

Town Report

West Fairlee, Vermont

Calendar Year 2022



Informational Meeting on the Budget

Monday February 27, 2023 7 p.m.

In person at Community Building or

Via Zoom - meeting link to be announced

Please bring this booklet with you!

Town Meeting - In person!

Saturday March 4, 2023

10 a.m. Community Building

Voting by Australian Ballot

Tuesday March 7, 2023

Polls open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Community Building

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Cover Photo

The highpoint of the Presidential Loop in Brushwood Community Forest
taken by Matt Godesky, West Fairlee

VOTER INFORMATION

NOTICE TO VOTERS BEFORE ELECTION DAY

Town Meeting 2023 – Welcome back!

Effective January 1, 2017, Eligible residents may register to vote on any day up to and including Town Meeting Day. Registration is available at the Town Clerks office prior to Town Meeting Day during normal business hours and is available on Town Meeting Day (Tuesday) during the hours the polls are open. You can also register online at <http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us> Registered voters can visit “My Voter Page” at <http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us> to request Absentee Ballots, get information, check registration status, and more.

You must be on the checklist to vote at Town Meeting. Polls will be open Tuesday March 7, 2023, from 10 am – 7:00 pm at the Town Office, Community Building (lower level); or you may request an absentee ballot prior to February 23, 2023.

Town Clerk’s Office 802-333-9696

Office hours: 9 am to 2 pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Early or Absentee Voting

Any registered voter may request an absentee ballot – no explanation is necessary. Absentee Ballots may be requested by phone, in writing, or in person by the voter’s family member (a voter’s spouse, children, brothers, sisters, parents, spouse’s parents, grandparents and spouse’s grandparents). Requests by others (on behalf of a voter) must be in person or in writing.

Absentee Ballots may be voted in three ways:

1) In person at the Town Clerk’s Office: Before Town Meeting, please use the drop box near the entry door. You may also drop off your absentee ballot during voting hours on Town Meeting Day, March 7

2) Mailed to you and mailed or delivered back to the Town Clerk’s Office by 7pm on Town Meeting Day, March 7.

3) Brought to you (in the case of illness or physical disability) by two Justices of the Peace on the day of or day before election. Must be requested at least 3 days in advance.

WARNING

2023 West Fairlee Town Meeting

The legal voters of the Town of West Fairlee are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Community Building in said Town on **Saturday March 4, 2023**, to act upon the following articles; said meeting to be adjourned and to reconvene in the Community Building in said Town on **Tuesday March 7, 2023**, to vote by Australian Ballot for Town Officers and the 2023 Town Budget, with polls open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Article 1 To hear and act upon the reports of Town Officials.

Article 2 Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes on Thursday October 12, 2023, by physical delivery to town office before 5pm on that date with postmarks on or before that date accepted?

Article 3 Shall the voters affirm the West Fairlee Volunteer Fire Department's exemption from property taxes for another five years as provided for under 32 VSA 3840?

Article 4 To see if the Town will appropriate \$700 to Central VT Adult Basic Education

Article 5 To see if the Town will appropriate \$500 to Capstone Community Action

Article 6 To see if the Town will appropriate \$350 to Central VT Council on Aging

Article 7 To see if the Town will appropriate \$1,107 to the Clara Martin Center

Article 8 To see if the Town will appropriate \$50 to Green Up Vermont

Article 9 To see if the Town will appropriate \$2,100 to the Lake Fairlee Association

Article 10 To see if the Town will appropriate \$350 to Orange County Restorative Justice

Article 11 To see if the Town will appropriate \$500 to Orange County Parent Child Center

Article 12 To see if the Town will appropriate \$2,000 to Orange East Senior Center

Article 13 To see if the Town will appropriate \$311 to the Public Health Council

Article 14 To see if the Town will appropriate \$450 to Rivendell Trails Association

Article 15 To see if the Town will appropriate \$700 to Safeline, Inc.

Article 16 To see if the Town will appropriate \$750 to Tri-Valley Transit

Article 17 To see if the Town will appropriate \$31,671 to Upper Valley Ambulance

Article 18 To see if the Town will appropriate \$130 to VT Center for Independent Living

Article 19 To see if the Town will appropriate \$100 to Rural Fire Protection Task Force

Article 20 To see if the Town will appropriate \$2,600 to the Visiting Nurse Alliance/Hospice

Article 21 To see if the Town will appropriate \$100 to Vital Communities

Article 22 To see if the Town will appropriate \$66,000 to the West Fairlee Volunteer Fire Department

Article 23 To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting

To be voted on by Australian Ballot:

Article 24 To elect Town Officers as required by law

Article 25 Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating and capital expenses of \$870,656 of which \$734,116 shall be raised by taxes and \$136,540 by non-tax revenues?

Dated and signed in West Fairlee, in the county of Orange, State of Vermont, this 30th day of January 2023 by the West Fairlee Selectboard

Delsie Hoyt, Chair

Beverly Jo Ash

Fred Cook

Bruce Durkee

Steve Malinoski

Recorded before posting this 31st day of January 2023

Staci Sargent, Town Clerk

2022 Elected Officials

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Moderator	Sean McIntyre (appointed)	2023
Town Clerk – 3 year term	Staci R. Sargent	2025
Treasurer	Joe MacPherson	Employed position
Selectboard	Beverly Ash (3 yr)	2023
	Bruce Durkee (2 yr)	2023
	Delsie Hoyt (2 yr)	2024
	Steve Malinoski (3 yr)	2024
	Fred Cook (3 yr)	2025
Listers - 3 year term	Peggy Burden	2023
	Consultant/Assessor	Contracted
Collector Delinquent Taxes	Staci R. Sargent	2023
Cemetery Commission - 5 year terms		
	Candy Malinoski	2023
	Arvilla Towle	2024
	Nina Schwartz	2025
	Jim Totin	2026
	Jennifer Shatney	2027
Library Trustees - 5 year terms		
	Jillian Hatch (appointed)	2023
	Erin Cilley	2024
	Ann Downing (appointed)	2025
	Caitlin Leonard (appointed)	2026
	Susan Johns	2027
Agent to Sell Real Estate	Staci R. Sargent	2023
Agent to Defend and		

Prosecute Suits	Cleo Kearns	2023
Grand Juror	Cat Spaulding	2023
Constable	Lisa Ordway	2023
Justices of the Peace	Maurice C. Eaton (I)	2024
	Cleo Kearns (I)	2024
	Jennifer Shatney	2024
	Rebecca Wurdak (D)	2024

2021 Appointed Officials

Service Officer	Don Phoenix	2023
Health Officer	Stephen Atwood	2023
E911 Coordinator	Peggy Burden	2023

Conservation Commission - 5 year terms

Cleo Kearnes	2023
Ann Stephens	2024
Cat Spaulding	2025
Alyssa Godesky	2025
Tomas Masterson	2026
Jim Totin	2026
Peggy Willey	2027
Rebecca Wurdak	2027
Fred Cook (ex officio)	2023

Planning Commission – 3 year terms

Peggy Burden	2023
Cleo Kearns	2023
Nancy Malmquist	2024
Sean McIntyre	2025
Jim Totin	2025

Board of Adjustment

	Peggy Burden	2023
	Nancy Malmquist	2024
	Vacant	2025
Two Rivers RPC	Nancy Malmquist	2023
Tri-Town Commission	Fred Cook	2023
	Steve Malinoski	2023
Tree Warden	Fred Cook	2023
Fence Viewers (3)	Don Phoenix	2023
	Chuck Eaton	2023
	Albert Schwartz	2023
Weigher of Coal/ Measurer of Wood	Steve Malinoski	2023
Greater UV Solid Waste	Bruce Durkee	2023
Director Emergency Management	Delsie Hoyt	2023
Regional Emergency Management Representative (First Responder)	Lisa Ordway	2023
Animal Control Officer	Nate Guyer	2023

Selectboard Report for 2022



Selectboard members Bruce Durkee and Steve Malinoski assist with safety railing installation at the recycling center.

Town operations returned to more normal pace in 2022. Grants and programs dialed back or suspended during the pandemic restarted, and focus has turned back to the day-to-day business of roads, buildings, and community services.

West Fairlee has received a little over \$200,000 under the **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**. There are few restrictions, but our goal is to use the funds for projects that have broad and long-term benefits and/or cost savings for the community. The State, which received its own ARPA funds, is rolling out new matching grant programs to provide incentives for Towns to address housing, water quality, climate change, economic development, and other critical issues.

Despite scaling back the project by over one third, a challenging **reclaim/repave of a segment of Middlebrook Road** was pushed over budget. Due to other District commitments, our **Class 2 Road Grant** request for paving was reduced from \$200,000 to \$160,000. A dozen culverts were replaced, the subbase was brought up to current standards, and dangerous sags which have been repeatedly shimmed with asphalt over the years were corrected.

The process of formalizing our long-term **Highway Capital Budget and Plan** has been a wake-up call that previous levels of annual funding to the **Highway Capital Fund** is insufficient to keep pace with the work immediately ahead of us. These include two more segments of Middlebrook and the northwest end of Blood Brook (Cook Hill). Supplemental highway grants are extremely limited, but Blood Brook may be a candidate for a Better Roads grant (\$20K maximum). West Fairlee's low road mileage means that we are only eligible for Class 2 Grant about every 7 to 9 years.

An **equipment grant** enabled us to purchase a blower recommended for maintenance of ditches. We continue to pursue **annual Grants in Aid (GIA)** to help defray some of the added expense for ditch and other drainage treatments required for water-connected road segments. We are approved for about \$16,000 for the 2023 season.

This past fall, the **Community Building**'s front septic system was replaced with a newly permitted tank and leach field. Not only was this the most cost-effective option, but it means that Bean Hall no longer shares its wastewater system; an essential feature for any future redevelopment. We are now purchasing fuel through the State's contracted vendor at a far lower rate than other bids received. The current level of savings to the **Community Building Capital Fund** combined with identified energy efficiency and accessibility grants appear to be sufficient to make continued progress on required and scheduled maintenance and improvements.

Even the smallest towns are targets for cyber-crime, ransomware, and other scams. Municipal insurers have signaled they soon will be unable to underwrite towns that do not have robust cybersecurity defenses. Cybersecurity can be provided remotely from anywhere in the country, but we found that locally owned AllAccess InfoTech was able to provide the required array of technical services at a competitive price.

We are convinced that West Fairlee's best opportunity for consistent and appropriate **community policing** services is by building on our relationship with the Town of Thetford's Police Department (TPD) Unfortunately, TPD is in transition with the appointment of a new Chief, but we are continuing discussions aimed at expanding the scope of our contract.

Newly required State certification was the catalyst for changes and improvements to the Town's **recycling center**. We appreciate Nate Pero stepping in as Recycling Attendant and collecting and composting resident's food scraps – both requirements of certification. Textile recycling bins were added, and additional household batteries. We pursued a Materials Management Infrastructure Grant to help defray some of the costs of these upgrades.

Finally, we hope you will visit our improved West Fairlee website www.westfairleevt.gov . Our webhost specializes in municipal websites, so it is designed to be easy for non-techy town officials to maintain and update. The site is "responsive" to small screens like phones. We welcome your suggestions for additional content that would be useful to you.

West Fairlee Selectboard

Delsie Hoyt, Chair
Beverly Ash
Fred Cook
Bruce Durkee
Steve Malinoski

**Town of West Fairlee
Statement of Revenues and Budget
Years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022**

	Proposed 2023	Budget Approved 2022	Actual 2022	Variance of Actual from Budget Over (Under)*	Budget Increase (Decrease) 2022 2023
Tax Revenues					
Current Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,554,011	-	-
Delinquent Taxes	-	-	126,955	-	-
Delinquent Tax Interest	7,000	4,000	11,625	7,625	3,000
	7,000	4,000	1,692,591	7,625	3,000
Revenue From State					
Highway	60,000	60,000	60,901	901	-
Current Use - State	50,000	50,000	50,898	898	-
Judiciary Civil Fines	100	100	-	(100)	-
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	850	850	866	16	-
	110,950	110,950	112,665	1,715	-
Other Revenue					
Dog Fees to Town	175	175	160	(15)	-
Interest Income	500	200	603	403	300
Community Bldg Rent	17,400	17,400	15,950	(1,450)	-
Proceeds - Property Sale	-	-	-	-	-
Liquor/Tobacco License	65	70	65	(5)	(5)
Excess Weight Permit	250	250	290	40	-
Miscellaneous Income	200	200	906	706	-
	18,590	18,295	17,974	(321)	295
Total Revenues	\$ 136,540	\$ 133,245	\$ 1,823,230	\$ 9,019	\$ 3,295

* - Excludes non-budgeted current and delinquent tax collections

**Town of West Fairlee
Statement of Expenditures and Budget
Years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023**

Payroll

	Budget		Actual	Variance of Actual from Budget		Budget Increase
	Proposed 2023	Approved 2022	2022	(Over) Under	(Decrease) 2022 2023	
Treasurer	\$ 33,660	\$ 33,660	\$ 33,660	\$ -	\$ -	-
Clerk	26,400	24,000	24,000	-	2,400	-
Assistant Clerk	1,500	1,500	1,613	(113)	-	-
Listers	11,000	11,000	9,298	1,702	-	-
Selectboard	5,200	4,100	4,100	-	1,100	-
Housekeeping	2,475	2,475	2,340	135	-	-
Recycling Attendant	1,800	1,600	45	1,555	200	200
Animal Control Officer	200	200		200	-	-
Selectboard Clerk	1,000	1,000	760	240	-	-
911 Coordinator	400	400	567	(167)	-	-
Meeting Tech Support	200	200	70	130	-	-
Library Payroll	5,040	4,700	4,850	(150)	340	340
Compensation FICA	6,874	6,624	6,275	349	250	250
Compensation Medicare	1,608	1,549	1,461	88	59	59
Total Payroll	97,357	93,008	89,039	3,968	4,349	

**Town of West Fairlee
Statement of Expenditures and Budget
Years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023**

	Budget		Actual	Variance of Actual from Budget (Over) Under		Budget Increase (Decrease) 2022 2023
	Proposed 2023	Approved 2022	2022			
Town Office						
Postage	1,000	1,000	1,037	(37)	-	
Supplies	1,800	1,800	1,570	230	-	
Software	400	400	215	185	-	
Advertising	400	400	-	400	-	
Office Equipment Maintenance	700	700	-	700	-	
IT Services	13,000	11,000	12,249	(1,249)	2,000	
Town Report	1,200	1,000	1,114	(114)	200	
Internet & Web Site	2,000	2,000	1,103	897	-	
Telephone and Fax	1,900	1,900	1,885	15	-	
NEMRC Service Contract	8,000	7,200	7,669	(469)	800	
Online Land Records Contract	3,000	3,000	2,964	36	-	
Miscellaneous Expenses	200	200	141	59	-	
Total Town Office	33,600	30,600	29,947	653	3,000	
Public Health and Safety						
Law Enforcement Thetford PD	10,000	20,000	1,356	18,644	(10,000)	
Hanover Dispatch/911	13,000	11,000	12,952	(1,952)	2,000	
Water System Operator	1,000	1,800	825	-	(800)	
Hanover Septic Service	500	500	-	500	-	
Total Public Health	24,500	33,300	15,133	17,192	(8,800)	

**Town of West Fairlee
Statement of Expenditures and Budget
Years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023**

	Budget		Actual 2022	Variance of Actual from Budget (Over) Under	Budget Increase (Decrease) 2022 2023
	Proposed 2023	Approved 2022			
Dam Renovation Loan Principal	9,350	9,350	9,350	-	-
Dam Renovation Loan Interest	3,343	3,600	3,457	143	(257)
Water System Loan Principal	2,500	11,250	11,250	-	(8,750)
Water System Loan Interest	90	700	476	224	(610)
Tri Town Dam Administration	1,761	1,761	922	839	-
Mileage	100	100	-	100	-
Street Lights	650	650	626	24	-
Electricity Town Hall	250	250	258	(8)	-
Electricity Community Bldg	6,500	6,000	6,685	(685)	500
Fuel Community Bldg	9,500	8,000	9,430	(1,430)	1,500
Community Hall Fire Dispatch	400	400	325	75	-
VT League of Cities and Towns Dues	1,915	1,875	1,859	16	40
Legal Expenses	500	500	100	400	-
Outside Audit	13,000	12,200	13,000	(800)	800
Orange County Taxes	16,800	19,000	16,331	2,669	(2,200)

General Expenses

**Town of West Fairlee
Statement of Expenditures and Budget
Years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023**

	Budget		Actual	Variance of Actual from Budget		Budget Increase (Decrease)
	Proposed 2023	Approved 2022	2022	(Over) Under	2022	2023
Town of Thetford Taxes (Fire Training Land)	25	25	25	-	-	-
Seminars & Training	200	200	330	(130)	-	-
Tax Map Maintenance	3,800	3,800	3,750	50	-	-
Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste District	5,589	7,172	6,210	962	(1,583)	
Two Rivers Ottauquechee RPC	1,000	1,000	981	19	-	-
Recycling & Solid Waste	16,000	14,100	21,931	(7,831)	1,900	
Town Bldg and Liability Insurance	8,736	8,736	8,715	21	-	-
Pound and Veterinary	400	400	190	210	-	-
Grounds Maintenance	11,000	8,500	11,226	(2,726)	2,500	
Community Bldg Maintenance	5,000	5,000	2,070	2,930	-	-
Interest for Credit Line	200	200	44	156	-	-
Bank Service Charges	240	240	276	(36)	-	-
Elections	500	500	289	211	-	-
Total General Expense	119,349	125,509	130,106	(4,597)	(6,160)	

**Town of West Fairlee
Statement of Expenditures and Budget
Years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023**

	Budget		Actual 2022	Variance of Actual from Budget (Over) Under		Budget Increase (Decrease) 2022 2023
	Proposed 2023	Approved 2022				
Electricity for Town Salt Shed	800	750	780	(30)	50	
Town Salt Shed Maintenance	5,000	500	10,730	(10,230)	4,500	
Road Signs	1,000	1,000	663	337	-	
Culverts	10,000	5,000	14,812	(9,812)	5,000	
Stone, Gravel & Hauling	45,000	30,000	52,401	(22,401)	15,000	
Sand & Hauling	35,000	33,000	38,725	(5,725)	2,000	
Salt & Hauling	26,000	30,000	23,801	6,199	(4,000)	
Chloride	5,000	5,000	3,675	1,325	-	
Asphalt & Road Patch	9,000	9,000	1,907	7,093	-	
Roadside Mowing	4,000	4,000	-	4,000	-	
Plowing Contract Equipment Hired	125,000	80,900	98,540	(17,640)	44,100	
Winter Equipment Hired	4,000	4,000	3,713	287	-	
Summer Equipment Hired	30,000	30,000	23,923	6,077	-	
Road Grading	22,000	18,000	30,702	(12,702)	4,000	
Ditch Cleaning	10,000	10,000	8,605	1,395	-	
MRG Permit and Fee	1,350	1,350	1,350	-	-	
Total Highway	333,150	262,500	314,327	(51,827)	70,650	

**Town of West Fairlee
Statement of Expenditures and Budget
Years ended December 31, 2022 and 2023**

	Budget		Actual	Variance of Actual from Budget (Over) Under	Budget Increase (Decrease) 2022 2023
	Proposed 2023	Approved 2022	2022		
Capital Reserve					
Community Building Funds	15,000	20,000	20,000	-	(5,000)
Brushwood Fund	5,000	8,000	8,000	-	(3,000)
Conservation Commission Funds	1,000	3,000	3,000	-	(2,000)
Grant Matching Funds	-	4,000	4,000	-	(4,000)
Highway Projects	215,200	95,000	95,000	-	120,200
Library Books & Expenses	2,000	2,000	2,000	-	-
Office Equipment Funds	4,000	4,000	4,000	-	-
Planning Commission Funds				-	-
Records Preservation Fund				-	-
Reappraisal Funds	7,500	7,500	7,500	-	-
Cemetery Fund	13,000	13,000	13,000	-	-
Total Capital Reserve	262,700	156,500	156,500	-	106,200
Total Budgeted Expenses	870,656	701,417	735,052	(34,611)	169,239
Other Expenses					
Rivendell School District			1,005,704		
Appropriations for Emergency and Social Services		109,147			(109,147)
Total Expenditures	870,656	810,564	\$ 1,740,756		
Less: Budgeted Revenues	136,540	133,245			3,295
Warned Amount to be Raised by Taxes	\$ 734,116	\$ 677,319			\$ 56,797
Appropriations for Emergency and Social Services To be Voted Separately	\$ 110,469	\$ -			\$ 110,469

**Town of West Fairlee
Capital Funds
Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Fund Balance
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022**

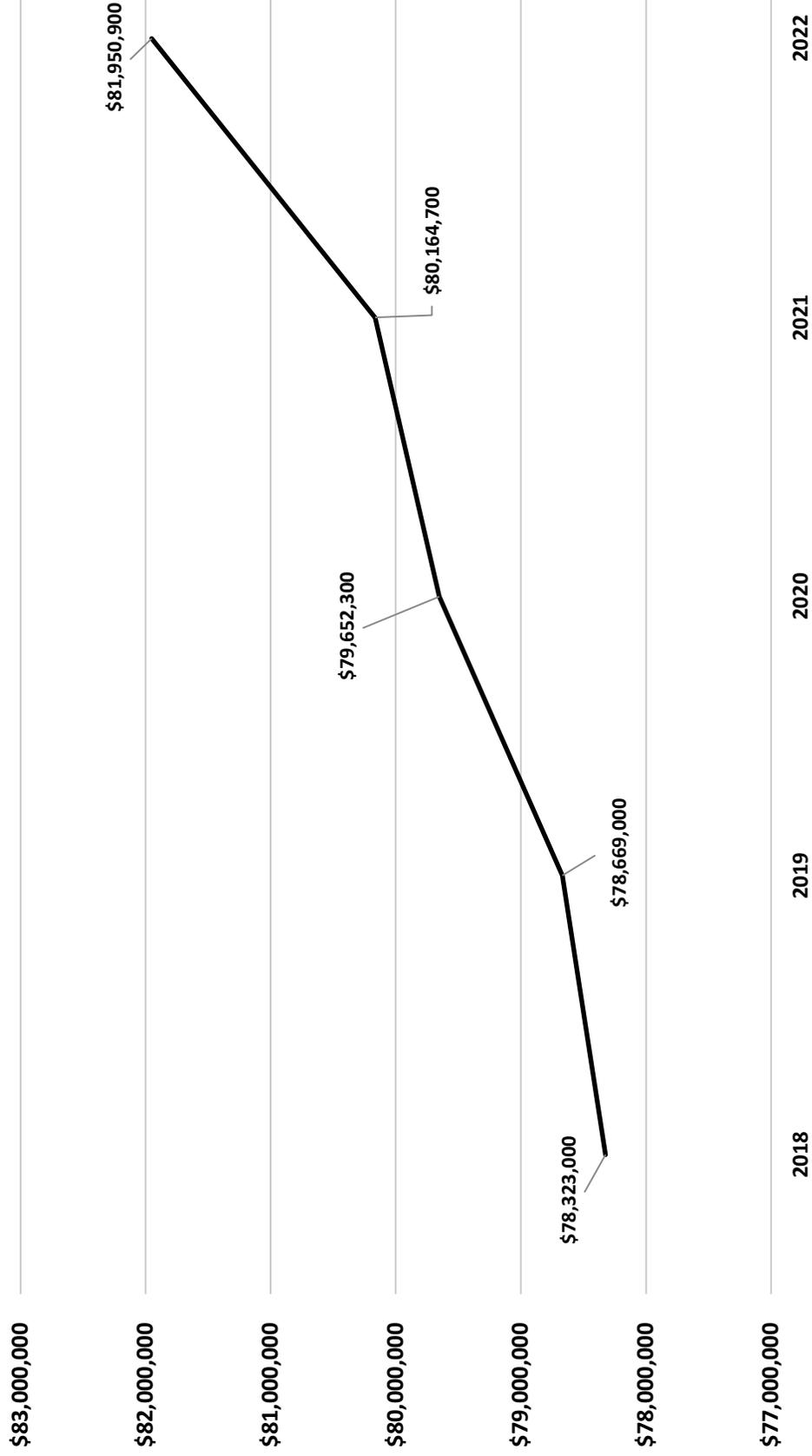
	Reappraisal	Records Preservation	Lister Education	Community Building	Library	Conservation Commission	Town Hall Restoration	Brushwood Forest Fund
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 58,964	\$ 9,533	\$ 2,258	\$ 59,837	\$ 12,905	\$ 18,381	\$ 12,613	\$ 58,717
Revenue:								
2022 General Fund Appropriation	7,500			20,000	2,000	3,000		8,000
Other Revenues	3,807	1,000		500				
Interest	167	27	6	169	36	51	35	166
Total Revenue	11,474	1,027	6	20,169	2,536	3,051	35	8,166
Expenditures:								
	7,200	503	552	17,338	5,609	3,504	-	4,301
Fund Balance, End of Year	\$ 63,238	\$ 10,057	\$ 1,712	\$ 62,668	\$ 9,832	\$ 17,928	\$ 12,648	\$ 62,582
Proposed 2023 Appropriation	\$ 7,500			\$ 15,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000		\$ 5,000

	Planning Commission	Grant Match	Highway Projects	Office Equipment	Cemetery Operations	Cemetery Perp. Care	Federal Covid Grant	Total
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 7,318	\$ 7,274	\$ 82,052	\$ 3,513	\$ 8,707	\$ 12,144	\$ 101,635	\$ 455,849
Revenue:								
2022 General Fund Appropriation		4,000	95,000	4,000	13,000			156,500
Grant Anticipation Loan Proceeds			160,000					160,000
Other Revenues					175		101,742	107,224
Grant Revenue	20	21	231	10	25	34	287	1,285
Interest	20	4,021	271,751	4,010	13,200	34	102,029	441,529
Total Revenue	-	4,169	367,268	1,389	8,660	-	-	420,493
Expenditures:								
Fund Balance, End of Year	\$ 7,338	\$ 7,126	\$ (13,465)	\$ 6,134	\$ 13,247	\$ 12,178	\$ 203,664	\$ 476,885
Proposed 2023 Appropriation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 215,200	\$ 4,000	\$ 13,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 262,700

**Town of West Fairlee
Balance Sheet - General Fund
As of December 31,**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Assets:		
Cash Account - Community Bank	\$ 674,319	\$ 669,787
Petty Cash	116	116
Cash Due to Other Funds	<u>(476,885)</u>	<u>(455,849)</u>
Net General Fund Cash	197,550	214,054
Trash Punch Cards	346	98
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 197,896</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 214,152</u></u>
 Liabilities:		
Town Clerk / Tax Coll. Fees	899	472
Fees Due to State of Vermont	445	10
Property Tax Overpayment	-	32
GUVSWD Trash Permits/Cards	<u>284</u>	<u>300</u>
Total Liabilities	<u><u>\$ 1,628</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 814</u></u>
 Fund Balance	 <u><u>\$ 196,268</u></u>	 <u><u>\$ 213,338</u></u>
 Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	 <u><u>\$ 197,896</u></u>	 <u><u>\$ 214,152</u></u>

**Town of West Fairlee
Total Grand List Value**



TOWN OF WEST FAIRLEE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines so that all delinquent tax payers will be treated fairly and will know what to expect.

* Taxes became delinquent at 5:00pm October 14, 2022 *

NOTE: During COVID, Delinquent Tax Collectors were not permitted to send delinquent properties to tax sale. Further, all landowners with delinquent taxes have repeatedly been given the opportunity to apply for payments to be made through grants offered by the Vermont Homeowners Assistance Program (VHAP).

Upon receiving the Warrant from the Treasurer, and each month afterwards, the Delinquent Tax Collector will send a notice to each delinquent taxpayer indicating the amount of taxes, penalty, and interest owed. Interest is assessed at 1% per month (or fraction of month) for the first 3 months, and a one-time 8% late penalty is assessed on the unpaid delinquent principal tax amount at the time the account goes delinquent. 32VSA & 4873, 5142. Thereafter 1% interest will accrue on the unpaid principal balance on the 1st of each month.

*****Once the Treasurer has determined the payment to be late and turns it over to the Delinquent Tax Collector for collection, the Interest and late Penalty cannot be waived by the Delinquent Tax Collector.**

Payment arrangements can be made, but only if the arrangement will pay the bill in full before the due date of next year's bill. **Mortgage holders and lien holders** will be notified of the delinquent taxes 30 days after the first notice has been sent to the taxpayer, and again prior to tax sale. **Partial payments** will be applied first to the interest portion of the amount due, and the remainder will be divided proportionally between the principal amount of the tax and the 8% late penalty.

FINAL NOTICES WILL BE SENT OUT ON MAY 1ST 2023. PAYMENT IN FULL IS REQUIRED ON ALL ACCOUNTS BY MAY 31ST 2023. ON JUNE 1ST 2023 TAX SALE PROCEEDINGS WILL BEGIN ON ALL UNPAID DELINQUENT TAX ACCOUNTS.

All delinquent taxes not paid by December 31st, 2022, will be published in the Annual Town Report.

Tax Sales: If the amount due is not received by the due date, and no satisfactory payment arrangements have been made in one month, or if a prior agreement has not been met, the Delinquent Tax Collector will begin tax sale proceedings outlined in 32 V.S.A. & 5252 and 32 V.S.A. & 5251 thru 5263. The Collector will notify the taxpayer and all mortgage and lien holders of the Tax Sale decision, the date that full payment must be received, and the costs to expect once the sale process begins. Costs of preparing and conducting the sale, including legal fees up to a maximum of 15% of the amount of the delinquent tax will be charged to the taxpayer.

Each Taxpayer has the right to apply for abatement of property taxes based on any of the grounds listed in 24 V.S.A. & 1535

In the event no one purchases the property at tax sale, or, if in the judgement of the Collector of Delinquent Taxes, proceeding the tax sale is inadvisable, the Collector of Delinquent Taxes shall collect the delinquent taxes using any or all of the methods permitted by law.

Make all checks payable to the TOWN OF WEST FAIRLEE and sent to the TOWN OF WEST FAIRLEE ATTN: DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR 870 RTE 113 WEST FAIRLEE, VT 05083. No postdated checks. There is a \$25 fee assessed for returned checks.

2022 Delinquent Tax List

Note: Tax Sales were not permitted during COVID. All delinquent taxpayers have repeatedly received information about how to apply to the Vermont Homeowners Assistance Program (VHAP).

Cory Austin	\$ 1,111.12
Jasmine Lefebvre	\$ 2,147.85
Raymond & Linda Becker	\$ 1,858.09
Dane Stillson	\$ 1,223.92
Cash Value Properties	\$ 9,874.68
Linda Nitschelm	\$ 541.09
Lance Young	\$ 883.11
Irene & Gail Roberts	\$40,287.18
Allen Cochran	\$ 740.18
Gary J Durkee	\$ 1,307.89
Brooke Haynes	\$ 2,762.40
Tara Hafey	\$ 1,852.05
Verna Roberts	\$ 576.16
James Hafford	\$ 1,964.35
Samuel Newman	\$ 351.80
Clint Hill	\$ 5,393.07
Randy Clay	\$ 653.93
Paul Juhase	\$ 1,046.45
Deborah Kingsbury	\$ 535.02
Richard Mathews	\$ 3,307.25
Mark Sleath	\$ 2,369.23
Eleanor Roberts	\$ 3,167.89
Jim Parsons	\$ 16.30
Eric Seidler Trust	\$ 2,349.87
Jason & Erin Cilley	\$ 1,663.80
Sheila Lyon	\$ 87.59
John & Dixie Foote	\$ 6,957.65
William Richter	\$ 318.15
Erin Cilley	\$ 3,751.93
Paul & Susan Lumbra	\$16,312.66
Charles Olsen	\$ 3,512.36
Ryan Clark	\$ 235.59
Nicholas Herschel	\$ 3,660.03
Austin Bacon	\$ 289.69
Matthew Austin	\$ 1,427.86
William Race	\$ 1,932.21
Austin Bacon	\$ 4,698.66
Candy Smith	\$ 10.20
Lisa Mathieu	\$ 7.66
Nathan Guyer	\$ 575.34
Mark Harper	\$ 1,238.60
Total	\$ 133,000.86

WEST FAIRLEE CEMETERY COMMISSION 2022 YEARLY REPORT

The Cemetery Commission had one plot purchased this year, in Middlebrook Cemetery, and we received three donations throughout the year. We sincerely thank our benefactors for their generosity and appreciate their support.

Unfortunately, mowing and maintenance expenses have increased by approximately \$2,000. Despite this increase, our budget request from the Town has remained the same at \$13,000 for 2023, as we currently have adequate funds to cover this expense for next year.

The highlight of our year was the commemorative ceremony held on September 28th in the West Fairlee Village Cemetery by The Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum. The ceremony was to honor William Cox, a Tea Party participant, in anticipation of the 250th anniversary in 2023 of the Boston Tea Party. Special thanks to the West Fairlee Historical Society for their help in getting the word out, assisting us in hosting and coordinating the event.

We were able to keep the veterans' flags up again until after Veterans' Day, for the fourth year in a row. We are happy to be able to honor all of our veterans by doing this. We had to properly discard approximately 50 flags (as they were damaged/no longer suitable), but we still have enough in our inventory to cover the 85 veterans' graves that we honor (throughout seven of our cemeteries) before having to purchase more next year. We needed to purchase six flag holders, which are quite expensive (\$55/each), and have them in reserve, as needed.

Two commissioners also attended the Post Mills Cemetery Association meeting in July to learn from our neighbors about best practices and ideas. The meeting was enlightening, but being they are a private entity (not owned by the town of Thetford), their structure and funding is broader than ours. Still, the Commission is always open to ideas and learning.

Tombstone repair is needed throughout our cemeteries, but finding an adequate resource for such work is proving to be extremely difficult. Some of the cemetery signs have been cleaned (scraped and repainted), but maintenance on others is still needed.

We are always in dire need of volunteers to help with beautification and cleaning our cemeteries and tombstones. We welcome anyone to assist with doing so with their own family plots, as well as helping in general, at any time. The general public is always welcome to join our annual meeting in the Spring.

Respectfully yours,

The West Fairlee Cemetery Commission

WEST FAIRLEE CONSERVATION COMMISSION ACTIVITIES- 2022



Winter Wander on Lake Fairlee organized by Conservation Commission

The West Fairlee Conservation Commission has had a busy year, much of it out-of-doors or on Zoom. This year, concern for local water quality has led CC members to focus on education about our watershed, wetlands, and Lake Fairlee.

We hosted a fun and well-attended **‘Winter Wander’** on Lake Fairlee. Folks of all ages spent a snowy Saturday wandering the lengthy edges of Treasure Island - on and off ice. We learned about winter habits of lake-edge wildlife, loons, resident beavers, and properties of snow with Scott Ellis of Thetford Academy’s Outdoor Program, and Doug Tiffit of Lake Fairlee Exploratory Committee.

A CC member is part of a wide team of local and State folks on the **Lake Fairlee Association (LFA) Water Quality Action Committee** exploring Lake Fairlee water quality issues, and how best to protect and improve its poor water quality score. We were also invited to join with Lake Fairlee Exploratory Committee, LFA, Town of Thetford, Upper Valley Trails Alliance, and State folks to consider and advise on locating possible education trails on Treasure Island. Ultimately, a study will be done to determine wildlife and environmental needs before proceeding. Lake Fairlee draws thousands of people to our area in summer, and widely serves the local economy year-round.

We were part of a 3-town team that helped to write and distribute a very user-friendly colorful **Lake Watershed Guide** of best practices for landowners living within the Lake Fairlee watershed of almost 13,000 acres. Sponsored by the LFA, Thetford and West Fairlee Conservation Commissions, these were hand-delivered to all homes in the watershed. We can all do our part to protect wells and water quality for wildlife, wetland, and stream health, which eventually protects our Lake’s health too.

The WFCC hosted a fun and informal **“Paddle to the 3 Corners”** of Lake Fairlee suggested by Jim Hughes. West Fairlee, Thetford and Fairlee folks started wherever they liked and paddled to the geolocated conversion of our 3 Town lines. We took pictures, enjoyed the late afternoon skies and water, and returned for a sumptuous pot-luck picnic on the shore.

We continue to host, sponsor, and encourage other educational events in **Brushwood Community Forest (BCF)**. We are seeing much use of our **trail system**. In Brushwood North, we are beginning serious work to creating trails for the future. It takes time to coordinate with local, State and Federal partners, grantors and volunteers; and to site the trail in the best way for the environment. There is growing awareness that we need to understand **animal migration (travel) corridors**, and to keep them open and adequate for larger mammals as well as birds, that require isolation and larger territory to thrive. Our trail siting and designs must balance protecting these corridors with getting walkers and other recreationists out in nature and experiencing the beauty of Brushwood!

Other highlights included:

* Tom, Gabi and our youngest WFCC member Tomas Masterson, of Coyote Hill Bike Camp, hosted a guided **Mountain Bike Outing** in Brushwood North in October that drew over 20 enthusiastic cyclists. “We chatted about proposed trails. Everybody enjoyed and recognized the trails from Brushwood Rd in Bradford, leading into Brushwood North as new territory for them.”

* **“Words in the Woods” poetry hike** led by WFCC members Alyssa Godesky and Ann Stephens was much enjoyed on a sunny autumn morning in Brushwood.

* A wonderful **Morning Bird Walk** on the north shore of Lake Fairlee at Doug and Bonnie Tiffit’s, with Susan Tiholiz as our birding leader.

* We continue to monitor Brushwood for **invasive plant communities** (bittersweet, buckthorn and more); removing them when located.

* Russell Barnes of Lyme, and County Forester Dave Paganelli presented on **Timber Stand Improvement (TSI)** in Brushwood South. Russell’s unique skill, innovative tools and entertaining approach to TSI, and Dave’s broad forestry experience rounded out the morning. A great group of folks attended from here and around the State.

Keeping pollinator insect (and bird) health in mind, we co-sponsored a Winter -through -Autumn **Native Pollinator Garden Series** with Thetford CC, eventually planting at the Thetford Center Community Gardens. Alicia Houk of the Thetford CC led this excellent project which was very hands on: mulching with paper; planting and starting native seeds at the Thetford Center Community Garden; and plenty for folks to take home to try on their own.

Looking forward to more progress and adventure in the year ahead! Watch for a Snow Fun day in February, Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Fest March 19th, and Green Up Day May 6th. Join us!

West Fairlee Planning Commission

The purpose and function of the Planning Commission is to create a vision of the future of West Fairlee, relying heavily on input from West Fairlee's residents and property owners to determine

- what we want the Town to look like and be like in the next 5-8 years;
- what internal and external factors will likely have a future impact on our Town; and
- how townspeople can participate in the process to create, maintain and enhance the community they tell us they want to live in.

The Planning Commission continued work to develop the new Town Plan. Updates and comments from a first review were incorporated into a revised draft that is currently in review. Final maps, tables and graphs will be incorporated into the document. The Town Plan will be submitted for the required public comment period and hearings in early 2023; it will then be passed onto the Selectboard for any additional revisions and an additional round of public comment and hearings. The new Town Plan will incorporate all of the State's current required elements.

The Planning Commission continues to seek new members to support its broad mission of community planning. No prior experience is required...only a willingness to participate.

Peggy Burden, Cleo Kearns, Nancy Malmquist, Sean McIntyre and Jim Totin

West Fairlee Community Library

This has been a great year for the library!

We received a \$2000 grant through the American Rescue Plan and were able to purchase movies, books, STEM supplies, robotics, a privacy panel, a bookcase, and an easel. Thank you to everyone who attended the open house to see what was purchased. We also applied for and received a \$500 grant to purchase software for the computers, STEM supplies, and books to add to our diversity collection.

The library was able to begin holding in-person events again this year. After a three year pause due to COVID, we held our Spring Fling. Everyone was excited to have it again, and it was well attended. The Council on the Aging held an event at the library to discuss their services and programs. There was an excellent turn out for Halloween. Between thirty-five and forty trick-or-treaters took home a free book and candy! In December, the library held a holiday craft afternoon, which was lots of fun. We will be starting up Project Night again this winter. Do you scrapbook, quilt, crochet, or knit? Bring along your latest project, or just stop by to socialize!

Viola Farrar, Librarian

Trustees: Susan Johns, Erin Cilley, Ann Downing, Jillian Hatch, Caitlin Leonard



ECFiber and the Town of West Fairlee

West Fairlee is a member of the East Central Vermont Telecommunications District, the state's first communications union district (CUD), whose mission is to provide world-class fiber-optic based internet service to homes and businesses in its area. The District consists of 31 member towns, and owns the business which operates under the trade name ECFiber. The business added over 1,000 new customers despite critical labor shortages, and now serves over 7,700 premises in 28 towns via 1,700 miles of network, which, when fully built out, will bring fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) to about 31,500 locations over more than 2,000 miles network.

The District contracts with ValleyNet, Inc., and Great Works Internet (GWI) to operate the business. The addition of GWI to the operations team should enable ECFiber to expand its customer service hours and start the work of bringing its network up to carrier-grade status, which will enable us to offer service level agreements to larger business clients.

Unlike the new CUDs, we have built our network almost entirely using borrowed money, and, since 2016, borrowing only in the municipal revenue bond market. With \$63.3 million in bonds issued, the District anticipates additional borrowing in early 2023, during which time we hope to finally become a rated entity which will allow more institutions to purchase our bonds and consequently lead to lower interest rates. Unfortunately, all the new federal grants are only for construction after March of 2021.

In West Fairlee, ECFiber is working on the design of the network and hopes to begin construction next year. In West Fairlee, as of November, 2022, ECFiber had completed miles of the miles of designed network and serves 44 customers. We expect to obtain significant grants from the Vermont Community Broadband Fund in support of construction in this and the other 7 new towns which joined the District in 2020. We've already begun putting up fiber in town in anticipation of these awards.

Vermont is a national leader in deploying ARPA and BEAD funding to support its CUDs and their mission to solve the state's rural broadband crisis. ECFiber established the model the state is following, and the biggest roadblock we face now is not funding, but rather finding enough folks to construct the networks – people who know how to operate bucket trucks, splice fiber while 40 feet above the ground, and be willing to work outside in difficult weather. ECFiber is actively participating in state and regional workforce development efforts. If you are or know of someone who may be interested in these well-paid jobs, please let us know!

We invite you to visit our website to learn more about ECFiber, and encourage you to subscribe. You won't be charged anything until we start service.

Alan Moats, Delegate to the ECFiber Governing Board, West Fairlee@ECFiber.net
Stephen Atwood, Alternate

2022 Report from the Tri-Town Commission Lake Fairlee Dam

The Tri-Town Commission agreed to a **Budget for 2023 of \$6,505.00**. This was roughly 20% decrease and primarily due to the purchase of the required safety buoys. The installation of the buoys and signage is being scheduled for Spring 2023. Another maintenance item that is in the budget will be the painting of the safety railings on the Dam. With the help of Bryan Gazda the Thetford Town Manager who was appointed as Facility manager and Jessica Eaton the Dam is functioning well. As we enter the period where the Commission will continue as **an oversight committee of the Dam** we have recommended, and Thetford will vote this year on the approved reduction to two members per Town. Fairlee and West Fairlee approved this recommendation in the previous year.

In our discussions of the Commission we still recommend the a vote from **the Towns to approve a Capital Reserve fund** is a **wise preventative step** for the Towns to take for the long term. We have been in contact on this matter with legal counsel and hope to bring this piece together this year with agreement of the Commission to present to the Towns.

We continued as members of the Association of Dam Officials (ADSO) that provides a significant amount of material on upkeep and maintenance for small dams. **The Commission is aware of the special nature of Dams** and has also had conversation about retaining Dubois & King, the original design firm on a regular long term regular basis to review and provide the Commission a report as we maintain this valuable Community asset.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Berger, Chair
Tri-Town Commission
David Goodrich, Jessica Eaton, Melissa Krzal,
Tom Ward, David Roth, Steve Malinoski,

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

GREATER UPPER VALLEY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

The GUVSWMD comprises 10 Upper Valley towns, overseeing a system for proper management of solid and hazardous waste, recyclables, and food scraps. GUV also provides special collection events for bulky and household hazardous waste (HHW), paint, electronics, tires, metal, and fluorescent bulbs. In addition, the district offers technical assistance, outreach, and education programs to area residents, businesses, schools, and municipalities.

- GUV held three special collections in 2022 in West Fairlee, Strafford and Thetford. We collected 6 tons of tires; 4.6 tons of “covered” electronics; and approximately 7 tons of “big” trash. GUV collection events are open to any resident or business within the district.
- As of mid-November, the residents and businesses in the GUV District had recycled two tons of batteries. Please be reminded that you may recycle your batteries at the Town Office, at the Crossroad Saturday collection, or at participating hardware stores. Find drop-off locations at <https://www.call2recycle.org/>
- 2022 data for paint recycling was not available at press time.
- 310 GUV residents (5 from West Fairlee) participated in three household hazardous waste events. Total cost for three events was \$87,823.00, not including labor or administration for either participating solid waste district. We encourage people to find non-toxic alternatives for cleaning, fertilizing, and getting rid of “pests.”
- Food scraps are banned from trash, except for meat and bones. If you are finding it difficult to sort your food scraps for composting, please contact our office. We’re here to help.
- The third annual maple sap line collection event took place at the So. Woodstock Fire Station on November 5. It was organized by the Windsor County Maple Producers Association, with help from the Northwest, Greater Upper Valley, and S. Windsor/Windham Counties solid waste management districts. 9 participants diverted 2,000 lbs. of tubing and spouts from the landfill.
- 2023 GUV collection event dates will be posted on our website, Facebook page, town list serves, and in local newspapers.
- Please check the town list serv for GUV updates and notices about recycling, etc.
- GUV regretted not having an active representative from West Fairlee on the Board of Supervisors in 2022. We thank Delsie Hoyt, Bruce Durkee, and Nate Pero for their ongoing efforts to improve the Crossroad Saturday drop-off site.
- For information call Ham Gillett at 802-674-4474, email hgillett@marcvt.org, or visit www.guvswmd.org

Appropriation Requests by Agency

Organization	2022	2023
Central VT Adult Basic Education	\$ 700	\$ 700
Capstone Community Action	\$ 500	\$ 500
Central VT Council on Aging	\$ 350	\$ 350
Clara Martin Center	\$ 1,107	\$ 1,107
Green Up Vermont	\$ 50	\$ 50
Lake Fairlee Association	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,100
Orange County Restorative Justice	\$ 350	\$ 350
Orange County Parent Child Center	\$ 500	\$ 500
Orange East Senior Center	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Public Health Council	\$ 311	\$ 311
Rivendell Trail Association (RTA)	\$ 450	\$ 450
Safeline, Inc	\$ 700	\$ 700
Tri-Valley Transit (Stagecoach)	\$ 750	\$ 750
Upper Valley Ambulance	\$ 30,429	\$ 31,671
VT Center for Independent Living	\$ 130	\$ 130
VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force	\$ 100	\$ 100
Visiting Nurse Alliance/Hospice	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600
Vital Communities/SERG	\$ 100	\$ 100
West Fairlee Volunteer Fire Dept.	\$ 65,920	\$ 66,000
TOTAL	\$ 109,147	\$ 110,469

TRORC 2022 YEAR-END REPORT

The Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission is your regional planning commission. We are governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our 30 member towns. We work to make the area better today, and to articulate a vision for tomorrow that has a thriving regional economy and keeps the Region's outstanding quality of life. The following are highlights from our work in 2022.

Technical Assistance on Planning Issues

Our staff support your local officials by being a wealth of information on many subjects, enabling them to serve you better. We provide advice on zoning, capital budgeting, and preventing flood damage; review solar and cell tower projects; stay abreast of state and federal initiatives so that local government can take advantage of these; and have worked hard to address the region's housing crisis. TRORC staff have also assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, bylaws and studies.

Economy and Public Health

This year, TRORC obtained Federal grant funding to support the Region's talented artists, food producers, and other parts of the creative economy sector through training and networking events. We also were able to provide many small businesses with grant funds to weather Covid, as well as guidance to towns on using their federal recovery funds. TRORC worked on public health projects with local hospitals, helped towns grapple with new cannabis legislation, and incorporated health-related goals and policies into town plans.

Emergency Management and Preparedness

TRORC staff continued to serve as liaisons between Vermont Emergency Management and local emergency responders, organizations, and town officials on emergency planning. TRORC assisted several communities with updating their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, helping to reduce future damages from disasters and enable greater state and federal funding when they do happen. When disasters happen, we actively become part of the state and local long-term recovery process.

Energy/Climate Change

TRORC assisted six towns on Enhanced Energy Plans to save money for communities and further the State energy goal of meeting 90% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. TRORC has continued working to support town Energy Committees on energy efficiency outreach and education with funding from Efficiency Vermont. We also work on state-level climate policy and local adaptation measures.

Transportation

TRORC managed the Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid program in our Region getting funding for towns to implement projects including grass and stone-lined ditches, upsizing and replacement of culverts, and stabilizing catch basin outlets. We also work to support our transit agencies, build park and ride lots, and help towns with traffic counts and speed studies.

Specifically in West Fairlee this past year, TRORC worked with the town with its Town Plan update. Staff assisted the town on the Grants in Aid program to complete ditching and culvert improvements on Brushwood Road and assisted with an equipment grant to purchase a leaf blower. Staff also supported the town in navigating how to use ARPA funding.

We are committed to serving you, and welcome opportunities to assist you in the future.

*Respectfully submitted,
Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director
Jerry Fredrickson, Chairperson, Barnard*





Lake Fairlee Association 2022 Annual Report to the Town of Fairlee

The LFA has had another busy year. The following summary encapsulates our 2022 activities.

Lake and Watershed Action Plan (LWAP). Lake Fairlee has been selected as one of two Vermont lakes for funding to develop a Lake and Watershed Action Plan. Lisa Niccolai, Conservation Specialist at the White River Natural Resources Conservation District (WRNRCD), is working on the plan. We look forward to the final report in Spring 2023.

The Water Quality Action Committee (WQAC). Formed by the LFA and in its fifth year, this committee continues its work to understand the sources of high phosphate levels in the lake. The WQAC is working with the state Department of Environmental Conservation, the Lake Champlain Committee (LCC), and the LaRosa Foundation to determine what steps can be taken to mitigate this ongoing problem. Due to the alarming nutrient enrichment trends, The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation gave Lake Fairlee a grade of “stressed”. WQAC will continue its involvement with the Lake and Watershed Action Plan, phosphate testing, and the implementation of Lake Wise ‘best practices’ around Lake Fairlee.

Lake Wise Program. Lake Wise is a voluntary program administered by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. Its goal is to educate and encourage shoreline homeowners to increase their shoreline buffers by decreasing lakeside lawns and hardscapes. Planting native flowers, shrubs, and trees near the shore, creates a buffer that filters and decreases runoff, mitigates erosion, and improves water quality and aquatic habitat. Lake Wise assessments by Lisa Niccoli have been completed on 37% of the lakeshore. These assessments have been conducted at numerous properties and three of the five summer camps. To date, one camp and eleven properties have been awarded the Lake Wise plaques for lake-friendly management, with more to come in 2023!

Milfoil. At the end of last summer, selected areas of Lake Fairlee were treated with the herbicide ProcellCOR. Used in conjunction with dive teams and suction harvesting, ProcellCOR will help us continue to combat milfoil and help create a healthier, better-balanced aquatic ecosystem. Due to contractor scheduling issues, Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) was not implemented in 2022. WQAC has interviewed three new DASH contractor candidates for 2023.

Wake Boats. Congruent with the LFA’s core purpose to preserve, protect and enhance the distinctive and natural resources of Lake Fairlee the LFA Board continues to support the work of the citizen group, Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL). They have created and sent a

petition to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to regulate wake boats on Vermont lakes and ponds. A rule to regulate wake boats is expected to be in place for the 2023 summer season. Wake boats are designed to create large wakes for surfing without the use of a tow rope. These boats add 2,000-5,000 lbs. of water into ballast tanks to create 2-4' waves while plowing, bow up, through the water. These waves can create hazardous conditions for lake users: swimmers, paddlers, and anglers. As these large waves hit the shore erosion is accelerated and loon nests can be threatened. The unique downward angle of the propeller wash can spread milfoil and stir up lake sediment, including phosphorus which increases the potential for algae blooms. Since wake boat ballast tanks cannot be fully emptied of water or visually inspected, they can import and export invasive species. More information about RWVL can be found on the LFA website, lakefairleevt.org.

The Greeter Program. The Greeter Program comprises the 'first line of defense' in maintaining the integrity of the Lake Fairlee watershed. Stationed at the boat ramp from May through mid-October, our greeters continue to provide an invaluable service to our lake and recreational users. Trained in a state-run program, greeters inspect all inbound and outbound watercraft for invasive plants and animals.

Treasure Island. The Town of Thetford created the Treasure Island Exploratory Committee in 2020. Comprised of community volunteers and chaired by an LFA board member, the Committee is focused on this valuable and much-loved local town beach and nature area. Working with Lake Wise, supported by an LWAP grant and funds from the Lake Fairlee association, the Committee is working to improve the health of Treasure Island's extensive shoreline and inland property. During the year, the town-appointed Committee developed management plans for 1) recreational uses of the 12-acre property, 2) creating financial independence, and 3) preservation, protection, and education for the natural areas. The Selectboard recently allocated funds for a Stewardship plan for this important lakefront resource. Many thanks to the Ompompanoosuc Community Trust for their gift of a new lifeguard stand and a beautiful new Treasure Island sign.

The Lake Fairlee Association is grateful to the Town of Fairlee for supporting our work, "to preserve, protect and enhance the distinctive ecology and natural resources of Lake Fairlee and its watershed." We all know what an asset Lake Fairlee is to our community. For further information on any of the above topics and more, please go to our website, lakefairleevt.org.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine Babbott, Board Member

Lake Fairlee Association Board:

David Roth, President; Renee Snow, Vice President; Lisa Johnson, Recording Clerk; Nick Harvey, Treasurer; Vicki Smith, Co-Treasurer; Katherine Babbott, David Forbes, David Matthews, Ben McLaughlin, Ridge Satterthwaite, and Elizabeth Wilcox



October 28, 2022

Dear Town Officials

At the October 25, 2022 meeting of the Upper Valley Ambulance Board of Directors, the proposed budget for 2023 was passed unanimously.

We have done our best to build a fiscally responsible budget that meets the needs of the communities that we serve. This budget supports an ambulance replacement schedule that ensures that we have the most up to date and reliable sources of transportation for the sick and injured that reside and travel through your communities. I am sure that you all are aware of the hard financial times that we all are facing. We needed to give pay raises to our folks to be competitive and to help them be able to afford rent and, gas and groceries. Our annual fuel bill is forecasted to be 285% over what was budgeted Who knew what fuel prices would have done in 2022? We are planning for the same, or slightly higher fuel expense in 2023. We have ordered a new ambulance for delivery in April, 2024. It is the same vehicle as the last two ambulances but is almost \$40,000 more expensive this time.

Since there is no forecast for an increase in reimbursements by health insurance plans or Medicare and Medicaid, the increase in our expenses will have to result in an increase in the fee to our towns. The increase will be two dollars in the per capita fee over the 2022 fee.

So the total fee for 2023 will be \$51 per capita.

This reflects a 1.04% increase in fees to our towns.

As always UVA's policy is that our financial operations are transparent to our communities. Any member of town leadership wishing to review our books should please make an appointment with me to do so. In addition, as in previous years, I offer the communities the opportunity to schedule a time when I can meet with either your Selectboard or budget committee. The best way to contact me is to send me an email at alan@uppervalleyambulance.com and we can arrange a mutual time for a phone call to discuss any questions or concerns, or to set up a day/time for me to meet with your town's leadership.

Upper Valley Ambulance continues to appreciate the support of the towns we serve, and we reciprocate by providing you with high quality emergency medical services.

Best regards,

Alan Beebe
Executive Director

West Fairlee Volunteer Fire Department

Financial Information:

2022 Expenses

Insurance	\$10166.00
Heat	\$4028.46
Electricity	\$977.22
Equipment	\$6712.70
Dues	\$650.00
Mowing	\$300.00
Telephone & Internet	\$1183.38
Truck maint.	\$563.06
Truck Fuel	\$1383.66
Training	\$1425.00
Capital Reserve (Equipment)	\$7500.00
Capital Reserve (Truck)	\$7500.00
EMS equipment	\$1393.65
Misc.	\$673.26
Truck Loan	\$8533.00
Building Maint/Air System	\$347.16
Green Insurance	\$2975.00
Radios	\$1367.00
Turnout gear,hose,	\$9762.15
Fire Extinguisher Maint.	\$45.00
Grant Writer Fee	\$1500.00
Total	\$62273.99

2023 Estimated Expenses

Insurance	\$12000.00
Heat	\$4000.00
Electricity	\$1500.00
Equipment	\$4500.00
Dues	\$400.00
Mowing	\$300.00
Telephone	\$1300.00
Truck Maint.	\$2500.00
Truck Fuel	\$1500.00
Training	\$1000.00
Capital Reserve	\$7500.00
Capital Reserve	\$7500.00
EMS Equipment	\$3500.00
Misc.	\$400.00
Truck Loan	\$8550.00
Building Maint	\$1000.00
Green Insurance	\$3000.00
Radios	\$1500.00
Air Bottle Replacement	\$3400.00
Fire Extinguisher Maint.	\$100.00
Total	\$68650.00

West Fairlee Volunteer Fire Department

Dear West Fairlee neighbors, friends and supporters:

In 2022, the West Fairlee Volunteer Fire Department:

***Responded to 118 EMS Calls**

***Responded to 57 Fire Calls**

***Responded to 13 mutual aid calls**

We continue to encourage our members to expand their rescue and firefighting skills and certifications; and to provide some of those opportunities locally. Currently, we have four members that are certified in Ice Water Rescue. We hosted a Swift Water Rescue class and now, three members are certified as Rescue Technicians and two certified in Operations. We will be hosting ICE and Swift Water Rescue classes, as well as an EMS class, in 2023.

In 2022, we added one new Fire Explorer. This is a hands-on program open to young men and women from the 6th grade to 20 years old with an interest in learning more about careers in the field of fire or emergency services.

We are actively recruiting new members. We welcome any community members that would like more info on how to join us as front line or support staff to contact a member thank you.

The West Fairlee Volunteer Fire Department Members would like to thank our community for their support. In 2023 we are requesting funding of \$66000.00

Cory Austin – Chief

John Jennings - Deputy Chief

Will Ordway - Engineer

Zach McNeal – Captain

Nate Guyer Lisa Ordway Kevin Dexter Steven Dexter Brad Garrow Scott Graham

Gary Durkee Jeff Shores Matthew Austin Jeffery Lombardi Isaiah Sleath JJ Guyer

Minutes 2022 West Fairlee Town Meeting



Paddle to the 3 Corners brought West Fairlee, Thetford and Fairlee folks together at the geolocated conversion of our Town lines followed by a potluck picnic onshore

Due to COVID restrictions, the legal voters of the Town of West Fairlee are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Community Building in said Town on **Tuesday March 1, 2022**, to transact the following business solely by Australian Ballot.

Article 1 To elect Town Officers as required by law

Approved, see page XX of Town Report

Article 2 Shall the voters authorize fund expenditures for operating expenses and appropriations of \$810,564 of which \$677,319 shall be raised by taxes and \$133,245 by non-tax revenues?

A temporary change in the budget presentation was noted whereby appropriations have been rolled into the total. Approved.

Article 3 Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes on Thursday October 13, 2022, by physical delivery to town office before 5pm on that date with postmarks on or before that date accepted?

Approved.

Article 4 Shall the voters establish a Federal COVID Grant Capital Fund for Federal funds received and expended under the U.S. Treasury Rules of the American Relief Plan Act (ARPA)?

Approved.

Article 5 Shall the voters reduce the number of Tri-Town Commission members per Town (Thetford, Fairlee, and West Fairlee) from three members to 2 members?

Approved.

Article 6 Shall the voters authorize an increase in the Selectboard stipend to \$1,000 for each with an additional \$200 provided for the Chair?

Approved.

Town of West Fairlee
870 VT Route 113
West Fairlee, VT 05083