtesy of Amanda Otto

### Marriages

02/16/2023 Darci Lou Herdling to Edward Earl Showalter  
06/03/2023 Judith Irene Halloran to Samuel Stephen Nadon-Nichols  
05/17/2023 Grace Ellen Anders to Ruben Josue Cordoba Montiel  
07/01/2023 Alanna Grace Flynn to Uriah Skye Cheyenne  
09/23/2023 Justin Roland Hale to Emily Grace Lamson  
10/07/2023 Elizabeth Victoria England to Erik Christian Larson  
10/17/2023 Rebekah Miriam Mangan to Jacob William Barnes  
10/27/2023 Alyssa Anne Buckley to Stephen James Strait  
12/04/2023 Elizabeth Orben Rich-Colton to Jethro Joseph Charleston  
12/31/2023 Vanessa Lynn Deuso to Shawn Stacey Codling Jr

## Deaths

01/2023	James Joseph Melodini
07/2023	Loretta Ann Hrubovcak
01/06/2023	Francis Edward Atkins
02/25/2023	Elaine Metcalf
03/10/2023	Cesare Joseph Beyerle
04/22/2023	Christopher William McDowell
05/04/2023	Bernard Montgomery Shatney
05/06/2023	Christian F.F. deNeergaard
05/27/2023	Valerie Covell
06/16/20023	Denise D. Barry
06/22/2023	Cynthia P. Robbins
07/03/2023	Randy Albert Lowe
07/15/2023	James Anthony Goodrich
08/01/2023	Suzanne Kimberly Gilbert
08/03/2023	Bonnie Jean Dannenberg
08/05/2023	Wayne Arthur Martin
09/01/2023	Andre T LaPrade
09/20/2023	Angela Marie Barosky
09/21/2023	Connor S. Garrison
09/23/2023	Gwendolyn Lee Douse
10/20/2023	Richard G. Payne
11/24/2023	Anthony Napoli



To Commemorate 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Willey Building

## 2024 – WARNING TOWN OF CABOT – 2024

The Legal Voters of the Town of Cabot are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Town of Cabot Willey Building, 3084 Main Street, Cabot, Vermont, on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at ten o'clock in the forenoon [10:00 A.M.] to transact the following business from the floor. [The polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. at the Willey Building, 3084 Main Street, Cabot, VT.]

Art. 1. To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.

Art. 2. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot vote to accept the Town Report as printed for FY23?

Art. 3. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot authorize payment of real and personal property taxes on August 22, 2024, and November 21, 2024, by delivery to Cabot Town Hall postmarked on or before that date; and, Establish that overdue taxes will bear interest at a rate of one percent per month or fraction thereof for the first three months and thereafter one and one-half percent per month or fraction thereof from the due date of such tax pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 5136; and, Establish the amount of the penalty charged by the collector of delinquent taxes for payments made after the due date for payment at 8 percent of the tax collected pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 1674(3)(A)?

Art. 4. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot elect all Town Officers required by law, according to law?

The following Articles will be voted on by Australian Ballot and may be discussed on the floor except for Articles 5 through 6.

Art. 5. To elect a Selectperson for a term of two years. [Australian Ballot]

Art. 6. To elect a Selectperson for a term of three years. [Australian Ballot]

Art. 7. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate the sum of \$825,218 to defray the General Expenses of the Town, with an estimated \$210,089 to come from income and \$615,129 from local taxes? [Australian Ballot]

Art. 8. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate the sum of \$1,041,393 to repair and maintain the Highways of the Town, including summer, winter, and special treatment, of which an estimated \$167,600 is to come from income and \$873,793 from local taxes? [Australian Ballot]

Art. 9. Do the citizens of the Town of Cabot wish to see continued service by the Cabot Emergency Ambulance Service as the primary transport ambulance service for the Town of Cabot? [Australian Ballot]

Art. 10. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot allow the Selectboard to appoint the Town Treasurer as permitted by the Vermont Legislature pursuant to 17 V.S.A. 2651 € (d) and (f) for a term of one or three years? [Australian Ballot]

Art. 11. To transact any other non-binding business that may come before said meeting.

Art. 12. To adjourn this meeting.

Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January A.D. 2024

Michael J. Hogan, Chair

Fred Ducharme, Vice Chair

Richard (RD) Eno., Clerk

Walter (Skip) Bothfeld, Jr.

Karen Larsen

This Warning was recorded before posting,

Attest: Betty Ritter, Cabot Town Clerk

## REGISTER TO VOTE:

There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to vote on the day of the election. You can register to vote prior to voting by visiting the Cabot Town Clerk's Office or going online to <https://olvr.vermont.gov>. Registration will be available at the Town Clerk's office on any day prior to the election between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Registration will be available on Election Day during the hours the polls are open, which is 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Willey Building, 3084 Main Street, Cabot, VT.

**EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** The latest you can request ballots is the close of business in the Town Clerk's office on March 4, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. The voter or family member may request an early or absentee ballot in person, in writing or by telephone. Other persons may request an Absentee Ballot for another registered Cabot voter (in person or in writing), and the Town Clerk's Office will mail that Absentee Ballot to the registered voter.

Following are the ways for early voting or absentee voting: (1) vote in the Town Clerk's office before the deadline; (2) a voter may take their ballots out of the Town Clerk's office for himself/herself and return in the same manner as if the ballots were received by mail; (3) have a ballot mailed to you, and mail or return it to the Town Clerk's office before election day or to the polling place before 7:00 p.m. on election day; or (4) if you are sick or disabled, request the Town Clerk, who must be accompanied by a Justice of the Peace, to bring a ballot to you at your home no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.



Betty Ritter, Town Clerk, with the newly-revealed Willey Building Centennial bench.

## ORGANIZATIONS REQUESTING SPECIAL SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS

- A. **American Red Cross** (802-391-6499 / [redcross.org/nne](http://redcross.org/nne)) prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of disasters and emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. The Red Cross responded to two home fires and assisted three individuals in Cabot in FY23. **(Requested \$500)**
- B. **A.W.A.R.E. (Aid to Women, Men and Children in Abuse and Rape Emergencies)** (802-472-6463 / [www.awarevt.org](http://www.awarevt.org)) strives to prevent and heal the trauma of domestic and sexual violence in a way that people of all ages are empowered to act towards themselves and others with awareness, empathy, respect and personal responsibility. During the past year, AWARE served 226 women, men and children who were directly affected by violence, and 114 children who were exposed to violence. AWARE educated over 1500 people through community events and outreach and educated 20 professionals about domestic and sexual violence. AWARE answered over 1800 hotline and in-person requests for assistance. **(Requested \$1000)**
- C. **Central VT Adult Basic Education, Inc.** (802-476-4588 / [www.cvabe.org](http://www.cvabe.org)) is committed to providing accessible literacy instruction for adults and teens in Central Vermont. CVABE is a free service providing basic literacy instruction in reading, writing, math and computers, English language learning and citizen preparation, HS diploma and GED programs and academic skill readiness for work, career training or college. On average, two to three Cabot residents have enrolled annually. Cabot is served by learning centers in Barre, Montpelier and Morrisville. **(Requested \$500)**
- D. **Central VT Economic Development Corp.** (802-223-4654 / [www.centralvermont.org](http://www.centralvermont.org)) Attracting and maintaining good wage paying jobs for the citizens of Central Vermont. **(Requested \$300)**
- E. **Central VT Council on Aging** (802-479-0531 / [www.cvcoa.org](http://www.cvcoa.org)) provides older residents of Cabot with information and assistance, health insurance counseling, case management services (promoting long-term care and accessing services and benefits), transportation, mental health counseling, family caregiver support, legal support, volunteer services and more. **(Requested \$1600)**
- F. **Central VT Home Health & Hospice** (802-224-2235 / [www.cvhhh.org](http://www.cvhhh.org)) provides high quality, medically necessary home health and hospice care to all Central Vermonters at home. **(Requested \$3650)**
- G. **Circle (formerly Battered Women's Services and Shelter)** ([www.circlevt.org](http://www.circlevt.org) / 24-hour Toll Free Hotline: 1-877-543-9498) is a community-based organization dedicated to ending domestic abuse, providing advocacy, support services and shelter to help abuse survivors build on strengths to shape fulfilling lives for themselves and their children. Due to confidentiality issues, the majority of clients do not disclose their town of residence. During FY23, advocates responded to 24 hotline calls and in-person meetings from individuals who self-identified as being Cabot residents. One individual residing in Cabot received assistance at their final hearings for protection orders. Six Cabot residents received assistance with civil court proceedings. Advocates supported one Cabot resident when their (ex) partner faced criminal charges. Cabot residents attended four of our community support groups. **(Requested \$600)**
- H. **Elevate Youth Services (formerly Washington County Youth Services Bureau)** (802-229-9151 / [www.elevateyouthvt.org](http://www.elevateyouthvt.org)) During FY23, EYS served four unduplicated Cabot youth (and their families). One youth received multiple program services: One youth received health education and services with the Basement Teen Center Program. One youth and their family received crisis support and counseling with the Country Roads Program. One youth with past or current involvement in the custody of the State received case management support through the Youth Development Program. **(Requested \$300)**

- I. **Family Center of Washington County** (802-262-3292 / [www.fcwcvt.org](http://www.fcwcvt.org) ) supports the growth and development of young children and their families. Services used in the last fiscal year by Cabot residents are early childcare and education, child care financial assistance, child care referral, home visiting services, supplemental food and household items from our Food Pantry and Diaper Bank, and participation in our Parent Education workshops. **(Requested \$500)**
- J. **Friends of the Winooski River** (802-279-3771 / <https://winooskiriver.org> ) is dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Winooski River watershed. Cabot is a partner in the Winooski Headwater Community Partnership, together with the towns of Marshfield and Plainfield, Friends of the Winooski and the Cabot Creamery. **(Requested \$600)**
- K. **Good Beginnings of Central VT** (802-595-7953 / [www.goodbeginningscentralvt.org](http://www.goodbeginningscentralvt.org) ) provides free education, resources, community connections and home visiting for pregnant women and families with newborn infants. On average, we serve one to three Cabot families per year through our free programming. Last fiscal year, one Cabot family attended parent education/support events at our Nest drop-in space. **(Requested \$300)**
- L. **Green Mountain Transit** (802-864-2282 / [www.ridegmt.com](http://www.ridegmt.com) ) Goal is to promote and operate safe, convenient, accessible, innovative and sustainable transportation services in Northwest and Central VT that reduce congestion and pollution. Encourage transit-oriented development and enhance the quality of life for all. GMT provided 2,268 trips to Cabot residents in FY23. **(Requested \$770)**
- M. **Green Up Vermont** (802-522-7245 / [www.greenupvermont.org](http://www.greenupvermont.org)) promotes stewardship of our state's natural landscape and waterways and the livability of our communities by involving people in Green Up Day and public awareness about the benefits of a litter-free environment. **(Requested \$100)**
- N. **HomeShare Vermont** (802-865-4151 / [www.homesharevermont.org](http://www.homesharevermont.org)) This past year we worked with seven residents of Cabot. Overall, 224 persons shared a home in our program. Nearly 30,000 hours of assistance were provided by our Homeshare guests during the year. Assistance ranged from simple companionship to cooking, cleaning, pet care, yard work, etc. Each match is unique depending on the needs and interests of both parties. Given the constraints of building and maintaining affordable housing options, HomeShare represents a more community centered approach to aging in place that has multiple beneficial effects for all parties involved. **(Requested \$300)**
- O. **Joe's Pond Association** (802-684-3655 / [www.joespondvermont.com](http://www.joespondvermont.com)) to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species into Joe's Pond by inspecting boats being launched into Joe's Pond and removing any plant material. **(Requested \$750)**
- P. **Kingdom Animal Shelter** (802-473-3377 / [www.kingdomanimalshelter.com](http://www.kingdomanimalshelter.com) ) is an all-volunteer, non-profit rescue shelter, whose purpose is to facilitate the placement of rescued, abandoned, abused or neglected animals in safe, life-long homes; they strive to prevent overpopulation and cruelty to animals. We have adopted cats to two Cabot families. The shelter also provides opportunities for volunteering for parents and their children and responds to numerous calls asking for advice about health, behavior and strays and runs a Trap, Neuter and Return program for cats. **(Requested \$500)**
- Q. **Mosaic Vermont** (802-476-1388 / [mosaic-vt.org](http://mosaic-vt.org)) services are to heal communities and end sexual violence. The services are highly confidential, and people are not required to disclose their town of residence to receive services. **(Requested \$500)**
- R. **Onion River Food Shelf** (802-426-4097) is open Wednesdays and located in the Old Schoolhouse Common in Marshfield. The food shelf serves families from Cabot, Marshfield, Plainfield, E. Montpelier, and Calais. Each person receives enough food for three meals a day for three days. Free clothing, personal items and household products are also provided. **(Requested \$1000)**

- S. **Our House of Central Vermont, Inc.** (802-272-6312 / [www.ourhousecentral.vt.com](http://www.ourhousecentral.vt.com)) is a non-profit Children’s Advocacy Center and Special Investigation Unit located in Barre and serving all of Washington County. Our House’s mission is to provide a safe and supportive setting for child victims of physical and sexual abuse, their non-offending family members, as well as adult survivors of sexual assault. **(Requested \$250)**
- T. **Twin Valley Senior Center** (802-223-3322/ [www.twinvalleyseniors.org](http://www.twinvalleyseniors.org) ) facilitates the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of independent senior citizens by providing access to community resources and services. Free transportation is provided to the center. **(Requested \$3500)**
- U. **Vermont Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired** (802-863-1358 ext. 217 / [www.vabvi.org](http://www.vabvi.org) ) provides training, support, and adaptive equipment to help visually impaired Vermonters of all ages live independent lives. During FY23, VABVI worked with 1,145 Vermonters. This included 95 adults and 34 students in Washington County. **(Requested \$300)**
- V. **Vermont Center for Independent Living** ([www.vcil.org](http://www.vcil.org)) mission is to empower Vermonters with disabilities, deaf Vermonters, and others to tear down the physical, communication, and attitudinal barriers that keep us from realizing our full human potential. In FY23, VCIL served three residents of Cabot. The residents received meals through our Meals on Wheels program at a cost of \$630. **(Requested \$165)**
- W. **Vermont Family Network** (304-509-2435 / [www.vermontfamilynetwork.org](http://www.vermontfamilynetwork.org)) works to empower and support all Vermont families of children with special need, providing trainings, parent matches, school meeting support and a help line. In FY23, 92 families in Washington County were supported, one family of which lives in Cabot. **(Requested \$250)**
- X. **West Danville Community Club** (802-684-3655 / [pjhebert@charter.net](mailto:pjhebert@charter.net) ) The mission of WDCC is to maintain and enhance the Joe’s Pond Public Beach and surrounding natural areas while promoting community involvement. WDCC supervises the maintenance of Joe’s Pond Beach, which is also the trailhead for the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. **(Requested \$500)**

**NOTE:** All the above repeat requests have been approved at the requested amount and included in the General Fund Budget (page 25) to be voted on by Australian Ballot. Complete 2023 annual reports and financial statements for the above organizations may be viewed at the Town Clerk’s office.

### **CABOT APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS**

Cabot Community Association	15,000
Cabot Cemetery	25,000
Cabot Chronicle	20,000
Cabot Senior Citizens	500
Neighbors in Action	<u>2,000</u>
 Total	 \$62,500

## TOWN OFFICERS – 2023

Title	Name	Term Expires
Moderator	Jeanne Johnson	
Town Clerk (Australian Ballot)	Betty Ritter	3-year term – 2026
Town Treasurer (Australian Ballot)	Betty Ritter	3-year term - 2026
Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer	Michelle Leclerc	Non-term
Collector of Lease Land Rentals	Town Treasurer	3-year term – 2026
Selectboard Members (Australian Ballots)	Walter (Skip) Bothfeld, Jr. Fred Ducharme, Vice Chair Richard (R.D.) Eno Clerk Michael Hogan, Chair Karen Larsen	2-year term – 2024 3-year term – 2026 3-year term – 2025 3-year term – 2024 2-year term – 2025
Listers	Brittany Butler Jeanne Johnson Jacqueline Lumbra	3-year term – 2026 3-year term – 2025 3-year term – 2026
Delinquent Tax Collector	Susan Carpenter	1-year term – 2024
Grand Juror	David Pike	1-year term – 2024
Cemetery Commissioners	Cedric Alexander Deb Bothfeld Melvin Churchill, Chair Ruth Goodrich Angela Ward	3-year term – 2025 3-year term – 2025 3-year term – 2024 3-year term – 2025 3-year term – 2025
School Directors	Ellen Cairns, Chair Erica Fucello Frank Kampf Jason Monaco Chris Tormey, Vice Chair & Clerk	3-year term – 2026 2-year term – 2024 3-year term - 2024 2-year term - 2024 3-year term – 2025
Library Trustees	Grace Hoffman Niall McCallum Angela Ogle Erin Rudell Kurt Steinert, Chair	3-year term – 2025 3-year term – 2025 3-year term – 2026 3-year term – 2026 3-year term – 2024

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Recreation Committee	Brandy Goodrich, Secretary	Non-term
	Cameron North, Vice Chair	Non-term
	Jessica North, Coordinator	Non-term
	Shannon Smith, Chair	Non-term
	Courtney Thompson, Member	Non-term
CCIF (Cabot Community Investment Fund)	Greg Burt, Chair	Appointed by Selectboard
	Melvin Churchill	3-year term - 2025
	Jack Daniels	Appointed by Selectboard
	Jason Monaco	3-year term – 2026
	Chris Tormey, Vice Chair	Appointed by School Board
		3-year term – 2024
Willey Building Committee	Brad Alexander	3-year term – 2026
	Fred Ducharme	3-year term - 2024
	Dan Dunham, Chair	Appointed by Library
	Betty Ritter, Secretary	3-year term – 2025
	Dana Robinson	Appointed by Selectboard
	Paul Wade	3-year term - 2025



Willey Building Centennial celebration, October 14, 2023

## APPOINTED BY SELECTBOARD

Title	Name	Term Expires
Constables	Stephen Hogan Nell McQueeney	
Water/Wastewater Administrator	Cabot Town Clerk/Treasurer	
Pound Keeper	Cheryl McQueeney	
Animal/Dog Control Officer	Ruth Goodrich Cheryl McQueeney	
Fence Viewers	Glenn Goodrich David Pike	
Inspector – Coal, Wood, Lumber, Shingles	Anson Tebbetts	
Tree Warden	Roland Payne, Jr.	
Fire Warden	Andrew Luce	5-year term – March 2025
Health Officer	Jenn Miner	3-year term – October 2024
Town Energy Coordinator	Michael Socks	
Zoning Administrator	Brittany Butler	3-year term – July 2025
Planning Commission (5 members – 3 year term)	Dawn Andrews	March 2024
	Brittany Butler, Secretary	non-term
	Kate Chatot	March 2024
	Glenn Goodrich	March 2025
	Peg Elmer Hough	March 2026
	Bobby Searles, Chair	March 2025
Development Review Board (7 members – 3 year term)	Brad Alexander	March 2025
	Susan Carpenter	March 2026
	Larry Gochey	March 2026
	Stephen Hogan	March 2026
	Jeanne Johnson	March 2024
	Jenn Miner, Vice Chair	March 2025
	Amy Hornblas, Chair	March 2025
Betty Ritter, Secretary	No term	

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Cabot Trails Committee	Dana Glazier, Chair	2025
	Gary Gulka, Secretary	2026
	Monique Gerbex	2024
	Kris Schmitt, Treasurer	2026
	Michael Socks	2026
	Chuck Talbert	2024
	Paul Wade	2025
Conservation Committee (3-year terms)	Cedric Alexander	2024
	Dawn Andrews	2025
	Chris Duff	2026
	Gary Gulka, Chair	2026
	Roland Payne, Jr.	2025
Master of Colors	William Walters	
Road Commissioner	Road Foreman/Selectboard	
Town Attorney	Tarrant, Gillies & Shems	
Regional Planning Committee Rep.	Brittany Butler	
Emergency Management Coordinator	Jenn Miner	
NKWMD Representative	Betty Ritter	
	R.D. Eno – Alternate	
Newspapers	Cabot Chronicle	
	Caledonian-Record	
	Times Argus	
Leg. District Representative	Henry Pearl	Elected at District Level

## TOWN CLERK'S REPORT (FY23)

What a year 2023 has been for the Town of Cabot. We thought we were busy the first part of the year, but nothing compares to what happened on July 10-11! The flood came and our office received water in our space. As the water was cascading rapidly behind the building, we couldn't do anything about it until the next day. We discovered that water came through one of the windows on the back side along with the front door and a side door. The carpet was saturated, and mud was in our supply room which held our server. Fortunately, we had a few people help us tear up the carpet and drag it outside. I want to thank Shirley Ducharme and Charles and Jennifer Miner for helping us throughout the day. We were very fortunate that we were able to tackle the problem immediately and pull up the carpet and mop up the water (thank you, Shirley, for this big job). Fortunately, we were able to get in contact on July 11 with a company out of St. Johnsbury that specializes in flooded spaces, and this was a blessing for us. We contacted our IT people, and they helped us get up and running that very day in the meeting room, where we placed a couple of tables to work on. During that time, we were still able to do our daily work, direct people that were affected by the flood (which was quite a few people). Dumpsters at the Common were filled daily. While our offices were in the meeting room, we had professional cleaners come with huge dehumidifiers and fans to dry us out so we could start the process of getting our office back in order. During that time, we received donations from various organizations, from rubber gloves to dehumidifiers, rakes, shovels, and even wheelbarrows. We had tables lined up in the auditorium of items that people could come and take as needed. It was amazing to see the outpouring from so many organizations and we truly thank them for their generosity. Water was delivered to us from the State, which we shared with Neighbors In Action. Shortly after that, FEMA called us and asked if they could set up a regional space to help people apply for aid in our auditorium. We moved all the items in the auditorium to the stage so they could have use of the auditorium floor. While they were here, we could not hold any type of functions in the meeting room (that housed Michelle and myself, and many others. The auditorium housed FEMA for well over a month!) But now we are in our new office space with freshly painted walls with new flooring down (no more carpet!) The IT people have completely restored all our information on the computer, and we are fully operational now. The vault did have carpet and it did get wet. We pulled it up immediately, Shirley mopped up the water, we put fans and dehumidifiers in the vault. We want to assure everyone that there was absolutely no damage to the land records. What was so strange about this is that the Listers and Zoning Office did not receive a drop of water!

I do want to thank everyone for their patience while we were in our temporary offices. It was a difficult time because most of the items we dealt with were downstairs and we made numerous trips downstairs to find things that were scattered in other areas of the building. It was a treasure hunt during that time.

Bulk Removal Day was very successful this year and we will be having a Bulk Removal Day this year on Saturday, September 28, 2024, 9:00 to Noon. Please note that this is for Cabot residents only, with one truckload per resident.

**A reminder for all dog owners:** We can license your dog anytime during our working hours (Monday through Thursday 9:00 am -5:00 pm). Please be sure your dog(s) are up to date on rabies vaccination. If you have a new rabies certificate, be sure to bring a copy of the new rabies certificate in when you license your dog(s), as we cannot license your dog without this certificate if we do not have it on file. The deadline for registering your dog(s) is Monday, April 1, 2024, but know that they can be registered anytime from January 1, 2024. Fees are \$10.00 for neutered or spayed dogs, and \$15.00 for unneutered or un-spayed dogs.

How could I ever thank Michelle for the many hours and patience throughout the year. Neighbors In Action supplied us with lunch and sometimes supper. Thank you very much. I wish to also thank all of you for your support for the Town Clerk's office.

I wish all of you the best for 2024 and hope to see you again next year.

Betty Ritter, Town Clerk/Treasurer

## SELECTBOARD REPORT (FY23)

The Selectboard would like to thank the voters of Cabot for having provided us the opportunity to serve our community in 2023. The Board considers 2023 to have been another challenging year. After dealing with Covid the previous years, the Town faced a catastrophic flood in July 2023. The amount of damage was very substantial, but the future plans for flood mitigation are hopeful.

The Town has been working nonstop since the events of that terrible day - all of us working together: volunteers, first responders, Town employees and the non-profit sector. I hope we all remember the timeline: the Governor issued a state of emergency for flood impacted counties (including Washington County) on Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup>, and a few days later there was a disaster declaration issued by the White House for all of Vermont. Those declarations started the ball rolling to ensure that State and Federal funding became available for individuals and municipalities. This funding is issued not as a matter of 'contract' but as a sacred promise to the citizens of the United States that -in moment of peril- we provide the resources to both rescue each other and help to rebuild in the aftermath. FEMA is the conduit for much of that funding.

After weeks and months of damage estimates, the State of Vermont reached a level of documented damage that exceeded \$500 million -this is far beyond the ceiling needed to reimburse towns for 90% of the damages incurred by the flood. Cabot is covered by this 'sacred promise' of funding for rescue and rebuilding. This information has been shared continuously and consistently in both public meetings hosted by the Cabot Selectboard, and in posts on various social media platforms. While it is true that the Town may incur expenses beyond the reimbursement amount of 90%, those expenses will be minimal compared to what we will receive.

The Fire Department building was officially condemned by the State of Vermont and will have been demolished by the time of this writing. A temporary building is being built by the recreation field. The old basketball court was torn up to accommodate the new construction and a new one will be built next to the structure. The temporary building, once vacated, can potentially be repurposed for numerous things. It will be available to purchase at a fully depreciated cost that FEMA will decide. The Town will have the opportunity to vote on that potential purchase and discuss uses for the potential repurposing of that building. We do not yet know what that cost will be.

One of the main functions of the Board is to produce a financial budget each year for the Town to vote on at Town Meeting. The Town approved the current fiscal year budget that runs from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, at last year's meeting. We are currently through seven months of our current budget cycle as this note is being written.

The next fiscal year (FY 2025) budget that covers the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, has taken considerable work at multiple budget meetings. The Board has set aside an hour or two for special budget meetings each week to discuss expenses needed to meet the financial demands of the Town. At these meetings various entities of the town that comprise both the General and Highway Funds presented their FY2025 budget requests. We have had a fair amount of public input and that is very appreciated. These are public meetings, and we invite the public to attend and give us their thoughts and suggestions.

**FY2025 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025) Projected General Fund Operating Budget** is \$825,218 as compared to last year's budget of \$726,619, an increase of \$98,599. There are no General Fund projects this year. All social service appropriations as outlined in this report are fully funded as requested by the organizations listed in this town report. That total is also included in **Article 7** for all General Fund Appropriations.

**The FY2025 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025) Projected Highway Operating Budget** totals \$1,041,393 as compared to last year's base budget of \$925,863, an increase of \$115,530. There are no projects scheduled other than FEMA flood projects. There will be some small patch paving and repairs needed in some areas.

Information on the Cabot Fire Department's Temporary Building and Permanent Building construction is listed in this Town Report by Chief Dean Deasy.

The impact on future budgets is identified in the FY2025 Capital Budget included separately in this Town Report. Please note that neither the General Fund nor the Highway Fund budgets include any contingency funds so that when an unanticipated cost occurs, it may very well result in a budget deficit.

The Board is very aware of the difficult financial situation many of us face as the July flood damage has taken a toll on the town and full reimbursements from FEMA are in process. We have worked very hard to propose a budget that is fiscally responsible and meets the ongoing needs of the Town. The Selectboard has agreed to use the revenue from the sale of the Masonic Hall to Neighbors in Action to apply to this proposed budget to reduce the amount of taxes needed to fulfill this request.

**The projected 2024-25 Municipal Property Tax rate is anticipated to be 0.7648 if all the articles pass, slightly up from 0.7328 in 2022-2023. The GRAND LIST AND TAX COMPARISON report is included in the Annual Town Report, providing a 10 -year comparison of Property Tax Rates.**

**The taxes for the new fiscal year 2025 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025) are due in two installments: municipal taxes are due in August 18 and November . By doing so, tax money will be payable in smaller amounts in two installments rather than in one lump sum. The Town may not have to obtain a tax anticipation loan to cover taxes due and pay the resultant interest that is an additional expense to the Town. A recent statistical reappraisal was recently finished with information available through the Listers Office. If you have any questions, please refer your inquiries to the Town Listers.**

The Board wishes to thank Road Foreman Sid Griggs and Aldo Nunn. The Road Crew has been short an employee for this past summer and fall. In addition to keeping the roads in excellent condition, they also completed multiple critical projects that are not generally visible to most of us, such as ditch clearing, culvert cleaning, brush-hogging, and the like. The roads are in great shape post flood and the Board has received many positive comments from people in town on the Road Crew's work. The Board also wishes to thank Betty Ritter for her work as Town Clerk and Town Treasurer. Under Betty's leadership, the Town Offices are a welcoming and pleasant place to undertake the town's business. We wish to thank Michelle Leclerc for her outstanding service as Assistant Town Clerk and Assistant Town Treasurer for many years. Michelle brings efficiency, pleasantness, professionalism, and spark to Cabot. We are fortunate to have her working for our town. We would also like to thank Jenn Miner for her tireless work as Emergency Management

Coordinator. Lastly, we wish to thank all of the Town officers and volunteers who contribute so much to the smooth functioning of our incredible community. Without all of you, Cabot would not be the wonderful community that it is today. We can never thank each and every one of you enough for all of your services to our town.

The Board meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Willey Building, and we welcome your attendance. Each meeting begins with a Public Comment period where we listen to your concerns and suggestions.

Michael Hogan, Chair  
Fred Ducharme, Vice Chair  
Richard (RD) Eno, Clerk  
Walter (Skip) Bothfield, Jr.  
Karen Larsen



Courtesy of Rory Thibault

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) (FY23)

MONEY ALLOCATED	Allocated	Paid as of 06/30/23
Ambulance - Monitor	5,000.00	5,000.00
Broadband	50,000.00	50,000.00
Cabot Chronicle	5,000.00	5,000.00
Cabot School - Playground	5,000.00	5,000.00
Camera for Health Officer and Town Clerk's office	600.00	
Conservation Committee	20,000.00	
Fire Dept - gear washer/dryer, hose & clothes, generator repair	46,000.00	42,779.45
Fire Dept - Demolition of 2466 Main Street	19,000.00	19,000.00
Library-part-time children librarian	25,000.00	25,000.00
Listers-color copier	3,000.00	2,745.00
Rec Comm Pavilion - Electricity	15,000.00	16,546.00
Rec Comm	13,625.00	6,901.25
Recycle Center - back door	15,000.00	11,818.00
Recycle Center - roof	26,440.00	26,440.00
Recycle Center - lighting	9,925.00	4,740.00
Selectboard - Owl Labs online meeting camera	999.00	999.00
Town Clerk's office - color copier	3,000.00	2,500.00
Town Clerk's land records-Cott's Program	20,000.00	17,319.47
Town Clerk's, Zoning & Listers - computer update	14,626.53	21,254.83
Trails (20% of the Lamoille Valley Grant)	2,667.00	2,667.00
Wastewater improvements	45,000.00	47,869.05
Wastewater Pump Controller (2)	18,000.00	18,000.00
Water system upgrade	30,000.00	29,214.00
Willey Building-Town Clerk's office window replacement	10,500.00	
Willey Building-Heat pumps	58,500.00	42,394.37
<b>Total Money Allocated</b>	<b>461,882.53</b>	<b>403,187.42</b>



Courtesy of Amanda Otto

**DELINQUENT TAXES (FY23)**

Susan Carpenter – Delinquent Tax Collector  
December 31, 2023

	2022
Curtis, Brenda	248.11
Jalbert, Lola	25.11
Malone, Michael	2,947.19
North, Johann	1,443.26
Sironi, Randall Est.	2,375.52
Thompson, Joshua	42.08
Travis, Ross	<u>1,427.72</u>
 Total	 8,508.99

**STATEMENT OF DELINQUENT TAXES**

Susan Carpenter – Delinquent Tax Collector

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Balance due - 1/1/23	707.68	581.65	9,114.71	74,920.12*
2023 taxes not due until 1/18/24 -----		----	----	----
Collected 1/1/23 to 6/30/23 (end of fiscal year)	707.68	581.65	8,678.72	55,080.96
Collected 7/1/23 to 12/31/23 (final 6 months of calendar year)	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>435.99</u>	<u>11,330.17</u>
 Balance due as of 12/31/22	 0.00	 0.00	 0.00	 8,508.99
Interest Collected 1/1/22 to 6/30/22 -	\$6,007.68			
Interest Collected 7/1/22 to 12/31/22 -	<u>\$1,808.08</u>			
 Total interest collected -	 \$7,815.76			

\*Adjusted from 2023 Town Report. An increase to the original warrant by \$20.88.

## GRAND LIST AND TAX COMPARISON 2014 - 2023

Year	Grand List	Municipal Tax		Education Tax		Tax Rate	
		General <sup>1</sup>	Highway	Residential	Non-Residential	Residential	Non-Residential
2014	165,855,851.00	0.2633	0.2673	1.5736	1.5094	2.1042	2.0400
2015	168,109,828.00	1.5890	0.3484	1.6511	1.5089	2.1619	2.0197
2016	171,765,153.00	0.7284	0.3314	1.7199	1.5099	2.2515	2.0415
2017	171,479,280.00	0.3106	0.3041	1.7391	1.5236	2.3540	2.1380
2018	174,789,116.00	0.2571	0.3671	1.7543	1.5910	2.3834	2.2201
2019	175,765,345.00	0.2806	0.3274	1.7305	1.5966	2.3385	2.2046
2020	177,755,100.00	0.2698	0.3837	1.6814	1.6127	2.3349	2.2662
2021	180,378,281.00	0.2701	0.3669	1.7175	1.6576	2.3545	2.2946
2022	180,434,800.00	0.2805	0.3714	1.7013	1.6669	2.3532	2.3188
2023	179,857,277.00	0.3065	0.4263	1.7840	1.8378	2.5168	2.5706
<b>Average: \$</b>	<b>174,619,003.10</b>	<b>0.4556</b>	<b>0.3494</b>	<b>1.7053</b>	<b>1.6014</b>	<b>2.3153</b>	<b>2.2114</b>

<sup>1</sup> Rates include any Local Agreement and Deficits amounts



Pumpkin Ritter



Willow Leclerc



Zoey Johnson

**TOWN GENERAL FUND & HIGHWAY INCOME**

		Approved Budget	Actual Budget	Approved Budget	Proposed Budget
		2022-2023	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
General Fund Income		77,550	1,231,925	82,100	210,089
Highway Fund Income		153,600	226,066	159,100	167,600
Income from Taxes					1,488,922
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>231,150</b>	<b>1,457,990</b>	<b>241,200</b>	<b>1,866,611</b>
General Fund Expense		693,815	704,259	726,619	825,218
Highway Fund Expense		823,815	889,124	925,863	1,041,393
		<b>1,517,630</b>	<b>1,593,382</b>	<b>1,652,483</b>	<b>1,866,611</b>
General Fund Income					
	Administrative Charges	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
	Property Taxes		1,023,250		
	Hold Harmless - Land Use		117,429		
	Land Use Change Fee		6,853		
	Equalization	900	900	900	900
	Conservation Committee		6,036		-
	Clerk Fees	25,000	21,108	25,000	20,000
	Library Income & Grants	500	3,323		500
	Tax Sales Redemption/Sale				
	Education Billing Fee		5,189		5,189
	Fire Dept Donation & Grants		2,490		2,000
	Grants				
	Interest	18,000	7,388	20,000	8,000
	Miscellaneous Income	200	208	2,300	500
	Masonic Hall Fees & Purchase	10,200	11,050	10,200	147,000
	Recreation Committee	1,500	5,653	2,000	4,000
	Recycle Center	150			-
	Sheriff Fines	1,600	1,289	2,200	1,500
	State PILOT Payments	8,500	8,584	8,500	8,500
	Trails Committee				
	Willey Bld Rental Income	1,000	1,175	1,000	2,000
	<b>Total General Fund Income</b>	<b>77,550</b>	<b>1,231,925</b>	<b>82,100</b>	<b>210,089</b>
		Approved Budget	Actual Budget	Approved Budget	Proposed Budget
		2022-2023	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Highway Fund Income	HW Miscellaneous	1,000	63,312	1,100	1,000
	HW State Highway Grants	20,000	6,622	25,000	34,000
	HW State Aid	132,600	141,408	133,000	132,600
	HW Grants		14,724		
	<b>Total Highway Fund Income</b>	<b>153,600</b>	<b>226,066</b>	<b>159,100</b>	<b>167,600</b>

**TOWN GENERAL EXPENSE BUDGET**

	<b>Approved Budget</b>	<b>Actual Budget</b>	<b>Approved Budget</b>	<b>Proposed Budget</b>
	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>
Payroll	157,609	125,179	166,423	156,890
Payroll Taxes	20,500	15,050	21,635	21,500
Cabot Appropriations	83,250	83,250	88,750	62,500
Special Service Appropriations	18,554	18,554	17,135	18,735
Audit	14,000	11,325	12,000	13,000
Legal	10,000	2,841	10,000	10,000
Computer - IT & Cyber Security	1,000	3,130	1,000	20,000
Conservation Commission	500	5,818	500	1,500
Flood Resilience Task Force				1,500
Constable	1,000	150	1,000	1,000
County Tax	14,000	14,835	15,000	15,500
Development Review Board		543	1,000	600
Dues & Subscriptions	14,000	13,957	16,000	11,500
Emergency Management	500	-	500	500
Emergency Transport Services				40,000
Fire Department Operations	52,500	59,260	81,250	122,900
General Expense	2,000	2,625	2,000	3,000
Health Insurance	12,200	12,035	12,200	12,200
Health Officer		-	500	500
Insurance	14,000	15,151	14,000	15,000
Interest Expense	1,200	5,223	7,500	6,000
Library Expense	87,252	90,942	103,334	116,543
Lister Expense	7,500	6,118	7,617	6,200
Main St. 2466 - New Property	28,000	50,266	2,000	-
Masonic Hall Expense	3,500	5,569	4,000	-
Meetings/Elections	5,000	3,404	5,000	5,000
Office Expenses	6,000	10,307	6,000	7,000
Office Supplies	2,000	2,097	2,000	2,000
Planning Commission	2,500	23	2,650	2,650
Pound Keeper	500	802	500	500
Rec. Committee	8,000	10,757	10,625	10,000
Selectboard Miscellanous	15,000	7,658	4,000	4,000
Sheriff	7,000	7,107	7,000	8,000
Recycle Center	9,700	9,292	10,000	10,000
Tax Sale		1,685		
Tax Map				18,000
Trails Committee	1,250	8,261	2,000	2,000
Trees - Ash Borer				7,000
Village Expenses	38,000	33,938	41,000	41,000
Willey Building Expenses	55,000	65,808	50,000	50,000
Zoning Administration	800	1,294	500	1,000
<b>Total General Fund Exp</b>	<b>693,815</b>	<b>704,259</b>	<b>726,619</b>	<b>825,218</b>

## HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSE BUDGET

	Approved Budget	Actual Budget	Approved Budget	Proposed Budget
	2022-2023	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Payroll	173,286	186,287	208,624	212,588
Payroll Taxes	22,000	23,836	27,000	28,000
Bridges	2,500	-	2,500	1,000
Legal	500	-	500	500
Buildings Maintenance	2,000	3,993	2,000	3,000
Chloride	18,000	24,978	21,000	21,000
Clothing Allowance	3,500	3,497	5,500	4,000
Cold Patch/Sealer	9,500	-	9,500	9,500
Culverts	9,000	13,596	13,500	15,000
Equipment Lease	27,100	28,497	28,500	71,237
Equipment	6,000	21,759		-
Equipment Repair	25,000	49,993	25,000	40,000
Equipment Loan Principal	79,415	43,128	79,415	43,308
Fuel Expense for Equipment	45,000	58,196	55,000	55,000
Garage Supplies	3,000	5,431	3,000	9,000
Garage Repairs		4,200		-
Gravel	70,000	66,616	80,000	90,000
Class 4 Roads Maintenance				10,000
Highway Grants	1,600	8,202		-
Health Insurance	18,500	17,564	34,500	55,000
Highway Propane	8,000	7,105	10,000	10,000
Hired/Rented Equipment	5,000	1,500	5,000	8,000
Insurance	26,000	31,029	27,000	35,000
Interest-Paving Bond	2,609	2,609	2,609	2,609
Interest-Garage Bond	652	652	652	652
Principal-Paving Bond	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Principal-Garage Bond	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Loan Interest	7,200	6,060	11,397	6,000
Miscellaneous	1,500	2,772	1,500	2,000
Paving Projects	30,000	61,360	40,000	40,000
Paving Loan	52,953	47,070	47,166	47,000
Permits - stormwater	3,000	1,765	2,000	2,000
Salt	55,000	50,485	55,000	65,000
Sand	28,000	29,595	35,000	50,000
Sinking Fund for Equipment	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Signs & Guardrails	3,000	1,254	7,000	10,000
Tires	15,000	12,924	20,000	20,000
Tire Chains		7,404		8,000
Transportation Planning	5,000		1,000	-
Utilities	5,000	5,766	5,000	7,000
<b>Total Highway Expense</b>	<b>823,815</b>	<b>889,124</b>	<b>925,863</b>	<b>1,041,393</b>

## **TOWN HIGHWAY (FY23)**

The Road Crew has had another great year of service. We had many ditching projects, along side with several failed culverts being replaced. We completed two better back road grants for Bricketts crossing road, starting from the Cabot Plains/West shore road intersection, back towards Walden. The other project was on Ducharme road starting at the Ducharme Road/Carpenter Road intersection and going all the way up the steep hill back towards the village. Both segments saw big improvements during this year's mud season, which is one of the major reasons for completing these projects. This year was the first time the town opted to hire our winter sand to be hauled in. This meant that we got less yards of sand, but taking into consideration that we had a fair amount left over from the previous winter we thought it would be the best time to try it. It takes the town 4 weeks to haul our sand in every year, add in the cost of payroll, fuel, and wear and tear on the trucks, it came out to about the same amount overall. The sand pile was put up in two days! We got 2300 yards of sand hauled in and stacked in a pile in two days. That number of yards would have taken 2 weeks had we done it all ourselves. With this huge swing in events, we are hoping to continue this same method in years to come as it will free the road crew up for more maintenance projects to get done in an already short construction season.

I took over as Road Foreman and Road Commissioner on May 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Reason for taking over both positions is I believed in the past years there has been a disconnect, to no one's fault, between the Road crew and the select board. I believed that by taking both positions it would better the relationship moving forward. So far, I have to say, there is much less miscommunication between both parties, which is a vast improvement. With my taking over of the positions, another position changed. Long time Road crew member Walter (Rusty) Churchill retired after 23 years of devoted service to the town of Cabot. Enjoy your retirement Rusty, you deserve it!

The year ahead has an extremely large list of tasks ahead of it. The biggest one ahead is there are an incredible number of berms on the edge of the roads. These are just sediment, sand, and gravel built up from plowing soft ground and rain deposits over the years. The berms do not allow for the rainwater to shed off the road properly, causing washouts to form and ditches to fill in. By removing them, it will allow us to shape the roads better in the summer to allow the water to shed off the road surface properly. Which in turn, saves the ditches and culverts filling in with sediment, creating more work for us. We also have a better back roads grant to accomplish in the year to come as well as a state aid grant. The better back roads grant segment is on Cabot plains road, which starts at the Bolton Road intersection and continues down the hill towards Bricketts crossing road intersection. The state aid grant is a little different. Every town is awarded so much money each year to use to update what the state considers hydrologically connected segments. So, these are stretches of roadway that lead down into a valley with a stream or brook at the bottom. The reason for these grants is to attempt to limit the sediment coming from our roadways into the rivers and streams. The town receives a certain amount of money each year, which this year we have been awarded \$27,000 to use on as many hydrologically connected segments as we can.

My main goal as road foreman is to find ways to do our job as efficiently as possible to get as much done in a short construction season as we can. We have a lot of roads to maintain, each of them with their own set of challenges, however we will work hard to serve you well.

Thank you, Sid Griggs

**TOWN GENERAL FUND BALANCE SHEET  
AS OF JUNE 30, 2023 (FY23)**

**ASSETS**

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1000 · M&T Bank - Checking - GF	59.86
1000.a - ARPA - M&T Bank	38,599.65
1003 · Passumpsic Bank #4661	4,141.31
1004 · Community National Bank	105,646.27
1004.a · Comm Nat'l-Non Arbitrage Chkg	547.64
1005 · Petty Cash	200.00
1006 · Reappraisal Fund Savings Acct	72,362.20
1007 · Passumpsic Sinking Fund	35,148.62
1008 . Fire Dept - Donations	2,490.14

Total Checking/Savings	259,195.69
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Other Current Assets

1584.w. Due from Water	129.15
1584.ww. Due from WW	618.65
1584a. Due from Cemetery	41.42
1584d. Due from Del. Tax Collector	17,359.93

Total Current Assets	18,149.15
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Total Assets	277,344.84
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**TOTAL ASSETS**

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

Prepaid Taxes	5,046.93
1586 · Solid Waste - REFUNDABLE DEP.	300.00

Total Other Current Liabilities	5,346.93
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Total Current Liabilities	5,346.93
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Long Term Liabilities

1600 · Loan - UDAG WB Renovation	7,932.78
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Total Long Term Liabilities	7,932.78
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Total Liabilities	13,279.71
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Equity

1703 · Retained Earnings	281,074.01
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Net Income	-17,008.88
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Total Equity	264,065.13
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<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>277,344.84</b>
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**TOWN GENERAL FUND PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT  
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023 (FY23)**

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

1445 · Adminstrative Charges	10,000.00
1447 · Conservation Committee	6,035.54
1450 · Education Billing Fee	5,189.33
1475 · Equalization	900.00
1500 · Current Taxes	1,023,250.44
1501 · Land Use - Hold Harmless	117,429.00
1506 · State PILOT	8,584.33
1570 · Land Use Change Fee	6,852.50
3000 · Clerk Fees	21,108.04
3030 · Land Record Restoration	3,621.00
3200 · Delinquent Taxes	219,598.33
3250 · Grant	214,987.49
3275 · FD Income	2,490.00
3300 · Interest Income	7,519.67
3390 · Library Income	41,099.43
3400 · Misc. Income	207.65
3496 · Re-Appraisal - RESERVED	7,650.00
3600 · Recreation Income	5,652.56
3645 · Masonic Hall Fees	11,050.00
3648 · Sheriff Fines	1,289.00
3650 · Willey Building Rental Fees	1,175.00
HF3030 · Miscellaneous Income	62,041.80
HF3032 · Driveway Permit	870.00
HF3033 · Excess Weight Permits	400.00
HF3730 · Highway Grants	6,621.80
HF3785 · State Aid	141,407.89
HF3787 · State Highway Grants	14,724.02

Total Income 1,941,754.82

Gross Profit 1,941,754.82

Expense

Payroll Expenses	153,804.45
Payroll Taxes	18,100.42
4000 · Appropriations	101,804.00
4001 · Audit	11,325.00
4002 · Legal	3,019.53
4036 · IT & Cyber Security	3,130.49
4038 · Conservation Committee	5,818.30
4039 · Constable	150.00
4040 · County Tax	14,835.00
4044 · Delinquent Collector Fee	15,780.92
4045 · Development Review Board	543.33
4046 · Dues & Subscriptions	13,956.77
4050 · Fire Department Expenses	59,259.99
4110 · General Expense	2,625.41

4120 · Grants	288,236.23
4130-1 · Health Insurance	12,035.32
4140 · Insurance	15,151.34
4150 · Interest Expense	5,222.87
4200 · Library Operations	120,218.02
4300 · Lister	6,117.78
4370 · Main Street 2466 - New Property	50,266.31
4400 · Masonic Hall	5,569.43
4500 · Meeting Elections	3,404.31
4600 · Office Expenses	10,421.92
4700 · Office Supplies	2,097.20
4800 · Planning Commission	22.60
4900 · Poundkeeper	801.70
5550 · Recreation Committee	8,156.73
5600 · Records Restoration	2,720.00
6000 · SB Miscellaneous	7,658.31
6051 · Sheriff	7,107.48
6070 · Recycle Center	9,292.47
6150 · Tax Sale	1,684.80
6175 · Trails Committee	8,260.58
6200 · Willey Building Expense	65,808.09
6300 · Village Expenses	33,938.31
6360 · Zoning Admin	1,294.35
HF4002 · Building & Garage Maint	3,992.84
HF4004 · Chloride	24,977.89
HF4006 · Clothing Allowance	3,496.50
HF4010 · Culverts	13,596.48
HF4028 · Equipment Lease	28,496.80
HF4029 · Equipment	21,758.77
HF4030 · Equipment Repairs	49,992.63
HF4054 · Equipment Bond/Loan Principal	43,127.90
HF4055 · Fuel Expense/Equipment	58,196.15
HF4060 · Garage Supplies	5,430.97
HF4060a · Garage repair	4,200.00
HF4061 · Gravel	66,616.48
HF4073 · Highway Grants	8,202.15
HF4089 · Furnace Oil/Propane	7,104.69
HF4090 · Hired/Rental Equipment	1,500.00
HF4095 · Highway Fund Insurance	31,028.59
HF4110 · Bond Interest	3,261.15
HF4120 · Bond Principal	50,000.00
HF4130 · Loan Interest	6,060.46
HF4140 · Loans	47,070.21
HF4160 · Miscellanous Expense	2,771.88
HF4177 · Highway Payroll	227,687.88
HF4180 · Paving	61,360.00
HF4182 · Salt	50,485.20
HF4183 · Permits	1,765.00

	HF4184 · Equipment Sinking Fund	10,000.00
	HF4185 · Sand	29,594.50
	HF4192 · Signs & Guardrails	1,254.37
	HF4194 · Tire Account	20,328.55
	HF4200 · Utilities	5,765.90
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b><u>1,958,763.70</u></b>
Net Ordinary Income		-17,008.88
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
8005 · In-Out Checks		0.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>		<b><u>0.00</u></b>
Net Other Income		<b><u>0.00</u></b>
		<b><u><u>-17,008.88</u></u></b>



Courtesy of NEK Images Photography Miranda Hunt

### BOND PAYMENT SCHEDULE (FY23)

	\$ 2,020.00	2021	2022	2023
<b>2014 Highway Paving &amp; Garage [\$500,000]</b>				
Interest due 6-1	\$ 3,257.45	2,661.70	2,661.70	1,995.95
Interest due 12-1	\$ 3,257.45	2,661.70	1,995.95	1,265.20
Vermont Municipal Bond Principal	\$ 50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
<b>Total 2014 Bond Payment</b>	\$ 56,514.90	55,323.40	54,657.65	53,261.15
<b>2011 Fire Department Truck Bond [\$150,000]</b>				
Interest due 6-1	\$ 341.90	175.70	93.48	
Interest due 12-1	\$ 341.90	175.70		
Vermont Municipal Bond Principal	\$ 10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
<b>Total 2011 FD Truck Bond Payment</b>	\$ 10,683.80	10,351.40	10,093.48	<b>Paid</b>
<b>Payment Schedule Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 67,198.70</b>	<b>\$ 65,674.80</b>	<b>\$ 64,751.13</b>	<b>\$ 53,261.15</b>



Courtesy of NEK Images Photography Miranda Hunt

## REAL ESTATE INVENTORY (FY23)

Cabot Common - .80 Acres		8,800
Cabot School - 4.80 Acres and Buildings		3,000,000
Cemetery Storage Buildings		5,800
Danville Hill Road - 2.90 Acres and Water Pump Building		46,000
Elm Street - 19 Acres and Cemetery		31,500
Fire Station - .59 Acres and Building		75,000
Highway Garage and Salt Shed - 8.02 Acres		1,000,000
Houston Hill Land Fill - 4 Acres		4,800
2466 Main Street - 3.41 Acres		173,900
Masonic Hall - .50 Acres and Building		248,200
Recreation Building and Field - 9 Acres		72,100
Recycle Center and Town Storage		26,000
2639 South Walden Rd - 2.50 Acres		87,700
Town Forest - 40 Acres		40,000
US Route 2 - 3.7 Acres		9,000
Wastewater Historical Dwelling		52,000
Wastewater Sewer Treatment Building - 9.50 Acres		2,149,700
Wastewater Storage Building		12,500
Water Wells		30,700
Willey Memorial Building - .95 Acres and Town Hall		314,000
		314,000
<b>Total Real Estate</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,387,700</b>



Courtesy of Jeanne Johnson

## TOWN EQUIPMENT INVENTORY (FY23)

	<b>VALUE</b>
Cemetery Water Tank	500
Cemetery Small Hand Tools	550
Fire Department Fire Station Inventory	53,000
Fire Department 2011 Pierce Saber Pumper Truck	335,000
Fire Department 2009 GMC 5500 Rescue Truck	145,000
Fire Department 1999 International 4900 Tank Truck	100,000
Fire Department Rescue Truck Inventory	75,000
Fire Department Pumper Truck Inventory	30,000
Fire Department Tank Truck Inventory	18,000
Highway Department 2015 John Deere Grader	240,000
Highway Department 2015 John Deere Excavator	100,400
Highway Department 2019 John Deere Tractor/Roadside Mower	118,000
Highway Department 2015 Trailer	10,000
Highway Department 2018 Komatsu Loader	55,000
Highway Department 2017 International Truck and Plow	95,000
Highway Department 2018 Western Star Truck and Plow	114,000
Highway Department 2014 GMC Sierra Truck and Plow	15,000
Highway Department 2020 Skid Steer	40,000
Highway Department 2023 Buffalo Turbine Debris Blower	9,300
Highway Department 2023 Western Star Truck and Plow	190,000
Highway Department 2023 Trailer	10,500
Highway Department Plows and Sanders	5,000
Highway Department Chipper	2,200
Highway Department Chainsaws	800
Highway Department 2 Welders	200
Highway Department Culvert Thawer/Pressure Washer	3,000
Highway Department Generator	6,000
Highway Department Small Hand Tools	10,000
Town Clerk Office Computers/Printers	9,500
Town Clerk Office File Cabinets/Safes	10,000
Town Clerk Office Furniture/Fixtures	20,000
Zoning Office Computer/Printer	12,000
Town Library [in the Willey Memorial Building]	127,000
	127,000
<b>Total Equipment Value</b>	<b>1,959,950</b>

## TOWN SALARIES 2023

Aldo Nunn	Road Crew	76,553.64
Amanda Otto	Children's Librarian	25,528.50
Anne Miller	Library Substitute	644.00
Betty Ritter	Clerk & Treasurer	54,693.47
Brittany Butler	Lister/Zoning Admin	11,794.04
Cameryn Hoffman	Library Summer	1,447.50
Christina Sacalis	Library Substitute	1,120.50
Fred Ducharme	Selectboard Member	1,000.00
Grace Hoffman	Library Substitute	1,087.00
Jacqueline Lumbra	Lister	6,394.71
Jeanne Johnson	Lister	14,218.13
Jessica North	Rec. Committee Coordinator	5,196.00
Karen Larsen	Selectboard Member	1,000.00
Kathleen Hoyne	Librarian	57,092.60
Lorelai Bastress	Library Summer	1,440.00
Lori Augustyniak	Trails Committee Grant	700.00
Michael Hogan	Selectboard Chair	1,050.00
Michelle Leclerc	Asst. Clerk & Treasurer	55,665.41
Richard D. Eno	Selectboard Member	1,000.00
Shirley Ducharme	Custodian	19,406.50
Sidney Griggs	Road Foreman	78,425.85
Susan Carpenter	Delinquent Tax Collector	13,439.04
Tyler Mayo	Road Crew Part-time	562.50
Walter Bothfeld, Jr.	Selectboard Member	1,000.00
Walter Churchill	Road Crew	39,697.32
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>470,156.71</u></b>



Courtesy of Amanda Ott

**CABOT COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND  
BALANCE SHEET as of JUNE 30, 2023 (FY23)**

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Admin Fund Checking 917.54

Scholarship Admin Checking Acct 897.16

Total Checking/Savings 1,814.70

Accounts Receivable

Accounts Receivable -58,371.16

Total Accounts Receivable -58,371.16

**Total Current Assets**

**-56,556.46**

Fixed Assets

Contra Accts Receivable

58,371.16

Total Fixed Assets

58,371.16

Other Assets

Willey Building Loan to General Fund 7,932.78

Trust Accounts

Scholarship Endowment Trust Acc 219,408.96

CCIF Funds Trust Account 645,468.31

Total Trust Accounts 864,877.27

Wastewater Loan - due 2031 405,500.00

Wastewater Loan - due 2031 75,000.00

Total Other Assets 1,353,310.05

**TOTAL ASSETS**

**1,355,124.75**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Retained Earnings 1,308,980.40

Net Income 46,144.35

Total Equity 1,355,124.75

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

**1,355,124.75**

**CABOT COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND**  
**PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT as of JUNE 30, 2023 (FY23)**

Ordinary Income/Expense  
Income

Miscellaneous Income	20.22	
Community Loan Interest Income		
Cabot Common 50K Interest	1,083.84	
Total Community Loan Interest Income		1,104.06
Income From Trust & Check Accts		
Bank Interest		
Scholarship Admin Checking	1.47	
CCIF Admin Checking Acct Int	81.75	
Total Bank Interest		83.22
CCIF Fund Trust Acct Earnings		
Realized gains/(losses)	6,901.29	
Foreign tax withheld	0.00	
CCIF Trust Acct - Chnge in Mkt Val	52,822.59	
CCIF Trust Acct - Div & Int	20,611.94	
CCIF Trust Acct - Fees to UB	-6,118.15	
Total CCIF Fund Trust Acct Earnings		74,217.67
Total Income From Trust & Check Accts		74,300.89
Loan Repayments		3,445.88
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>78,850.83</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>		<b>78,850.83</b>
Expense		
Debt Service - Town Garage	23,018.00	
Interest	1,771.31	
Grants		
Scholarship Grants	3,750.00	
Town Meeting Grant	0.00	
Total Grants		3,750.00
Administrative Expenses		
Accounting and Auditing Service	775.00	
Total Administrative Expenses		775.00
Loan Subsidies Paid		3,392.17
Total Expenses		32,706.48
Net Ordinary Income		46,144.35
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>46,144.35</b>

## **CABOT COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND (FY23)**

The Cabot Community Investment Fund Committee took some serious strides this year to make improvements to the fund. At last year's town meeting, voters opted to sequester the fund for two years to allow it to recover from losses sustained over the last five years or so. That decision has certainly helped the fund to make gains- minimizing expenditures is allowing the fund to maximize growth from interest.

In addition to the sequester, the committee voted in the spring to increase stocks from 50% to 60% of the fund and decrease bonds from 50% to 40%. Meeting with Mariner Financial (the company responsible for investing the fund) solidified the decision to move to a higher stock ratio. The general fund started at \$521,017 last January and by the end of December had increased to \$642,641- an increase of \$121,624. The scholarship fund increased by \$15,118 to \$226,333.

The CCIF committee plans to set financial goals for both funds this year - financial targets for both funds and a timeline to achieve those targets. Once the targets are met, the fund can be utilized to make investments in the economic viability of the town in a manner that once again sustains the principle of the fund.

Respectfully submitted,  
Greg Burt



Courtesy of Amanda Otto

## CEMETERY COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORT (FY23)

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Appropriations	20,000.00
Burial Income	2,300.00
Capital Gains/Losses	27,277.09
Change in Market	-20,573.27
Dividend & Interest	3,456.44
Donations	25,000.00
Lot Sale	430.00
Perpetual Care	1,300.00

**Total Income** 59,190.26

Expense

Advertising and Promotion	0.00
Bank Service Charges	1,170.62
Burial Expense	1,350.00
Contract - Lawn Maintenance	11,200.00
Insurance Expense	123.92
Repairs and Maintenance	7,325.00
Supplies Fence Painting	
Total Supplies	-

**Total Expense** 21,169.54

Net Ordinary Income 38,020.72

Other Income/Expense

Other Income

Interest Income 43.35

Net Other Income 43.35

**Net Income** 38,064.07



Courtesy of Jeanne Johnson  
Veterans Lunch November 11, 2023

## CEMETERY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT (FY23)

General Maintenance was the main accomplishment for the seven cemeteries in Cabot this year. The cemeteries officially open May 1<sup>st</sup> each spring and close on September 30<sup>th</sup>, burials to continue after that date, weather permitting.

The fence at Durant, taken down last fall (2022) to allow Ryan Chappel to grind 14 old stumps, was put back up before Memorial Day. Additional dirt and grass was seeded in spring of 2024.

Other projects the board had hopes of doing were painting fences at Cabot Plains and Durant, and tree removal. Sadly, painting wasn't accomplished due to lack of time, manpower, wet weather and the July flood.

We did manage to remove two old dying maple trees, one at the Village Cemetery and one at the Plains Cemetery. All these large old (pine, maple, spruce) trees have been magnificent in the days, but are becoming expensive liabilities due to tree removal costs and stone, storage building and fence repair.

Our board has spent over \$40,000 in the last six years on these projects.

Joe Mangan and his crew, in spite of the extremely wet year, did an amazing job of keeping the cemeteries mowed and trimmed. Thank you to Joe and his crew.

In closing, the commission thanks the voters of Cabot for our annual appropriation and their continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Melvin Churchill, Chair

Cedric Alexander

Debra Bothfeld

Ruth Goodrich

Angela Ward



Courtesy of Amanda Otto

## CABOT EMERGENCY AMBULANCE FINANCIAL REPORT (23)

Dispatching Cost	23,373.08
EMS Billing Fees	558.00
Insurance	7,328.00
Airgas - Oxygen	1,293.97
Repairs/Maintenance	3,698.59
Phone	872.94
Fuel	709.64
Supplies	12,359.35
New Equipment	13,035.27
Training	2,000.00
Misc	1,438.00
Medications used	1,247.45
Stipends	1,500.00
Postage	241.60
Mutual Aid Cost	3,410.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>73,065.89</u></b>

Cabot Ambulance received \$40,000 in 2023 to help defray expenses.

Cabot Ambulance is proud to serve the community in the spirit of Dr. & Virginia Caffin



Courtesy of Amanda Otto

## CABOT EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE (FY23)

Cabot Ambulance completes its 56<sup>th</sup> year of EMS Service to the Town of Cabot

In 2023 Cabot Ambulance completed 56 years of Emergency Medical Services for the citizens of the Town of Cabot. Cabot Ambulance was toned to 122 calls for the Town of Cabot in 2023 and provided a response to 80% of these calls in the form of transport or first response.

2023 presented many challenges for the Cabot community and Cabot Ambulance was not immune to the impacts of the July 10<sup>th</sup> flooding. The ambulance was relocated and has been able to continue to provide response post-flooding. With the increased focus on volunteer efforts within the community, we have had the good fortune of obtaining many new members and rejuvenating the squad and its focus.

Cabot Ambulance members are eager to continue to provide emergency medical services for this community for many years to come. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering in any capacity, we encourage you to reach out to any member of Cabot Ambulance for an application or attend our monthly meetings the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.

Respectfully,  
Jennifer Miner, President  
Cabot Emergency Ambulance Service  
[WillowReignsNana13@gmail.com](mailto:WillowReignsNana13@gmail.com)  
Cell: (802)-498-8245



Courtesy of Amanda Otto

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT (FY23)

It's been a busy year for the Conservation Committee, with public outreach and education and flood resiliency activities. Starting off with outreach and education, the following public events were held, many in collaboration with the Cabot Library.

January 15 – A presentation on Vermont Forests in a Changing Climate by Ali Kosiba, UVM Extension Forester.

February 19 – Winter wildlife tracking at McQueeney Trails.

March 23 – Bear Aware presentation by Vermont Fish & Wildlife biologist Josh Blouin.

April 23 – Emerald ash borer presentation by Roland Payne, Jr., our Tree Warden and Conservation Committee member.

May 7 – spring ephemeral and wildflower walk at Talbert Trails with Bob Popp, local botanist from Marshfield.

May 28 - Bird Walk near the shores of Joe's Pond and the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail led by Tom Berriman of NEK Audubon.

The Conservation Committee participated in and coordinated the Conservation Plant Sale with the Marshfield and Plainfield Conservation Commissions. Over 80 plant orders were processed, and we received proceeds of almost \$500 to put towards conservation efforts. Although we will not be participating in this effort this year, we plan to help Cabot residents with conservation and riparian plantings. We received a \$500 flood recovery grant that we will put towards purchasing plants and will work with Friends of the Winooski on river and streamside plantings.

The Select Board has allocated \$20,000 of ARPA funding for continuation of our natural communities inventory work in town that was started during COVID-19. We will use the funding to contract with a naturalist to continue site visits and characterization of significant natural communities in town. We will sponsor community walks and outreach events. This work will contribute to town plan revisions on Cabot's natural resources, including identification and prioritization of important forest blocks for wildlife habitat and migration, required in town plans. We hope that this work will culminate not only in interesting but important information to help the town and residents in stewardship of our natural resources. We appreciate the past cooperation of landowners in allowing access by our naturalist to their properties and look forward to working with additional landowners.

And lastly, the great flood of July 10 and 11: We felt strongly that the Conservation Committee could have an important role in contributing to flood resiliency in Cabot. We volunteered to lead and coordinate a Cabot Flood Resiliency Task Force to mitigate the environmental impacts of future storm events so that we do not experience the devastating flood impacts of 2011 and 2023. The Task Force, consisting of community members and Friends of the Winooski, began meeting in September. We have walked and documented conditions in over six miles of the two tributaries that damaged the village, have met with engineering consultants and state officials, and will be applying for grant funding to conduct studies to help us find viable alternatives to slowing and diverting flows in future major storm events. We hope to keep the community informed and involved in our work to make Cabot more flood resilient and improve the health of our watershed. We will need your help and support!

Conservation Committee Members: Cedric Alexander, Dawn Andrews, Chris Duff, Gary Gulka, Roland Payne, Jr.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (FY23)

The Emergency Management story for 2023 is the flooding of the Cabot community on July 10, 2023. While the damage to the Town of Cabot was that of a hundred-year storm, and the second such storm in 15 years, this community showed its true resilience in supporting one another.

With immediate response provided to the Main Street area as the flood waters rose to levels compromising the roads and homes, we were able to move people to safety, open the shelter and coordinate with the town leaders to get equipment in place to start to rebuild even before the waters had crested.

Volunteerism is down across all areas, but the rebuilding of the Cabot community did not reflect this. Many community members participated in the thousands of hours of volunteering to complete projects, from flagging to basement muck outs, to evacuations, to basement pump outs.

As EMD, I worked collaboratively with many of our local community members and partners to help facilitate events that allowed us to live the motto “Cabot Strong.” There has been successful collaboration among the Cabot Select board, the Town Clerk, local businesses and Vermont Emergency Management to ensure our community needs are being met at both the local and state levels.

I am thankful to the Town of Cabot Selectboard for the opportunity to serve the Cabot community in this capacity for a third consecutive year.

Respectfully Submitted, Jennifer Miner, Emergency Management Director



## VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS (FY23)

Income	Approved Budget 2022-2023	Actual Budget 2022-2023	Approved Budget 2023-2024	Proposed Budget 2024-2025
Appropriation	52,500	52,500	81,250	122,900
Donations		2,490		
Interest		0		
Misc				
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,500</b>	<b>54,990</b>	<b>81,250</b>	<b>122,900</b>

### Expense

Electricity	2,500	2,656	1,800	2,700
Building Maintenance	6,500	12,316	3,180	-
Dry Hydrant grant/repair				5,500
Supplies	850	178	2,300	2,300
FAST Squad				23,300
Heating Fuel	4,000	4,610	3,700	4,700
Insurance	5,000	6,822	6,700	6,900
Members Gear		793	9,000	9,000
Members Support			5,000	5,000
Miscellaneous	3,000	1,792	1,200	1,200
New Equipment	7,500	259	8,000	5,600
Radios Repair	1,800		1,400	2,300
Sewer/Water	1,600	1,529	1,500	1,500
Dispatching Service	13,350	12,146	12,890	14,000
Telephone/Tablet	900	994	1,380	4,500
Truck Fuel	1,000	1,640	700	1,700
Training				2,000
Repair - Equipment	2,000	548	5,500	2,400
Repair - Truck	2,500	11,675	17,000	17,000
Sinking Fund for Equipment				10,000
Trash				600
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,500</b>	<b>57,958</b>	<b>81,250</b>	<b>122,200</b>

## **CABOT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT (FY23)**

Cabot Fire Department (CFD) is composed of 29 members and is growing! Consisting of multiple men and women and junior firefighters. Holding a wide range of lifestyles, skill sets, experience, and knowledge.

long gone are the simple brush fires out behind Mrs. Smith's barn and horse and buggy days. Now we respond to a wide horizon of calls consisting of but not limited to drug overdoses, lift assist, ammonia leaks, hazmat calls, car and truck accidents, structure fires, search and rescue, snowmobile accidents, medivac, cadaver extraction, and the list goes on and on and gets darker and darker. When you dial 911.... we ARE 911.

It brings to the attention of the continued elevated training that's required for our members. Training now is much more involved with longer hours and higher skill levels and certifications needed. Realizing that our entire 29-membership consists of 100% volunteers, these are folks that have "other lives". Some are farmers, construction workers, IT folks, and office workers some are self-employed or retired, and some are just students, yet the additional dedication of their time and the training that they are willing to give/receive is second to none and done without question. They are there to help someone in their time of need. Cabot is extremely fortunate to have such a professional, certified, strong fire and rescue department right here locally in Cabot.

With the new permanent public safety building on the horizon located at 2466 Main Street, (funded mostly by FEMA – 90%) to house the over 1 million dollars of tax-paying apparatus and equipment that have been entrusted to us by you, the new public safety building will consist of a Decon Bay to allow for carcinogenic (a known cancer-causing item to firefighters) to be decontaminated off personnel, gear, and equipment after a call.

The new building will also have proper ventilation of exhaust from the apparatus, proper training space to be incorporated within, ADA compliant, safer entrance and departing of apparatus utilizing a drive-through bay design for our projected upcoming 220 calls a year. Flex space to support a proper Tear 1 dispatch center & command post to help efficiently direct CFD members & mutual aid and other Town entities during a catastrophic event. (over 1000 CFD man hrs. alone were documented in the last event). Decompression space for members to mentally open up after a "hard call" involving a fatality. Properly secured storage of the newly formed CFD FAST squad (EMS) items as well as space required to keep state & government reports.

CFD has grown because of OSHA, VOSHA, and the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) along with State and federal requirements, and the type of calls that we are dispatched to. They have forced the change, and first responders must be protected.

With that, I want to thank you, the ones we protect and serve. The town folks, for the overwhelming support that you have shown my members during this past tribulation year.

The pride of being the Chief of this powerful town entity organization with the countless hours of volunteer duties performed and executed by the members within, utilizing emergency life savings measures, brings one reason to mind to everyone within the department... **Cabot**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dean D, Deasy – Chief  
Cabot Fire Department  
[Chief@Cabotfiredept.com](mailto:Chief@Cabotfiredept.com)



## LIBRARY OPERATIONS (FY23)

	Approved Budget 2022 - 2023	Actual Budget 2022-2023	Approved Budget 2023-2024	Proposed Budget 2024-2025
<b>INCOME</b>				
Appropriation - Town	87,252	87,252	78,344	116,543
Gifts & Donations		1,952		
Interest				
Miscellaneous/Grant		1,371	25,000	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>87,252</b>	<b>90,575</b>	<b>103,344</b>	<b>116,543</b>

	Approved Budget 2022 - 2023	Actual Budget 2022-2023	Approved Budget 2023-2024	Proposed Budget 2024-2025
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Payroll	43,475	46,217	47,257	54,600
Payroll Taxes	5,534	6,981	3,615	7,398
Youth Librarian Payroll			22,380	24,252
Youth Librarian Taxes			1,712	2,013
Books - Adult	3,998	5,327	4,200	4,200
Books - Juvenile	2,695	3,801	2,830	2,830
Books - Audio / Video	1,500	93	1,500	1,500
Books - Replacement			-	-
Books - News/Magazines	500	453	500	500
Custodial	870	870	950	980
Dues & Subscriptions	1,000	946	1,000	1,000
Equipment	200	-	200	200
Library World	475	495	475	495
Maintenance	200	32	200	200
Mileage	75	162	75	75
Miscellaneous	50	1,603	50	50
Postage	1,100	1,219	1,100	1,100
Programs	2,000	2,949	3,000	3,000
Substitutes	2,100	2,884	2,200	2,200
Supplies	420	633	550	700
Telephone & Internet	1,500	1,630	1,500	1,000
Training	100	-	100	100
Insurance	1,650	1,680	1,950	2,150
Insurance - Health	17,810	12,613	6,000	6,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>87,252</b>	<b>90,587</b>	<b>103,344</b>	<b>116,543</b>

## **CABOT PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT (FY23)**

The Library Trustees, Amanda Otto - Youth Librarian, and I would like to express our gratitude to Cabot Library patrons and all town residents for their continued support. We would especially like to thank community members for their patience and understanding during the temporary closure of the library in July due to the flooding in and around the Willey Building. Thankfully, the library itself was not affected directly by the July flood.

The Cabot Public Library currently has 411 active library users/families, who borrowed 6,137 items this past year. We also received 318 items from other libraries through Vermont's Interlibrary Loan service and provided 188 titles to other libraries in Vermont through this same service. Cabot Library patrons downloaded 1,098 audio/eBooks through the free service offered by Overdrive/Libby. This year, the library added 590 books, audiobooks, and DVDs to our collection. We also maintain subscriptions to 17 magazines, for an annual total of 174 magazines available to patrons and visitors.

We continue to offer a wide variety of services for patrons, including the Interlibrary Loan service, access to free audio/eBooks through Overdrive/Libby (as well as the newly introduced Palace app), printing services, and broadband Wi-Fi access both inside the building and in surrounding areas including the parking lot outside. Cabot Public Library also offers 7 Park/Museum passes available to borrow, which offers patrons access to Vermont State Parks, Echo Lake Aquarium and Science Center, Vermont History Museum/Vermont Heritage Galleries, Vermont State Historic Sites, performances of the Craftsbury Chamber Players, the Old Stone House in Brownington, and the Fairbanks Museum.

### **Youth Programming**

The Summer Reading program, *All Together Now!* was a smashing success this year, with 89 kids/youth participating, reading an estimated 1,873 books. Of these participants, 24 completed the 1000-page challenge.

Story and Activity Time meets weekly throughout the year, and kids aged birth through 5 enjoy stories, songs, crafts, and open play. Some special offerings included Yoga for Kids with Christyn King, Story and Activity Time at Burt's Apple Orchard, Apple Cider Pressing with Allison Gulka, and folk music with Katie Trautz. During the spring and fall, the Book Club & Outdoor Exploration Program gave kids aged 7-11 the chance to enjoy books together, and hiking nearby trails where they explore themes from those books. Youth aged 12-18 participated in a DIY Program and created handmade products, such as candle holders, rolled and poured beeswax candles, ornaments and marbled paper. A science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) program offered participants the opportunity to work together in teams to complete challenges; creative problem-solving strategies were used to make balloon powered cars, egg drop holders, and building challenges. We also hosted a well-attended Pumpkin Decorating program in October for kids aged 8 and up.

The library also hosted a variety of youth-led programs. For instance, a group of slightly older kids, aged 9 -13, met regularly throughout the year to play Dungeons and Dragons with Losada Stoddard acting as dungeon master (DM). Mary Rogerson and Jen Tidd began another youth-led program in 2023, hosting several Pony Bead workshops for kids. In addition, Mary, Jen, and Beth Wade hosted a Cookie Decorating program. As we closed out the year, the library's annual Holiday Workshop drew over 60 participants of all ages who enjoyed decorating gingerbread houses, making felt ornaments, and crafting

fidget toys – many thanks to Mary Rogerson, Jen Tidd, Sandy Atkins, and Alaina Robbins for their help making this a wonderful event.

Thanks so much to our summer teen employees, Camryn Hoffman and Lorelai Bastress, for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the summer. Together with volunteers Marco Welters and Harper Smith, and with the guidance of community member Eric Smith, they helped to install the new slide at the Rec Field Pavilion. In addition, Camryn and Lorelai assisted with the site work and installation of the new StoryWalk posts and mounts that run along the wood's edge. These welcome additions were possible thanks to grant funding from Vermont Afterschool. As part of the summer program, Camryn and Lorelai also prepared Storytime materials, created and led scavenger hunts and painting programs, and had fun reading and singing to our youngest attendees. They also put together our 'Read to Me' bundles for new families, re-stained the playground structures located behind the Willey Building, and overall made significant contributions to Library programs throughout the summer.

### **Family Programming**

Additional programs offered this past summer included: a presentation by myth weaver, storyteller, and performer Simon Brooks; *Wildlife Tales* with Southern Vermont Museum of Natural History; Dance with Ashley Hensel; Music by Fletcher-Lehman & Geordie Lynd, The Resonant Rogues and Joe's Truck Stop held at CSPAC; *Support our Pollinators* with Jerry Schneider; a Seasonal Sing and Potluck with Heidi Wilson; and a Soccer and Ice Cream Social with Camryn Hoffman and Lorelai Bastress. Overall, these programs attracted more than 200 participants.

Other successful family programming included our Night Sky series with Bobby Farlice-Rubio and Mazie O'Connor, and a Winter Animal Tracking program co-hosted by the Cabot Conservation Committee. Thanks to our local businesses who have generously donated toward these programs, including: Burt's Apple Orchard, Cabot Village Store, and Cabot Smith Farm.

The Cabot Book Group, open to all, continues to meet monthly, generally on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. With the support of Vermont Humanities, we were able to offer a Book Discussion series entitled *Based on a Real Life*, which was facilitated by scholar Mary Hays. Similarly, Rebecca Wallick helped organize *Branching Out – Author Talks* – a fall and spring series that brought local Vermont authors to the Cabot Library to discuss their works. A total of 13 authors came and discussed their books, which are all available to borrow from the library's collection.

The Cabot Conservation Committee also brought speakers to the library, including: Ali Kosiba, UVM Extension Forester: *Vermont's Forests in a Changing Climate*, and Josh Blouin, from the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife: *Bear Aware*.

Another of our popular, ongoing programs was *Yoga for Everybody*, held on Sunday mornings, hosted by Cabot resident Christyn King.

Ama Peyman orchestrated a variety of excellent programs for Black History month, including live performances from Daniel Laurent and other local artists/musicians, as well as a Human Family Potluck gathering.

Anne Miller organized a Seed Saving workshop and arranged a Family Movie Night. Wyatt Searles offered a presentation on the Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports organization, for which he volunteered.

And Brad Woelfle from HeyDay Farm and Bakery taught a delicious workshop on making Holiday Fruit Galettes.

### **Community Support**

The library benefited this year from the services of College Student Intern Louis Searles, who volunteered throughout the summer on a wide variety of projects including IT support for the library's computers and website, cataloging, front desk work, designing spread sheets, and helping at programming events.

Many thanks to the Friends of the Library – Sandy Atkins, Mary Lou DeLacy, Maria Acchione-Goodrich, Beth Wade, and Janet Westervelt – for their hard work coordinating the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Book Sale. Thanks also to the many volunteers who came out to help carry books and tables and to those who donated so generously. Special congratulations to Beth Wade who was chosen as the 2023 Trustee of the Year by the Vermont Library Association. Thanks also to Vicky Palmer, Christina Sacalis, Beth Wade and Spencer Vitale for helping at the desk and for shelving books.

We are grateful to the Select Board, Town Clerk Betty Ritter, and Assistant Michelle LeClerc for their hard work on behalf of the library. Thanks also to the Library Trustees for their many volunteer hours and devotion to the library: Grace Hoffman, Niall McCallum, Angela Ogle, Erin Ruddell, and Kurt Steinert. Special thanks to Ila Steinert who has volunteered for four years at the library, helping especially with cataloging and programming, and has served as Student Representative on the Library Board of Trustees for the last two years.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Hoyne, Library Director  
Amanda Otto, Youth Librarian



Courtesy of Amanda Otto

# LISTERS ANNUAL REPORT (FY23)

## REMINDERS:

- Permits are required for all new structures or property improvements. Farmers are not exempt, but no permit fee is assessed. The permit form is available at [cabotvt.us](http://cabotvt.us) by clicking the “Permits” button.
- Homestead Declarations are due April 15, even when requesting an income tax filing date extension. Penalties may be incurred for late filing.
- Property owners are always welcome to review parcel and owner information for correctness, and Listers recommend a visit every few years. Call 802-563-3139 or email [Listers@cabotvt.us](mailto:Listers@cabotvt.us) to talk to us, or stop by. We love to hear from you.
- Property owners are legally obliged to maintain an accurate mailing address on file. This can be easily updated online at [cabotvt.us](http://cabotvt.us) with the “Update Contact Information” link in the footer of the home page. Telephone numbers and email addresses are critical for keeping property owners informed and redirecting mail when it is undeliverable.

## Year in Review: 2023 Grand List Statistics and the Change from 2022

1,029 total parcels (+9)	2 Special Exemptions (no change)
882 taxable parcels (+6)	4 State land parcels (654 acres) (no change)
454 taxable homesteads (+9)	29 Non-taxable parcels (131.42 acres) (no change)
13 \$40,000 veterans exemption parcels (+3)	
\$1,797,314.77 (1% of total property values) (-7,200.90)	

**CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) is 75.69% (down from 87.95%):** a measure of how close a municipality’s local appraisals are to actual fair market value. The CLA is used to equalize education taxes statewide with the goal of having properties of equal value pay equal amounts of school taxes. The requirement for VT municipalities to reappraise properties based on the CLA was removed by Act 68 of 2023, but Cabot has invested in a statistical update of the 2020 townwide reappraisal to bring assessed values in line with fair market value as impacted by COVID-19-era sales to bring our CLA as close to 100% as possible. A low CLA impacts Cabot taxpayers negatively in many ways, including utilities’ contribution to the town budget, the town’s education fund assessment by the state and penalties paid by Cabot property owners for withdrawals from Current Use acreage. Nothing good comes from a low CLA.

**COD (Coefficient of Dispersal) is 16.18% (up from 13.5%):** a measure of uniformity of appraisals among property types for all properties on the Grand List. Vermont municipalities must reappraise the properties in their town when the COD rises above 20% ([32 V.S.A. § 4041\(a\)](#)).

## Payments to Town Related to Lister Tasks Received from the State:

Equalization Payment	\$900 (+ \$8)
Reappraisal Fund Payment	\$7,650 (+ \$68)
Current Use Hold Harmless Payment*:	\$120,963 (+ \$3,534)

## Property Transfers

Seventy-six property transfers and subdivisions were processed April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, down from eighty-three for the period April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022. Grand List year runs April 1 – March 31 by statute. The Property Transfer Tax raises more than \$77 million for the State and the Town collects \$15 per transfer recorded.

**Business Personal Property**

2 cable equipment parcels

18 business equipment parcels

Total taxable value: \$12, 540,077 (- \$1,579,790)

**Current Use (Use Value Appraisal Program) Summary**

The Use Value Appraisal program (Current Use) is administered by the Tax Department in partnership with the Town. The contract for enrollment is between the property owner and the State, but application of the program values to local parcels is performed by the Listers.

**Vermont Enrollment**

33% of total land

19,000+ parcels

2.5 million+ acres

**Cabot Enrollment**

58% of total land

149 parcels (no change)

13,823.07 (+ 295.39 acres)

2023 Use (taxable) Values are:

- \$456/acre for agricultural land
- \$187/acre for forest and conservation land
- \$140/acre for forest & conservation land more than 1 mile from Class I, II or III Road.

\*As defined in 32 V.S.A. §3760, towns are “held harmless” from this reduction in taxable value by a payment designed to hold the municipality harmless from the loss in municipal revenue resulting from the assessment of property at use value. The FY23 hold harmless payment for Cabot is \$120,963.

**Special Exemptions:**

- Cabot Commons Limited Partnership Qualified Housing -  
Real value \$390,500, exemption value \$34,169, taxable value \$356,331
- BDE Cabot Lazar Solar LLV -  
Total real value \$466,700, solar exemption \$466,700, taxable value \$0

**State Land Parcels**

- Coits Pond Access 28.2 acres
- West Hill Pond Access .45 acres
- Molly’s Falls Pond Park 625.4 acres
- GMP Fishing Access Lease 0 acres

**Non-Taxable Parcels**

- |                             |                            |                          |                              |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. United Church of Cabot   | Church building            | 16. Cabot Town of        | West Hill Cemetery           |
| 2. Cabot Historical Society | Brimblecomb Building       | 17. Cabot Town of        | Former Landfill              |
| 3. Cabot Historical Society | West Hill Schoolhouse      | 18. Cabot Town of        | Durant Cemetery              |
| 4. Cabot Town of            | Water Area #1              | 19. Cabot Town of        | Wastewater Plant & Garage    |
| 5. Cabot Town of            | Well Tank                  | 20. Cabot Town of        | 2466 Main Street             |
| 6. Cabot Town of            | Cabot Plains Cemetery      | 21. Cabot Town of        | Firehouse                    |
| 7. Cabot Town of            | Water area #2              | 22. Cabot Town of        | Willey Building              |
| 8. Cabot Town of            | USGS Marker Center of Town | 23. Cabot Town of        | Town Common                  |
| 9. Cabot Town of            | Town Center Cemetery       | 24. Cabot Town of        | Cabot School                 |
| 10. Cabot Town of           | Recreation Field           | 25. Cabot Town of        | Green Mountain Masonic Lodge |
| 11. Cabot Town of           | Town Garage                | 26. Cabot Town of        | East Cabot Cemetery          |
| 12. Cabot Town of           | 2639 S. Walden Road        | 27. Cabot Town of        | South Cemetery               |
| 13. Cabot Town of           | Town Forest                | 28. Cabot Town of        | Route 2 Parcel               |
| 14. Cabot Town of           | Pump Station               | 29. Yasodhara Aram, Inc. | Buddhist Meditation Center   |
| 15. Cabot Town of           | Village Cemetery           |                          |                              |

Cabot Board of Listers:

*Jeanne Johnson*

*Jacqueline Lumbra*

*Brittany Butler*

## CABOT PLANNING COMMISSION (FY23)

The Planning Commission completed work to renew and expand Cabot's Village Center Designation. The Village Center Designation gives the Town access to technical assistance, priority consideration for some State grants, makes village businesses eligible for historic preservation and code improvement tax credits, and puts Cabot higher on the list of those towns seeking aid.

Downtown parking issues were also addressed, as the Planning Commission simplified the restrictions for businesses to use available spaces and parking lots to help reduce congestion, which was put forth at Town Meeting and approved by Australian ballot.

Work is continuing updating and revising zoning regulations as well as an update to the Town Plan, which is due in 2025. We plan on holding multiple hearings, meetings and surveys to align the Town Plan with the current goals and expectations of the town and its residents.

The Planning Commission is also reviewing river corridor by-laws to make sure we are in line with state requirements to receive grant and assistance in times of flooding, like we have experienced again in 2023 and 2011.

Public Meetings are held the third Monday of every month. All interested parties are welcome to come and discuss any questions they have about Cabot's future. We are eager to hear the voters feedback and concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobby Searles, Chair

Dawn Andrews

Kate Chatot

Glenn Goodrich

Peg Elmer Hough



Free meals and torn up Main Street after flood of July 10<sup>th</sup>.

## RECREATION COMMITTEE OPERATIONS (FY23)

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Approved Budget 2022 - 2023</b>	<b>Actual Budget 2022-2023</b>	<b>Approved Budget 2023-2024</b>	<b>Proposed Budget 2024-2025</b>
Town Budget	8,000	8,000	10,625	10,000
ARPA Funds	-		6,800	
Recreation Fund	-	475	1,000	
Grants	13,000			
Carry Forward				151
Fees	1,500	4,056	3,500	4,000
Concessions		457	2,000	500
Gifts & Donations				500
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>12,988</b>	<b>23,925</b>	<b>15,151</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Coordinator	5,500	5,559	5,200	5,600
Electricity	300	464	300	500
Water	440	625	400	520
Wastewater	2,000	2,000	1,800	1,800
Porta Potties	625	305	625	400
Miscellaneous	600		600	500
Egg Hunt	450		550	500
Facility Repairs	500	225	3,500	500
Skating Rink	1,500	86	2,200	1,500
Soccer	3,300	425	3,300	1,000
Summer Camp	1,000	66	1,000	1,000
Field Repairs	500		2,500	-
Insurance	200	210	200	250
Basketball	2,800	792	1,600	800
Sledding Events	150		150	150
Summer Evening Night	2,000		-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>21,865</b>	<b>10,757</b>	<b>23,925</b>	15,020



Courtesy of Jeanne Johnson

## RECREATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT (FY23)

The Cabot Recreation Committee wants to thank the community for their support and is asking for any and all help and participation this year and moving forward. We are focused mostly on the youth in our beloved community, and this has been a challenging year for them. Due to the July flooding, both of our soccer fields were destroyed, along with thousands of dollars' worth of equipment. Thanks to our Walden neighbors, who donated replacement equipment for us to get by with, we were able to have a great soccer season. Money was raised through various fundraisers, and many in the community donated to help with replacing our lost equipment. This also includes a large grant via a partnership with Cabot School, which supports out-of-school programming. This enabled us to purchase our athletes much-needed soccer and basketball uniforms. All donations are extremely appreciated by us all, and especially by the 80+ students that participated this year in youth sports. Thanks to all the coaches, volunteers and athletes that made it so great!

Aside from sports, Cabot Rec has been busy. We were happy to see a handful of people rent out the Pavilion for different uses and will keep people posted on information about it this coming summer. We have continued to wisely use our ARPA funds and had power installed in the bathrooms at the Pavilion to help make it more friendly and inviting. The rec committee was able to secure some funds from both the town and a state grant to help rebuild the rec field. We will also use this money to add proper drainage to the field before the damage from the flood is fixed, hopefully ensuring the most playable field that Cabot has ever had.

Our future plans also include continuing the skating rink and sports programs, we look forward to potentially adding lights at the new basketball court, and possibly additional sports improvements. The recreation committee would like to create additional events throughout the year; however, like many committees, we are spread extremely thin. We really, really hope to have a few volunteers step forward and join us. There are so many things to do, and we can't do most of what we'd like because the same three or four people are overwhelmed with tasks. Please consider joining our fun committee and help to bring joy to our community's youth.

**Mission Statement:** The Cabot Recreation Committee is committed to the people of Cabot to provide a variety of recreational opportunities that enhance the sense of community and encourage physical and social health. We head up team sports for grades 3-6 youth for Cabot residents and maintain the associated fields and facilities for such activities.

**Meeting Time:** The Cabot Recreation Committee meets every third Thursday of the month and is open to the public. Minutes from previous meetings are provided on the Town website.

**Calendar:** We have migrated to the sports app "Gamechanger," sponsored by Dick's Sporting Goods for all sports and scheduling. To follow along, download the app and search for our sports group TCYS.

Sincerely,

The Recreation Committee Board

Interim Chair Shannon Smith; Open Seat - Alicia is interested; Vice Chair Cameron North; Coordinator Jessica North; Secretary Brandy Goodrich

## TRAILS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT (FY23)

In April, the Trails Committee received its \$62,500 recreational trails grant from the VT Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation. The grant will be used for equipment purchases, safety training, and trail building materials like signs and materials to construct informational kiosks. There will also be contracted labor and materials for trail building and trailhead parking. New trails that will be constructed include a 1.4-mile trail at Burt's Orchard, expansion of Town Forest trails, and a trail to the Old Center of Town, which will be accessible behind the Willey Building. We purchased a walk-behind brush mower to mow some of the trails in the network. We hope to construct a large kiosk in the center of the village with a master trail map and trail user information. Our current trail maps are on the town web site and posted on informational kiosks.

The flood of July 10-11 closed several of our trails due to erosion, culvert damage, and wetness. We recently applied for a flood recovery grant through VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation to repair a washed-out culvert on the Talbert Farm Trails and a culvert on the Langone Trail, as well as erosion damage on both trails. We expect a decision on grant funding in February 2024.

Trails Committee members logged over 1100 volunteer hours on trails-related work, including trail building and maintenance, meetings, grant, and other administrative work. We will be looking for volunteer trail stewards to help with trail maintenance, special projects, and trail workdays. We can use the help! 2024 promises to be a busy year. If you are interested in volunteering as a trail steward, please contact Lori Augustyniak ([lori.cabottrails@gmail.com](mailto:lori.cabottrails@gmail.com)) or speak to any committee member.

There is a mile or so of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail that passes through Cabot. We have been working with towns from St. Johnsbury to Hardwick through an Agency of Transportation grant to conduct a Regional Amenities Scoping Study to identify parking, signage, informational kiosks, and other amenities to improve trail user experience.

We thank Cabot landowners who have allowed the use of their land for public trails. We also thank members of our grant project team for providing input on our grant-related work.

Trail Committee members: Monique Gerbex, Dana Glazier, Gary Gulka, Kris Schmitt, Michael Socks, Chuck Talbert, and Paul Wade

## TREE WARDEN REPORT (FY23)

It has been six years since Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was first discovered in Orange County in February of 2018. Since EAB was confirmed, it has spread rapidly, with EAB infestations present in all 14 Counties of Vermont during 2023. The removal of ash trees has begun in communities with EAB infestations in many areas of Vermont. As Tree Warden, I have requested \$10,000 be budgeted for hazardous tree removal training for the Cabot Road crew and removal of roadside ash trees in Cabot. The removal of ash trees will hopefully begin in 2024 with approval of these funds. It will be a year of training, preparations, and removal of roadside ash trees will begin later in the year. Removal of ash trees affected by EAB can pose significant hazard, especially in storms with wet heavy snows as we have seen in December 2023. So, the first item of concern is the safety of our Road Crew and the need for proper training to remove hazardous EAB infested ash trees. I have proposed Game of Logging training, Levels 1 – 4 for the Road Crew before ash tree removal begins, as well any necessary chainsaw related Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that may need to be purchased if the road crew does not have it currently. After training for the Cabot Road crew is completed and any needed PPE has been provided to them, ash tree removal work will begin with the remaining funds from the \$10,000. The Town of Cabot has sixty-eight miles of roads with over 3,000 ash trees in the road rights of way. As the EAB infestation progresses, signs of EAB will become apparent on the roadside ash trees. In years to come, as our ash trees become damaged from EAB, the ash trees are more likely succumb to high winds and heavy snow loads before proper removal can be done. So, removal of roadside ash trees before obvious signs of EAB presence is quite important to minimize the risk as the ash trees die from EAB. There are approximately seventy-five roadside ash trees exceeding twenty inches DBH for which I have proposed removal by a tree service contractor, as they will be more difficult and time consuming to remove. Removal of some larger ash trees will take place each year, with the cost of determining how many can be removed per year. This will be an ongoing process for many years to come as EAB infestation continues to kill ash trees.

Roland Payne, Cabot Tree Warden



Courtesy of Amanda Otto

## WASTEWATER FUND OPERATIONS (FY23)

	Approved Budget 2022-2023	Actual Budget 2022-2023	Approved Budget 2023-2024	Proposed Budget 2024-2025
<b>INCOME</b>				
Income - User Fees	177,370	177,643	177,000	178,000
Capital expense draw	11,000	15,000	4,000	12,000
Trust Earnings		43,745		35,000
Delinquent Income				
Grant				
Interest Earnings		1,870		1,900
Miscellaneous income		300		
	<b>188,370</b>	<b>238,558</b>	<b>181,000</b>	<b>226,900</b>

### Expense

Administrative Costs	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Audit/Legal Fee	1,000	3,000	1,000	1,000
Bond Interest	10,673	10,673	10,673	10,673
Bond Principal	23,684	23,684	29,253	29,253
VT EPA Loan	3,085	3,085	paid off	-
Capital Investment				
Capital Expense		15,000		
Electricity/Pump Stations	3,000	3,091	4,000	5,000
Electricity/Treatment Plant	16,000	18,738	19,000	20,000
Engineering	800	13,991	1,000	1,000
Equipment		2,600		3,000
Fire Alarm Monitoring	700	640	700	700
Gas	11,000	7,777	9,000	8,000
Generator Maintenance	1,000		1,000	1,000
Improvements - Plant	2,000	3,006	1,000	3,000
Insurance - Plant	2,800	1,977	1,500	3,100
IT Service		75		100
Mileage	500		300	300
Miscellaneous - Plant	500	707	500	800
Operation Contract	66,800	74,861	50,000	66,000
Permit Fee	200	200	400	200
Postage	100	90	100	100
Repairs	7,000	16,405	7,000	16,000
Sludge Removal	20,000	40,289	27,000	41,000
Supplies	8,000	12,414	7,000	7,000
Telephone	3,000	3,072	3,000	3,100
Testing Service	400		1,000	500
Wastewater Annual Fee	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>188,242</b>	<b>261,375</b>	<b>180,426</b>	<b>226,826</b>

**121 users**

**WASTEWATER FUND BALANCE SHEET**  
**as of JUNE 30, 2023 (FY23)**

**ASSETS**

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

WW Checking Acct - Community Nat'l Bank	12,495.75
Union Bank - Investment overage	54.10
WW Union Bank-Acct-1202	<u>420,550.59</u>

Total Checking/Savings 433,100.44

Accounts Receivable

1200 · Accounts Receivable -694.41

Total Accounts Receivable -694.41

Other Current Assets

1499 · Undeposited Funds 1,364.92

Total Other Current Assets 1,364.92

Total Current Assets 433,770.95

**TOTAL ASSETS**

**433,770.95**

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

Due to Town -618.65

Due to Water 3,085.10

Total Other Current Liabilities 2,466.45

Long Term Liabilities

Loan - UDAG 405,500.00

Loan - UDAG #2 75,000.00

Total Long Term Liabilities 480,500.00

Total Liabilities 482,966.45

Equity

3900 · Retained Earnings -26,378.04

Net Income -22,817.46

Total Equity -49,195.50

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

**433,770.95**

**WATER FUND BALANCE SHEET  
as of JUNE 30, 2023 (FY23)**

**ASSETS**

Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Checking - Community Nat'l Bank	24,701.80	
Checking - Passumpsic Reserve	75,098.46	
Total Checking/Savings	99,800.26	
Accounts Receivable		
Accounts Receivable	(876.47)	
Total Accounts Receivable	(876.47)	
Other Current Assets		
Undeposited Funds	0.00	
Total Other Current Assets	0.00	
Total Current Assets	98,923.79	
Other Assets		
Other Assets		
Due from Wastewater	3,085.10	
Total Other Assets	3,085.10	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>102,008.89</b>	

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
Due to Town General Fund	129.15	
Total Other Current Liabilities	129.15	
Total Liabilities	129.15	
Equity		
Retained Earnings	101,257.23	
Net Income	995.93	
Total Equity	102,253.16	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>102,382.31</b>	



Courtesy of Amanda Otto

## WATER FUND OPERATIONS (FY23)

	Approved Budget 2022-2023	Actual Budget 2022-2023	Approved Budget 2023-2024	Proposed Budget 2024-2025
<b>Income</b>				
User Fees	80,000	66,123	79,000	79,000
Capital draw				
Interest		77		
Miscellaneous				
	80,000	66,201	79,000	79,000

### ITEM

Administrative Costs	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Audit/Legal Fee	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Bond Payment 1999	27,542	27,542	27,542	27,542
Water Line Loan	6,400	6,400	6,400	6,400
Chlorination				
Electricity	4,000	4,033	5,500	4,500
Equipment	200	3,258	500	3,000
Engineering				
Insurance	675	659	650	650
Interest Expense	-			
Mileage	500		500	500
Miscellaneous	1,500		500	1,000
Operation Contract	8,000	8,899	7,000	9,000
Permit Fee	1,000	774	1,000	1,000
Postage	200	301	400	350
Propane	700	438	2,000	700
Repairs	5,000	338	2,000	2,000
Capital Investment	13,000		16,000	14,000
Capital Expense		4,009		
Sample Testing	4,000	300	1,500	500
Supplies	200	1,541	200	1,000
Telephone	700	713	700	800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79,617</b>	<b>65,205</b>	<b>78,392</b>	<b>78,942</b>

103 users

## Cabot Water and Wastewater System

The Town of Cabot water and wastewater treatment facilities are operated and maintained by H<sub>2</sub>O Innovation Operation and Maintenance division. On July 1, 2023, we entered the third year of a five-year contract for services with the Town of Cabot.

During the July flooding H<sub>2</sub>O Innovation provided additional staff to help maintain water and wastewater service to the town. A precautionary boil water notice was issued but was lifted once samples had been taken and results confirmed that the water system was safe for users. During the flood and the weeks that followed H<sub>2</sub>O staff worked with Town officials on numerous projects from a broken sewer main that occurred during the flood to cleaning the collection system in November. As the Area Manager for H<sub>2</sub>O Innovation, I would like to take a moment to “Tip my hat” to the people of Cabot, I saw firsthand the devastation the flooding caused to your town. When I was able to stand back and look at the scene, I saw an amazing site, neighbors helping neighbors. Your citizens with tractors in town helping clear debris and fix driveways, towns people providing everything from meals to generators and pumps. An amazing site and you should all be proud of yourselves.

Looking forward we have a number of projects lined up to assure that your facilities are not only maintained and operated correctly but also optimized. The town is looking at an energy audit to improve on energy cost. H<sub>2</sub>O has staff that specialize in membrane filtration to optimize the plants efficiency. Equipment will be evaluated for performance and if more efficient equipment is needed.

As we continue our partnership with your community, H<sub>2</sub>O Innovation would like to take a moment to thank you for the opportunity to serve you and your community. We look forward to providing you with quality water and wastewater services in the future.

Thank you.



**Rodger Sheldon**

Area Manager

E: [rodger.sheldon@h2oinnovation.com](mailto:rodger.sheldon@h2oinnovation.com)

[Vermont](#)

[www.h2oinnovation.com](http://www.h2oinnovation.com)



## ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT (FY23)

This has been the 4<sup>th</sup> year that I have served as the Zoning Administrator. Although there are some tough days here, I really do enjoy working with the Town as the Zoning Administrator. This year there were sixty permits out of this office: nine new homes, two tiny homes, seventeen garages/sheds, and three additions. This year's flooding brought some new and added challenges in this office. While most property owners got me their permits, there are still quite a few people who have yet to submit permit applications, I do know that several are still thinking about their options. If your property is in the flood plain ,the permitting process is a bit different In most cases they have to go through the Development Review Board, while I realize this is not ideal for most, this process keeps us in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Plan standards and means that when events like this happen again we will get more funding from the state and federal government then if we did not stay up to date with the National Flood Insurance Plan standards. Please feel free to call or stop by the office any time you have questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Brittany Butler



Courtesy of NEK Images Photography Miranda Hunt



The Cabot Community Association (CCA) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization and is led by a Board of Directors and a few very part-time paid staff members (approximate annual payroll \$24,000 for three individuals). The CCA works with residents to respond to community need and create programming to enhance the quality of life in Cabot, as well as promote economic development.

The town's investment in CCA of \$10,000 last year helped to leverage additional contributions of nearly \$216,000 in participant fees, charitable contributions, and grants that directly support the projects that Cabot residents run and participate in.

In calendar year 2023 the CCA:

--Launched the **Cabot Children's Center** on the ground floor of the United Church of Cabot to address the urgent need for childcare in Cabot. The center opened in November 2023 and is operated by Heather Smires of ABC LOL Childcare. The CCA secured more than \$109,000 for project coordination, equipment, and renovations to the Church.

--Served as fiscal agent and managed **flood relief donations**, from Go Fund Me and other contributors, totaling more than \$57,000, distributed grants to 77 residents and businesses, and assisted with volunteer coordination. All funds raised were awarded to flood relief.

--Coordinated **Cabot 4<sup>th</sup> of July** festivities. We continued to focus our efforts on promoting local business with increased food offerings in the village, vendor displays and organizations hosting activities to raise funds and provide activities for our holiday guests.

--Hosted the **Cabot Fall Foliage** event to provide opportunities to promote local businesses (Burt's Orchard, Goodrich's Maple Farm, The Den, Cabot Village Store) and enjoy Cabot's fall foliage (Cabot Trails, Shutterbug car tour).

--Promoted and administered **Community Grants** to Cabot not for profits and grass roots organizations. The CCA awarded a total of \$10,000 to sixteen projects run by Cabot Not for Profits and grass roots organizations. Grant recipients from July 2022– June 2023 include: Cabot Arts, The Cabot Chronicle, Friends of Cabot Library, Fall Foliage Festival, Cabot Historical Society, Cabot Mentoring, Cabot July 4 celebration, Neighbors in Action, and Cabot Community Theater.

--Provided **bookkeeping, administrative assistance, technical help, and grant research** to six local grass roots organizations/projects who, because of their affiliation with the CCA, can solicit tax-deductible donations. These groups are Cabot Christmas Dinner, Friends of Cabot Mentoring, Ride the Ridges, Friends of Cabot Library, Friends of Cabot Trails, and Cabot Community Theater.

--Published **The Cabot Chronicle**. *The Cabot Chronicle* began publishing in 2008, and is a reliable communication vehicle for Cabot residents, government, businesses, and organizations.

In 2023 The Cabot Chronicle:

- Delivered 12 issues to every household in Cabot and beyond;
- Offered free and discounted advertising space to local not-for-profits and community groups;
- Provided extensive space to the town and school for coverage of town business and outreach;
- Dedicated a writer to regularly report on Selectboard meetings and town business.
- Encouraged citizens to participate in local elections by providing information they need;
- Collaborated with Historical Society to honor Cabot Veterans and capture their stories; and
- Promoted understanding and appreciation for what makes Cabot a great community.

We welcome new volunteers and ideas. If you are interested in being involved in any of the projects mentioned above, please contact us.

Paul Wade, President

Frank Kampf, Vice President

Jeanne Johnson, Secretary

Roz Daniels

R.D. Eno

Susan Robinson

Lori Augustyniak, Executive Director

**Cabot Community Association Financial Report for fiscal year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023**

<b>Income</b>	<b>CCA Administration</b>	<b>The Cabot Chronicle</b>
Advertising, Subscriptions		7,883
Charitable Contribution	44,371	2,599
Appropriation	10,000	15,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>54,371</b>	<b>25,482</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administrative Expenses	(787)	(311)
Cabot Childcare Initiative	(27,000)	
Community Grants	(10,000)	
Insurance	(3,621)	
Office Rent & Utilities	(3,600)	
Printing & Postage	(204)	(10,122)
Payroll and Payroll Expense	(14,658)	(20,215)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(59,870)</b>	<b>(30,648)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(5,499)</b>	<b>(5,166)</b>



2023 Cabot

# Town Annual Report



## OVERVIEW

As a non-profit organization we are constantly reminded how lucky we are to call Central Vermont our home.

From the local legends and rolling mountains to the epic food and hidden trails, we all have a story on why we proudly call this state our backyard.

At CVFiber we believe that irrespective of location, everyone should have fair and equal access to fast, reliable, world-class Internet.

**We set the bar high — and we aim to meet it.**



In 2023, the CVFiber Community Network has gone live with our first subscribers.

Our Operations partner, Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT) began connecting CVFiber subscribers in October.

### In 2023, CVFiber...



Started in some of the most **unserved** and **underserved** towns in Central Vermont to provide high-speed Internet to areas that either have none or minimal access.



Constructed nearly **200 miles** of fiber making access to high-speed fiber internet available to more than **1,900 premises** in parts of Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Woodbury, and Worcester.



Performed **design and make-ready work** in preparation for the 2024 construction season.



Hired a professional staff to run the operation including an **Executive Director**, **Operations Manager**, and **Community Relations Manager**, with plans for a **Finance Manager** to join the team in early 2024.

## 2024 FORECAST

(Pending Funding)



### 240 miles of fiber

Construction scheduled for 2024 will include constructing another **240 miles of fiber**.



### 2,100 premises

Network design and make-ready which includes pole licenses and tree trimming are coming to completion in preparation for stringing fiber in 2024.

As a result, we will be offering high-speed Internet to an additional **2,100 premises**.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jerry Diamantides*  
Governing Board Chair,  
CVFiber

*R.D. Eno*  
Town of Cabot Delegate,  
CVFiber

*Seth O'Brien*  
Town of Cabot Alternate,  
CVFiber



"The fiber is great! I'm so happy to finally be hooked up, it's all I had hoped for, and more! A far, far cry from the old days of dial-up, then satellite Internet, most recently "high-speed" DSL from another provider, which I have now canceled."

-CVFiber customer

✉ rdeno@cvfiber.net  
sobrien@cvfiber.net

## CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING

### FY23 ANNUAL REPORT – TOWN OF CABOT

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) provides planning, development, and project implementation services to its 23 municipalities in Washington and western Orange Counties. Municipalities in the region are entitled to equal voting representation by a locally appointed member to the governing Board of Commissioners. CVRPC has no regulatory or taxing authority; each year, we request a per capita assessment from our members in support of local and regional planning activities and to help offset costs and provide local matching funds needed for state and federal funding. Your continued support for local and regional planning is appreciated! CVRPC is your resource – please contact us at 802-229-0389 or [cvrpc@cvregion.com](mailto:cvrpc@cvregion.com) for assistance.

#### Cabot Activities Through June 30, 2023 (Fiscal Year 2023)

- Prepared and submitted Emergency Relief Assistance Fund information to town to facilitate elevated disaster relief aid.
- Met to presented options for removal of Clark Sawmill Dam.
- Provided information on town plan and bylaw adoption process to town staff.
- Researched guidelines for signage on town roads, upon request.
- Provided background information and research for Cabot on discontinued roads.
- Provided background information and researched funding opportunities to support the development of a village childcare center.
- Provided letter of support for Cabot Creamery for the Community Recovery & Revitalization Program
- Collaborated with Northeast Regional Development Corps staff on including Cabot in the application for trail facilities along the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail.
- Assisted with new Village Center Designation application, including finalizing village center designation map following affirmative vote of Vermont Downtown Development Board.
- Successful application \$4,000 mini-grant for energy planning technical assistance and community engagement. Successful application for investment grade energy assessments for the Willey Building, Masonic Hall, Fire Station, Town Garage, Recycling building and Wastewater Facility, making them eligible to apply for 500k MERP implementation funds and State Energy Program Revolving Funds.  
*\*During and following the July Flood, CVRPC staff provided outreach and guidance on recovery efforts and tracking of damages to aid response and maximize FEMA reimbursements for town and individual damages (\*Fiscal Year 2024)*

**Regional Commissioner**  
Brittany Butler  
**Transportation Advisory  
Committee**  
John Cookson

#### CVRPC Projects & Programs

- ❖ *Municipal Plan and Bylaw Updates that focus on predictable and effective local permitting*
- ❖ *Brownfields environmental site assessments to facilitate redevelopment and economic growth*
- ❖ *Transportation planning, studies, data collection, traffic counts, and coordination of local involvement through the regional Transportation Advisory Committee*
- ❖ *Emergency planning for natural disasters and coordination with local volunteers and the State*
- ❖ *Climate and energy planning to support projects to reduce municipal and residential energy burdens and build resilience*
- ❖ *Natural resource planning to protect water resources, preserve forest blocks, enhance recreational opportunities and support agricultural and forest industries*
- ❖ *Regional Planning to coordinate infrastructure, community development, and growth*
- ❖ *Geographic Information System Services to support to municipalities*
- ❖ *Clean Water Service Provider to identify and fund water quality projects to achieve phosphorous reduction targets*
- ❖ *Special Projects such as recreation paths, farmland preservation, and affordable housing*
- ❖ *Grant support through project identification, scoping, and applications*



## NEIGHBORS IN ACTION (FY23)

*Our mission is to eliminate hunger and offer socially enriching programs to the communities of the Northeast Kingdom and Washington County by providing residents in need with programs that deliver food, promote social connections, increase self-sufficiency, and instill hope. In doing so, Neighbors in Action helps to ensure that food relief and social interactions have a more meaningful, enduring impact.*

*Neighbors in Action (formerly Faith in Action) continues to grow its network of wonderful neighbors willing to step in to help each other through hard times. Our crew of over 50 volunteers worked together every week to meet the growing needs for food and community involvement at both our Cabot and Lyndonville locations, putting in a combined total of **over 5,000 volunteer hours** in fiscal year 2023.*

Over the fiscal year 2023 we also saw a 37.9% increase in the number of families requesting food boxes, especially in the spring of 2023 when rising food prices collided with the discontinuation of the additional SNAP benefits families had enjoyed since 2020. Between December of 2022 and May the following spring **our Food Share program** served an additional 100 families. (From 318 families in December, 2022 to 513 families the following May.)

Our online and in-person farmer's market, the **Harvest Hub**, brought together local farmers and supportive community members. This program facilitated over \$20,500 worth of sales, keeping our dollars within our community.

Along with regular **Community Meals**, art workshops and Red Cross blood drives, in August of 2022 we also launched a new series of workshops designed to help the community make the most of summer's abundance. The weekly series covered everything from how to freeze and dehydrate, to fermenting and canning. Local homesteaders, farmers, and hunters brought their life experience to teach the preparation and preservation of food, including fresh vegetables, herbs, meat, and dairy.

The seniors of our community worked together to combat one of the most challenging aspects of aging – loneliness. In a rural community such as Cabot this can have a great impact. To achieve the goal of staying connected, in 1991 Erma Perry approached Neighbors in Action (then Faith in Action) to begin a monthly gathering in Cabot –**Senior Adventures**. This well-attended program has evolved over the years, drawing from Erma’s years of experience as a teacher at the Cabot School, she has infused the gathering with tidbits she used in her curriculum. The bi-monthly gatherings include themed monthly activities, games to sharpen the mind and exercise the heart, a delicious free lunch, coffee, and snacks, as well as plenty of take-home meals to eat later in the week.

*Neighbors in Action* would like to thank the community for supporting our fund drive to purchase our building at 3339 Main Street in Cabot from the Town of Cabot. The campaign began in the spring of 2023 and - (SPOILER ALERT!) - succeeded in raising the funds we needed by the fall of 2023. The support we received throughout this endeavor has shown us how much our community values the work that we do and demonstrates our neighbors’ willingness to invest in our ability to continue meeting our mission- long into the future.

We encourage you to visit our website at [www.NeighborsinActionVT.org](http://www.NeighborsinActionVT.org) and follow us on social media to learn more about our good works in the community and how you can get involved!





## **Washington County Sheriff's Department**

**Marc P. Poulin, Sheriff  
10 Elm St \* PO Box 678  
Montpelier, VT 05601-0678  
802-223-3001**

December 26, 2023

Town of Cabot  
Members of The Select Board

Annual Report 2023

For those of you who I have not met or spoken with please let me take a moment to give you a little background on me and my career. I began my career with the Montpelier Police Department in 2005. I worked as a Patrolman for the city for approx. 2 ½ years before leaving, taking a position as a State Deputy with the Washington County Sheriff's Department. I rose through the ranks serving as a Deputy, Sergeant, and Lieutenant. My primary focus was as supervisor of the court/detail/traffic control division within the department. I also was extremely active in our highway safety efforts, covering town shifts on occasion as well as our grant funded programs. After approx. 14 years I left the Sheriff's office, becoming a member of the Capitol Police Department, where I served as a patrolman, with my focus on intelligence and investigations of threats against our legislature. I returned to the Sheriff's Department on February 1 of this year upon my swearing in. I am a Field training Officer, NREMT, VT Certified Non-Lethal Use of Force Instructor, Taser, PR24, and Oleoresin Capsicum Instructor

I am an Eagle Scout who is still extremely active in the scouting program, serving as the head of security for national scouting events. I am a piano technician by training and still run a piano service business with my wife, who is also a piano technician. I have 3 children, and in my spare time have a bit of a LEGO obsession. Enough about me.

Law enforcement is a challenging profession to be in these days. Upon taking office we identified our priorities moving forward which included updating our equipment, increasing our community engagement, recruiting and retention improvements, and increasing our services to the towns.

Law Enforcement equipment is extremely expensive. Having to endure the rugged conditions of our job and to survive day to day, year to year use means it all becomes very costly.

In order for our department operations to be more transparent, we have upgraded our recording devices to Axon Body cameras combined with cloud storage. These systems are commonly regarded as the industry leader in this field, giving our deputies the most efficient way to record interactions with the public and store them securely and in an organized manner. These have replaced our cruiser cams (recording to DVD) which were reaching the end of their service life and unable to be repaired or replaced. We also deployed Taser devices (Taser 7), which give our Deputies another use of force option, increasing safety for all. All of cameras, tasers, and cruisers are tied together so if any of these devices are activated the camera activates as well. This ensures we are able to record as much of our interactions as possible without deputy input under stressful conditions.

We received a grant to replace all our mobile UHF/VHF mobile and portable radios, as our fleet was over 10 years old and losing their reliability. Our new system integrates a mobile repeater in each cruiser allowing our portable radios (deputy worn) to feed their signal into the larger mobile radios in each cruiser for rebroadcast. This greatly increases our communication and safety in our rural areas where before we could not communicate.

We have made updates to our uniforms as well, going with a more “tactical look” as some have called it. We began allowing external carrier vests to allow our staff to remove gear from their belts and put on the vests. This greatly increases comfort and the ability to take off the gear easily in down moments. Studies have shown a marked decrease in officer lower back injuries by agencies switching to this type of uniform. Our staff’s health is important if we wish to keep them happy, healthy, and here to serve our residents.

You may have noticed our cruiser markings changing as well. We are transitioning away from the white with red vehicle markings. Our new markings are green, black, and silver, continuing with a white vehicle. Please keep an eye out for the couple new ones in this design, we are very proud of how they turned out!

We have begun utilizing our department Facebook page (visit Washington County Sheriffs Dept Vermont) to see our latest goings on and updated information as we share. Check out a few local podcasts our staff make appearances on, and other public events we try to attend to interact with the public.

Captain Meyer and Sergeant Bent have recently joined as members of the Central Vermont Treatment court team. Treatment Court is a voluntary, post-plea program for defendants over 18 years old. They offer participants who complete the program the chance to have criminal charges dismissed or reduced. The program tries to reduce drug-related crime, make communities safer, and help people recover from drug dependence. This is a collaborative effort between prosecutors, defense attorneys, mental health and substance abuse treatment professionals, law enforcement and other emergency service providers, and the person needing help themselves.

We have recently hired 1 new full-time deputy, Collin Morin, who came to us from another local agency. He is already Level III certified (the highest certification in VT) with almost 3 years of experience. He is learning the ways of the Sheriff’s department in comparison to a town police department and I’m sure you will see him out and about. Collin is assigned as a float officer, serving in every capacity in this department as needed. Please make a point to welcome him if you see him.

We are in the hiring process for another new Deputy that will be assigned to our Supreme Court in Montpelier. As the next academy is scheduled in March this will be a slow process. We are continuing our hiring efforts for multiple positions to better serve the state and our local communities.

Our current primary patrol Deputy, Davis Hart, will be attending the Level III academy in Pittsford VT this coming fall. This may mean a slight interruption in our patrol activities as other staff cover for his 17-week absence. This does come with a benefit, upon his return, Deputy Hart will have the highest law enforcement certification to better serve our communities.

We have plans to send all our full-time staff to an Emergency Medical Responder course this coming year to become Vermont licensed medical responders. While we will be unable to provide a full medical response, our staff will be better able to respond and begin treatment prior to the arrival of an ambulance service. We are partnering with a local Ambulance Service to accomplish this goal, becoming part of a less than handful of agencies being both medical and law enforcement certified.

We have made tremendous efforts in our recruiting efforts without much success. Nationwide, law enforcement is struggling to recruit new hires based upon multiple issues. Vermont is no different. Our greatest challenge to employment is simply providing a competitive wage. A local police agency recently became the highest paid agency in the area, with a starting wage of \$34/hr. With our contract model, raising our rates to cover this kind of wage increase while continuing to fund department operations would be an impossible increase for our towns to afford. We are trying our best to find a balance in this effort.

**Locally:**

County wide, our patrol efforts during fiscal year 2023 generated 2348 total incident reports, to include 1431 Traffic Stops, 564 Vermont Traffic Citations and 851 Traffic Warnings.

During our patrol efforts in Cabot the following Vermont Traffic Complaints, Warning and Incidents were recorded by the Washington County Sheriff’s Department while on patrol:

**Tickets/Warnings:**

Ticket Violation	Ticket Violation	Ticket Type
BR - 11-20 MPH Over Speed Limit	1	Traffic
BR - 11-20 MPH Over Speed Limit	3	Warning
BR - 21-30 MPH Over Speed Limit	2	Traffic
DEF - Condition Of Vehicle	9	Warning
DP - Failed To Display Front Registration Plate	1	Warning
FTC - Following Too Closely	1	Warning
FYY - Stop Sign	1	Warning
INS - Operating Without Liability Insurance	2	Traffic
LBR - 11-20 MPH over speed limit - Local	7	Traffic
LBR - 11-20 MPH Over Speed Limit-Local	7	Warning
LBR - 21-30 MPH over speed limit - Local	3	Traffic
LBR - 31-or more MPH over speed limit - Local	1	Traffic
NL - Operating Without A License	1	Traffic
NR - Persons Required To Register	5	Traffic
NR - Persons Required To Register	2	Warning
OSC - Operating After Suspension/Revocation/Refusal	2	Traffic
SL2 - 11-20 MPH Over Speed Limit	5	Traffic
SL2 - 11-20 MPH Over Speed Limit	10	Warning
VNI - Vehicle Not Inspected Within 15 Days Of Vt. Registration	3	Traffic
VNI - Vehicle Not Inspected Within 15 Days Of Vt. Registration	6	Warning
VSP - Operating without displaying validation sticker on plate	1	Warning

Incidents:

Call Type	Call Type
65	Traffic Stop
18	Directed Patrol
3	Larceny - Other
2	Motor Vehicle Complaint
1	Welfare Check
1	Found/Lost Property
1	Writ of Possession
1	VIN Verification
1	Foot Patrol

Through all the issues we all deal with in today's world, we take pride in our efforts in making Washington County a safe place to live and work, for all of us.

Professionally,

Marc Poulin  
Washington County Sheriff

## TOWN MEETING RESULTS (FY23)

Art. 9. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate the sum of \$701,629 to defray the General Expenses of the Town, with an estimated \$82,100 to come from income and \$619,529 from local taxes? [Australian Ballot]

**YES 336 NO 72 BLANK 10**

Art. 10. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate the sum of \$925,863 to repair and maintain the Highways of the Town including summer, winter, and special treatment, of which an estimated \$159,100 is to come from income and \$766,763 from local taxes? [Australian Ballot]

**YES 361 NO 52 BLANK 5**

Art. 11. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to the Cabot Public Library, to support the continuation of a part-time Youth Librarian position and maintain existing, youth-oriented library programming in the Town of Cabot? This would supplement the \$78,344 in the general budget submitted by the Selectboard, resulting in an increase over the prior year's budget allocation of \$16,092 and would cost taxpayers an additional \$8.90/\$100,000 household worth. A vote against the measure will result in the elimination of most current programs geared toward children and youth at the Cabot Library. The total amount (\$103,344.31) has been approved by the Library Trustees. [Australian Ballot]

**YES 293 NO 124 BLANK 1**

Art. 12. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot exempt the Cabot Historical Society buildings owned by the Cabot Historical Society, Inc., (501C-3) a non-profit organization, and used exclusively for the purposes of the Cabot Historical Society, from real property taxes for a period of five (5) years, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. § 3840. [Australian Ballot]

**YES 328 NO 84 BLANK 6**

Art. 13. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot appropriate \$20,000 to match funds raised by the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade class at Cabot School for the purpose of building a new playground on the Cabot School premises. [Australian Ballot]

**YES 285 NO 130 BLANK 3**

Art. 14. Resolved: That no disbursements from the Town of Cabot Cabot Community Investment Fund (CCIF), UDAG Fund, or the Town of Cabot (CCIF) Scholarship Fund shall be made for two (2) years except: a) to pay current obligations; b) to meet administrative expenses, or; c) to make Education Grants, under the rules of the 2019 CCIF Plan in order to allow the funds to recover previous losses. [Australian Ballot]

**YES 311 NO 68 BLANK 39**

Art. 15. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the addition of a Fences section to the Town of Cabot Zoning Regulations providing residents a clear understanding of the guidelines for Fences. [Australian Ballot]

**YES 256 NO 117 BLANK 45**

Art. 16. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the following amendment to the Town of Cabot Zoning Regulations to remove the following sections from Article 3 Parking Standards, Section 3.6: remove (c) "Places of public assembly, restaurants; (d) Office, Business services and clinics; and (e) Commercial business and unspecified uses." [Australian Ballot]

**YES 246 NO 99 BLANK 73**

Art. 17. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot approve the Village Center Designation Map to be added to the current Town Plan which will include Agri-Mark (dba Cabot Creamery) and the Recreation Field. [Australian Ballot]

**YES 299 NO 84 BLANK 35**

Art. 18. Shall the voters of the Town of Cabot authorize the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District to appropriate and expend a budget of \$885,180, at no expense to the Town of Cabot? [Australian Ballot]

**YES 360 NO 29 BLANK 29**



Courtesy of Amanda Otto

## 2023 TOWN MEETING AUSTRALIAN BALLOT RESULTS

### SCHOOL DIRECTOR - 3 YEARS

ELLEN CAIRNS	300
TOTAL WRITE-IN	14
UNDERVOTES	104
TOTAL	418

### SCHOOL DIRECTOR - 2 YEARS

RORY T THIBAUT	323
TOTAL WRITE-IN	20
UNDERVOTES	75
TOTAL	418

### SELECTPERSON - 2 YEARS

LARRY GOCHEY	156
KAREN LARSEN	232
TOTAL WRITE-IN	10
UNDERVOTES	20
TOTAL	418

### SELECTPERSON - 3 YEARS

FRED DUCHARME	304
SHANNON L SMITH	85
TOTAL WRITE-IN	2
UNDERVOTES	27
TOTAL	418

**TOWN TREASURER - 3 YEARS**

BETTY RITTER	329
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TOTAL WRITE-IN	17
----------------	----

UNDERVOTES	72
------------	----

TOTAL	418
-------	-----

**TOWN CLERK - 3 YEARS**

BETTY RITTER	324
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TOTAL WRITE-IN	20
----------------	----

UNDERVOTES	74
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TOTAL	418
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# Homeowner's Guide to Emerald Ash Borer

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a 1/2-inch long, metallic green beetle originally from Asia that feeds on and burrows in all species of North American ash trees. It was first identified in the Midwest in 2002 and has since killed millions of ash trees in over 30 US states and 3 Canadian provinces.

EAB was discovered in Vermont in 2018 and poses a serious threat to Vermont's ash trees, both in forests and in urban areas.



Adult Beetle



Larvae

## STEP 1: ARE THERE ASH TREES ON MY PROPERTY?

Since EAB only attacks ash trees (genus *Fraxinus*), first determine if you have ash trees on your property. The most commonly planted species are green and white ash. Look for these features to determine if you have ash trees.

### Bud and Branch Arrangement

Branches and buds grow directly opposite each other – they are not staggered. When looking for opposite branching in trees, consider that buds or limbs may die. Not every branch will have an opposite mate.



### Leaves

Leaves are compound and composed of 5-11 leaflets. Leaflet edges may be smooth or toothed. The only other oppositely branched tree with compound leaves is boxelder (*Acer negundo*), which usually exhibits three to five leaflets.

### Bark

On mature green and white ash trees (left), the bark is tight and features a distinct pattern of diamond-shaped ridges. Black ash trees have a flakey bark as they age. On young trees, the bark is relatively smooth.

### Seeds

When present, seeds are dry, paddle-shaped samaras. They usually occur in clusters and typically hang on the tree until late fall or early winter.



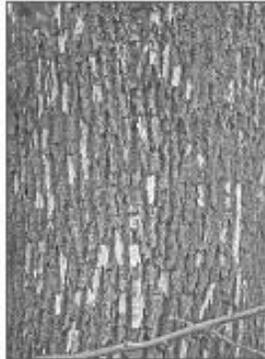
## STEP 2: I HAVE AN ASH TREE - IS IT INFESTED WITH EAB?

Learn the signs and symptoms of EAB to determine if your tree is infested. But be careful: infestations of other pests on ash trees can sometimes create symptoms similar to those caused by EAB infestations. Learn more at [VTinvasives.org](http://VTinvasives.org).

### Signs and Symptoms of EAB



Dieback of foliage



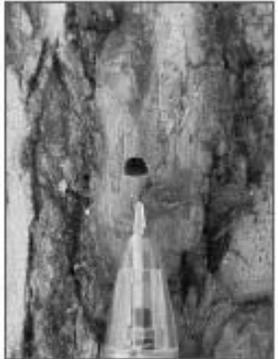
Woodpecker Activity



Insect Galleries



Sprouting



D-shaped Exit Holes

## STEP 3: WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

Effective management of EAB takes several factors into consideration, including the distance to the nearest infestation or the extent of the current infestation. Once EAB arrives in an area, it will remain a constant threat to ash trees for many years to come. *If you desire to keep your tree, it is likely that protective treatments with an insecticide will be needed for the rest of the tree's life.* For professional help, find an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist at [TreesAreGood.org](http://TreesAreGood.org).

### Is your tree infested with EAB?

**YES**

Is the infestation in its early stages? Does the tree exhibit less than 50% canopy thinning? And is the tree worth saving?

**YES**

Consider treatment options or remove and replant a tree of a different species.

**NO**

Remove and replant a tree of a different species.

**NO**

Has EAB been detected in or near your town?

**YES**

If the tree is healthy and important to preserve, consider treatment options. If not, consider removing the tree and replanting a tree of a different species.

**NO**

Keep an eye on your tree(s) for signs of EAB and stay informed about the spread of the beetle.

*If you choose to remove your tree, the wood does not have to go to waste. There are several ways that you can recover some of the value and put the wood to good use around your home, such as firewood, lumber, or landscaping materials.*

*Whatever you choose to do with your removed ash trees, be sure that no ash wood leaves the area.*

Report suspicious findings and learn more at [VTinvasives.org](http://VTinvasives.org)



Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation in partnership with University of Vermont Extension  
Photos courtesy of [forestryimages.org](http://forestryimages.org)

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture. University of Vermont Extension, Burlington, Vermont. University of Vermont Extension, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating, offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.



**For everyday needs and difficult times, 2-1-1 is your connection to thousands of resources across Vermont.**

*Your link to resources.  
Get Help, Give Help,  
Discover Options.*

*2-1-1 is the number to dial for information about health and human services and organizations in your community.*

*By dialing 2-1-1, information is much easier to find.*

**2-1-1 is:**

- A local call from anywhere in Vermont
- A free and confidential service
- Person-to-person assistance
- Available 24 hours/7 days
- Language translation available

**Just dial 2-1-1.**

Toll free in Vermont: 1-866-652-4636  
From outside Vermont: 1-802-652-4636

[www.vermont211.org](http://www.vermont211.org)

- Child Care Resource and Referral
- Consumer Services
- Clothing and Thrift Shops
- Discrimination Assistance
- Domestic and Sexual Violence Services
- Education—GED Instruction, Computer Classes
- Employment Services
- Food Shelves and Nutrition Programs
- Health Care Services
- Alcohol and Drug Programs
- Housing—Homeless Prevention, Shelter, Tenants' Rights
- Independent Living Services
- Legal Assistance
- Mental Health Care and Counseling
- Mentoring
- Military, Family and Community Network
- Parenting Programs
- Senior Resource and Referral
- Stop Smoking Programs
- Support Groups
- Transportation
- Utility Assistance
- Youth and Family Services
- Veteran Services
- Volunteering
- Wellness Programs
- And More...

United Ways  
of Vermont



 **VERMONT**  
AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES

A partnership between United Ways of Vermont  
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**Just dial 2-1-1.**

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DIAL 2-1-1**