

ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OF BOLTON, VERMONT

“LAND OF BOULDERS AND BEARS”

FOR THE YEAR JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022



Winter Sunrise from the Town Office

**PLEASE TAKE THIS REPORT TO TOWN MEETING ON
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023, 7:00 PM AT SMILIE MEMORIAL SCHOOL**

TOWN MEETINGS | OFFICE HOURS

As a courtesy, please call the clerk or chair of each board in advance to schedule your appointment.

Select Board Meetings

First and Third Mondays, 6:00 pm

Chair, Lynda DesLauriers

Clerk, Amy Grover

Special Select Board Meetings

Public Hearings

All scheduled as needed and warned in Seven Days

Planning Commission

Third Tuesday, 6:00 pm

Chair, Steve Barner

Clerk, Carol Devlin

Capital Planning Committee

First Wednesday, 6:30 pm (Meet as needed.)

Chair, Joss Besse

Clerk, Amy Gover

Conservation Commission

Fourth Monday, 6:00 pm

Chair, Virginia Haviland

Clerk, Amy Grover

Development Review Board

Fourth Thursday, 6:30 pm

Chair, Steve Diglio

Staff: Kelly Diglio

Economic Resource Committee

Quarterly; Second Monday in January, April, July, October, 6:00 pm

Chair, Allison Smith

Energy Committee

Dissolved

Mt. Mansfield Unified Union School District

Please see the website for meeting information: www.mmuusd.org

Town Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Friday: closed

Town Office Phone: 802-434-5075

Town Office Fax: 802-434-6404

Zoning Hours

Planning and Zoning Administrator, Kelly Diglio

Thursdays 10:00 am - 4 pm

Zoning Phone: 802-434-5075 x225

Assessor Hours

Assessor, Ted Nelson and Amber Renshaw

Wednesday: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Assessor Phone: 802-434-5075 x223

DEDICATION

“Volunteer: a person who voluntarily undertakes or expresses a willingness to undertake a service.”

This 2023 Bolton Town Report is dedicated to a devoted and steadfast group of volunteers, “The Friends of Wheeler Field,” who freely gave of their time and energy for the benefit of our community, and all of those folks who supported those Friends’ efforts in a myriad of ways over multiple years.

Since early in 2016, a dedicated and expanding group of Bolton residents gathered together tirelessly with one goal in mind – to permanently conserve Wheeler Field in West Bolton and to donate that property to the Town of Bolton, to be loved and appreciation by future generations for years to come. Through years of fund raisers (Yard sales! Auctions! Bake sales! Pushup challenges! “Nekked” calendar sales!), private donations from individuals in Bolton and beyond, successful grant writing, the support of various Bolton Boards and Committees, the Richmond Land Trust, and the VHCB, their goal was realized on March 24, 2022, when the property was purchased and donated to the Town of Bolton. Congratulations to the Friends of Wheeler Field, and all those folks who supported them in achieving their goal!

We would be remiss not to mention the tireless efforts of longtime West Bolton resident, John Westie, who “led the charge” to conserve Wheeler Field for many years. John passed away unexpectedly on September 17, 2022, shortly after the September 10, 2022 “we conserved Wheeler Field” celebration. We are grateful that John so enjoyed celebrating this special day, with so many friends, at his beloved Wheeler Field. Our heartfelt sympathy and condolences continue to go out to John’s family and friends. You are missed. Rest in peace.

From an email written by John in June 2018 (referencing an early Homer Lock photograph of Wheeler Field, included in this set of photographs posted on the Town of Bolton website: https://boltonvt.com/H_Locke/):

“When I see that photograph, I sort of ‘fall into’ that ancient landscape. My eyes glaze over. And I imagine myself walking in Wheeler Field in 1910. So, this is my passion. This place, this wonderful place, that has been documented by photographs throughout the history of photography. This place has magic in it.”



Wheeler Field Celebration, September 10, 2022

Photo Credit - Brian Jenkins

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Town Meeting “CCC Hour”

We asked, you responded, and we listened...

The Town will be hosting a CCC (Cake! Coffee! Cider!) Hour prior to the start of Town Meeting on Monday, March 6, 2023 beginning at 6:30 p.m. This is replacing the traditional potluck dinner, as the Town Meeting potluck dinner survey responses revealed that our community overwhelmingly supported this shift. We hope that you will join us, and take advantage of the continued and traditional opportunity to chat with our representatives Theresa Wood and Tom Stevens, as well as Bolton board and committee members.

Babysitting Services

Due to health and liability concerns, the Town will no longer be providing babysitting services during Town Meeting.

ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

POSITION	OFFICER	TERM ELECTED	TERM	TERM EXPIRES
Town Moderator	Leslie Pelch	2022	1 year	2023
Town Clerk	Amy Grover	2020	3 years	2023
Town Treasurer	Amy Grover	2020	3 years	2023
Select Board	Steve Goldfield****	2022	3 years	2025
	Paula Gervia**	2022		2024
	Andrew Pond***	2022		2023
	Lynda DesLauriers	2020	3 years	2023
	Janet Metz****	2022	2 years	2024
Board of Civil Authority	Andrew Pond ²			
	Steve Goldfield ^{2****}	2022	2 years	2024
	Lynda DesLauriers ²			
	John Devine, Justice	2022	2 years	2024
	Paula Gervia, Justice & SB	2022	2 years	2024
	Amy Grover ¹			
	Brenda McKeown, Justice	2022	2 years	2024
	Janet Metz ²			
	Richard Reid, Justice	2022	2 years	2024
Town Constable	Jonathan Dennis*	2022	1 year	2023
Cemetery Commissioners	Cheryl Ann Mendicino	2021	3 years	2024
	Penny J. Tinker	2022	3 years	2025
	Betty Wheelock	2020	3 years	2023
Mt. Mansfield Unified Union School District	Andrew Pond	2021	3 years	2024

State Representatives Chittenden-Washington 1

Representative Theresa Wood Representative Tom Stevens
 Email: twood@leg.state.vt.us Email: tstevens@leg.state.vt.us

¹BCA member, not Justice of the Peace, term of Clerk.

²BCA member, not Justice of the Peace, term of Select Board seat.

*Jonathan Dennis resigned March 2022. Billy Atwood was appointed to his position to serve until Town Meeting 2023.

**Henry Corse resigned September 2021. Paula Gervia was appointed to his seat to serve until Town Meeting 2022, and was elected to serve for 2 years remaining on a 3 year term.

***Kyle Guyette resigned June 2021. Andrew Pond was appointed to his seat to serve until Town Meeting 2022, and was elected to serve for 1 year remaining on a 2 year term.

****Janet Metz resigned November 2022. Leah Scott was appointed to her seat to serve until Town Meeting 2023.

*****Steve Goldfield resigned July 2022. Richard Reid was appointed to his seat until Town Meeting 2023.

HIRED AND APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS

POSITION	OFFICIAL	DATE OF HIRE OR APPOINTMENT	TERM EXPIRES
Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer	Carol Devlin	Hired 2013	
Delinquent Tax Collector	Amy Grover	Appointed 2017	
Planning Commission	Steve Barner, Chair	Appointed 1990	2024
	Evan DesLauriers	Appointed 2017	2024
	Merrick Gillies	Appointed 2022	2024
	Kaelyn Modrak, Vice Chair	Appointed 2017	2023
	Adam Beaudry	Appointed 2020	2023
Conservation Commission	Virginia Haviland, Chair	Appointed 2015	2025
	Amy Ludwin	Appointed 2013	2026
	Steve McLeod	Appointed 2013	2026
	Jerry Mullen	Appointed 2015	2025
	Rob Mullen	Appointed 2019	2026
	Pamela Gude, Vice Chair	Appointed 2020	2025
	Tucker Andrews	Appointed 2020	2026
Sara Holbrook Parcel Steward	Pamela Gude	Appointed 2019	2023
Preston Pond Steward	Rob Mullen	Appointed 2022	2024
Development Review Board	John Devine, Secretary	Appointed 2014	2024
	Kelly Diglio, Staff	Hired 2022	
	Steve Diglio, Chair	Appointed 2014	2023
	Jonathan Ignatowski, Staff*	Hired 2020	
	Rob Ricketson	Appointed 2015	2022
	Adam Miller	Appointed 2015	2022
	Adam Beaudry, Vice Chair	Appointed 2017	2024
	Spencer Nowak, Alternate	Appointed 2020	2023
Tree Warden	Luke Ingram	Appointed 2014	Annual Re-Appt
Planning and Zoning Administrator	Kelly Diglio	Hired 2022	18
	Jonathan Ignatowski*	Hired 2020	
Animal Control Officer	Rob Mullen	Appointed 2017	Annual Re-Appt
Assessor	Ted Nelson	Hired 2020	
	Amber Renshaw	Hired 2022	
Health Officer	Jason Wolstenholme	Appointed 2022	2025
Fire Chief	Mike Gervia	Appointed 1997	Annual Re-Appt
Fire Warden	Mike Gervia	Appointed 2018	2023
Economic Resource Committee	Ernest Levesque, Vice Chair	Appointed 2016	2022
	Allison Smith, Chair	Appointed 2018	2022
	Tammy McGuriman	Appointed 2021	2023
Capital Planning Committee	Planning Commission member: Steve Barner Former Select Board member and resident: Jen Dudley-Gaillard, Vice Chair Residents: Joss Besse, Chair; Tony Barbagallo Annual re-appointments.		
Emergency Management Director	Mica Cassara	Appointed 2020	Annual ' Re-Appt.

*Jonathan Ignatowski resigned December 2022. Kelly Diglio was hired December 2022.

POSITION	OFFICIAL	DATE OF HIRE OR APPOINTMENT	TERM EXPIRES
Energy Committee	Dissolved		
Energy Coordinator	Juliette Juillerat	Appointed 2018	2023
Representatives to CCRPC	Joss Besse, CCRPC Alternate	Appointed 2021	2023
	Joss Besse "PAC" Representative	Appointed 2020	2022
	Joss Besse "TAC" Representative	Appointed 2021	2023
	Joss Besse "CWAC" Representative	Appointed 2021	2023
	"CWAC" Alternate	Currently Vacant	
	CCRPC Representative	Currently Vacant	
	"PAC" Alternate	Currently Vacant	
	"TAC" Alternate	Currently Vacant	
Chittenden Solid Waste District			
Representative	Currently Vacant		
Senior Meal Coordinator	Doris Wheelock		
Cemetery Caretakers	Allan Sumner	Hired 2018	
	David Streeter	Hired 2014	
Highway Department	Eric Andrews, Foreman	Hired 1999 FT	
	Dan Champney	Hired 2015 PT	
	Jacob Johnson, Road Commissioner	Hired 2022 FT	
	Jim Kilpeck	Hired 2022 FT	
	Dave Mahoney	Hired 2022 PT	
Area Principals			
Smilie Memorial School	Derek Howard		
Camels Hump Middle School	Gretchen Muller		
Mt. Mansfield Union High School	Michael Weston		
MMUUSD Superintendent	John Alberghini		

CCRPC – Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

**PAC – Planning Advisory Committee*

**TAC – Transportation Advisory Committee*

**CWAC – Clean Water Advisory Committee*

TOWN SECTION

Town Warnings and Ballots

Notice to Voters

Town Warning

Sample Town Ballot

Minutes of February 28, 2022 Virtual Public Informational Hearing/
Select Board Meeting

Financial

Auditor's Letter (report available to download www.boltonvt.com)

Delinquent Tax Collector's Report

Proposed 2023-24 Budget

Reserve Fund

Tax Rate Information



Ollie the new office paper shredder!

NOTICE TO VOTERS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DAY

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

CHECKLIST POSTED at the Town Office by February 5, 2023. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. **SAMPLE BALLOTS** will be posted by February 15, 2023.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE: There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register before the election by visiting the Town Office or going online to olvr.sec.state.vt.us.

REQUEST EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS: You or a family member can request early or absentee ballots at any time during the year of the election in person, in writing, by telephone, email, or online at mvp.sec.state.vt.us. The latest you can request ballots for the Local Election is the close of the Town Office on Thursday, March 2, 2023. (Any other person authorized by you who is not a family member must apply in writing or in person for a ballot for you.)

- Please note: no person, except Justices of the Peace, may take any ballot from the Town Office on behalf of another person.
- Unless the registered voter comes in person to the Town Office to vote or to take their ballot, early or absentee ballot requests are processed by mailing the ballot/s directly to the registered voter.

WAYS TO VOTE YOUR EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOT:

- You may vote in the Town Office before the deadline.
- Voter may take his or her ballot(s) out of the Town Office and return in same manner as if the ballots were received by mail.
- Have ballot mailed to you, and mail or deliver it back to the Town Office before Election Day or to the polling place (Smilie Memorial Elementary School) before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- If you are sick or disabled before Election Day, ask the town clerk to have two justices of the peace bring a ballot to you at your home. (Ballots can be delivered on any of the eight days preceding the day of the election or on the day of election.)

ON ELECTION DAY:

If your name was dropped from the checklist in error, or has not been added even though you submitted a timely application for addition to the checklist, you can fill out a new registration form.

If the clerk or Board of Civil Authority does not add your name, you can appeal the decision to a superior court judge, who will settle the matter on Election Day. Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683) for more information.

If you are a first time voter who submitted your application to the checklist individually by mail and did not submit the required document, you must provide a current and valid photo identification, or a bank statement, utility bill, or government document that contains your name/current address.

If you have physical disabilities, are visually impaired or can't read, you may have assistance from any person of your choice. If any voters you know have disabilities let them know they can have assistance from any person of their choice.

If you know voters who cannot get from the car into the polling place let them know that ballot(s) may be brought to their car by two election officials.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE WHILE VOTING, ASK YOUR TOWN CLERK OR ANY ELECTION OFFICIAL FOR HELP.

NO PERSON SHALL:

- Vote more than once per election, either in the same town or in different towns.
- Mislead the Board of Civil Authority about your own or another person's true residency or other eligibility to vote.
- Hinder or impede a voter going into or from the polling place.
- Socialize in a manner that could disturb other voters in the polling place.
- Offer bribe, threaten or exercise undue influence to dictate or control the vote of another person.

FOR HELP OR INFORMATION: Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683). (Accessible by TDD)

If you believe that any of your voting rights have been violated, you may file an Administrative Complaint with the Secretary of State's Office, 128 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633.

If you believe you have witnessed efforts to commit any kind of fraud or corruption in the voting process, you may report this to your local United States Attorney's Office.

If you have witnessed actual or attempted acts of discrimination or intimidation in the voting process, you may report this to the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice at (800) 253-3931.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS using Paper Ballots

CHECK-IN AND RECEIVE BALLOTS:

- Go to the entrance checklist table.
- Give name and, if asked, street address to the election official in a loud voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.
- An election official will give you a ballot.
- Go to a vacant voting booth.

MARK YOUR BALLOT: For each office listed on the ballot, you will see instructions to "Vote for not more than one, or Vote for not more than two, etc."

- To vote for a candidate, fill in the oval to the right of the name of the candidate you want to vote for.
- WRITE-IN candidate(s). To vote for someone whose name is not printed on the ballot, use the blank "write-in" lines on the ballot and either write-in the name or paste on sticker, then fill in the oval.

CHECK OUT:

- Go to the exit checklist table and state your name in an audible voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.

CAST YOUR VOTE by depositing your voted ballot in the tabulator.

LEAVE the voting area immediately.

WARNING
TOWN OF BOLTON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023

The legal voters of the Town of Bolton are hereby warned and notified to meet at Smilie Memorial Elementary School, 2712 Theodore Roosevelt Highway (Route 2), Bolton at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2023, to transact the following business from the floor:

ARTICLE 1. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton vote a budget of \$1,342,280 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the town and authorize the Select Board to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?

ARTICLE 2. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton vote to pay real and personal property taxes to the Town Treasurer in four (4) installments with due dates of September 15, 2023; November 15, 2023; February 15, 2024; and May 15, 2024?

ARTICLE 3. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton appropriate \$162,000 in uncommitted general funds to the following reserve fund/s, in addition to those reserve contributions included in the FY 2023-2024 Proposed Municipal Budget?
Highway Projects Fund: \$100,000
Fire Department Equipment Fund: \$62,000

ARTICLE 4. To transact any other non-binding business.

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT QUESTIONS

Voting by Australian ballot will be conducted on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at Smilie Memorial Elementary School, between the hours of 7 a.m. – 7 p.m., at which time the polls will close. The Town will hold an informational meeting on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 7 p.m. regarding Articles 5 – 9. The following articles will be voted by Australian Ballot:

ARTICLE 5. To elect all town officers as required by law:

One Cemetery Commissioner for a term of three (3) years
One Select Board member for a term of two (2) years
One Select Board member for a term of three (3) years
One Select Board member for a term of one year remaining on a two (2) year term
One Select Board member for a term of two years remaining on a three (3) year term
One Town Moderator for a term of one (1) year
One Town Constable for a term of one (1) year
One Town Treasurer for a term of three (3) years
One Town Clerk for a term of three (3) years


ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize the Select Board to add a one quarter cent (1/4¢) addition to the tax rate to support the Conservation Fund?


ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize the purchase or lease of a Single Axle Plow Truck for the Bolton Highway Department, price not to exceed \$220,000, to be financed over a period not to exceed ten years?

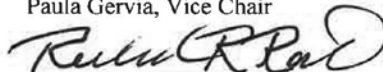
ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize the purchase or lease of a Pumper Tanker for the Bolton Fire Department, price not to exceed \$415,000, to be financed over a period not to exceed ten years?


ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton vote to fill the office of Constable by appointment of the Select Board rather than by election, in accordance with State Statutes, Title 17 V.S.A. §2651a?


Lynda DesLauriers, Chair


Andrew Pond


Paula Gervia, Vice Chair


Richard Reid


Leah Scott

Received for record at Bolton this 24th day of January 2023.


Amy Grover, Town Clerk and Treasurer

OFFICIAL BALLOT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
BOLTON, VERMONT
March 07, 2023

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- Use BLACK Pen to fill in the oval, **DO NOT USE PENCIL.**
- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person.
- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write his or her name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line.
- Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE for NOT MORE THAN #" for an office.
- If you make a mistake, tear, or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. **DO NOT ERASE.**

<p style="text-align: center;">CEMETERY COMMISSIONER</p> <p>for three years Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SELECT BOARD</p> <p>for one year remaining on a two year term Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>LEAH SCOTT <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TOWN CONSTABLE</p> <p>for one year Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SELECT BOARD</p> <p>for two years Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>ANDREW POND <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SELECT BOARD</p> <p>for two years remaining on a three year term Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>RICHARD R. REID <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TOWN TREASURER</p> <p>for three years Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>AMY GROVER <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SELECT BOARD</p> <p>for three years Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>LYNDA DESLAURIERS <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TOWN MODERATOR</p> <p>for one year Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>LESLIE PELCH <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TOWN CLERK</p> <p>for three years Vote for not more than ONE</p> <p>AMY GROVER <input type="radio"/> (Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>

ARTICLES

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize the Select Board to add a one quarter cent (1/4¢) addition to the tax rate to support the Conservation Fund?

YES ☐

NO ☐

ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize the purchase or lease of a Single Axle Plow Truck for the Bolton Highway Department, price not to exceed \$220,000, to be financed over a period not to exceed ten years?

YES ☐

NO ☐

ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize the purchase or lease of a Pumper Tanker for the Bolton Fire Department, price not to exceed \$415,000, to be financed over a period not to exceed ten years?

YES ☐

NO ☐

ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton vote to fill the office of Constable by appointment of the Select Board rather than by election, in accordance with State Statutes, Title 17 V.S.A. §2651a?

YES ☐

NO ☐



Town of Bolton
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway
Bolton VT 05676
Virtual
Virtual Public Informational Hearing Minutes
Categorized as a Select Board Meeting
February 28, 2022

All participants were present virtually.

Board members present: Mica Cassara, Lynda DesLauriers, Paula Gervia, Janet Metz, Andrew Pond

Board members absent: none

Also present: Craig Deyo, Leslie Pelch, Steven Goldfield, Brenda McKeown, Matt Mead, Rod Wheelock, Mike Gervia, Andrew Gervia, Debbie Andrews, Steve Barner, Virginia Haviland, Carol Devlin, Tony Barbagallo, Deb Shelby, Ben Courtemanche, Allison Smith, Tom Haviland, Mary Ellen Seaver Reid, Allie Corse, Jonathan Herbst, Joss Besse, "Kristen F.", "Juliette," Doug Smith, Joseph Terranova, Roger Nishi, Luke Ingram

Clerk: Amy Grover

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by the Chair, Mica Cassara with a quorum of 5 members present. Mica Cassara welcomed all who were in attendance, and reviewed Town Meeting information. The process and instructions for the VPIH were reviewed by the Host, Leslie Pelch.
2. **Presentation of the Good Citizen of the Year Award:**
 - Allison Smith presented the 2022 Good Citizen of the Year Award to Deb Shelby, with thanks and appreciation to Deb for her many years of volunteerism, service to, and support of our community, especially with respect to increasing/bringing broadband in Bolton.
 - Janet Metz noted thanks and appreciation from both the BSB and community to Mica Cassara, outgoing Select Board Chair, for his many years of service to our community and the many hats he has worn during that time.
3. **Select Board Presentation on Articles 01-06:** Mica Cassara presented the PowerPoint presentation on behalf of the BSB. PowerPoint slides are included with these minutes in the Town Office and posted on the town website on the Town Meeting page.
 - **Review and discussion ARTICLE 01.** Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton vote a budget of \$1,165,162 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the town?
 - Vicky Congdon asked what maintenance was needed on the Fire Station.
 - Mike Gervia, Fire Chief, noted that heater vent pipes needed replacement and maintenance costs in general had increased.
 - Jonathan Herbst asked what Debt Service was.
 - Mica Cassara noted it was money owed (loans or lease) on items that the town had purchased, such as Highway Department equipment.
 - Leslie Pelch asked why there was a 15% increase in debt service payments.
 - Mica Cassara noted it was primarily due to the purchase of the grader.

- Review and discussion ARTICLE 02. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton vote to pay the real and personal property taxes to the Town Treasurer in four (4) installments with due dates of September 15, 2022; November 15, 2022; February 15, 2023; and May 16, 2023?
 - No questions or comments.
- Review and discussion ARTICLE 03. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize the Select Board to add a one quarter cent (1/4¢) addition to the tax rate to support the Conservation Fund?
 - No questions or comments.
- Review and discussion ARTICLE 04. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize cannabis retailers and cannabis integrated licensee operations in the Town of Bolton pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863?
 - Tom Haviland asked if the article passed, if a cannabis retailer could open up shop without any further action from the town.
 - Amy Grover noted that any applicable zoning permits from the town would be required, and suspected there would be state permits required.
 - Tom Haviland clarified he was generally fine with the idea, and that the details would matter.
 - Ben Courtemanche asked why this article was brought forward at this time, he was surprised to see this article on the ballot.
 - Mica Cassara noted that it was on the ballot as the state passed the law which allowed towns to put the matter before the voters to decide, there were no proposals at this time, and if passed, it might provide business opportunities for the town.
- Review and discussion ARTICLE 05. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize the purchase or lease of an Excavator for the Bolton Highway Department, price not to exceed \$110,000, to be financed over a period not to exceed ten years?
 - Tom Haviland commented that a purchase sounded better than renting.
 - Mica Cassara noted that a purchase was better than contracting out constantly for excavator services, there had been difficulties with availability when an excavator contractor was needed, and had even been put out to bid and awarded, but then was not available.
 - Steve Barner noted that the Capital Planning Committee had mixed feelings about the purchase and added that this was not an apples to apples comparison. He added that the town would be purchasing a mini excavator, not a large excavator, that there would be projects the town would still need a large excavator for, the town should not expect all excavator needs to be addressed by the purchase, and that there also was the benefit of a contractor providing an expert excavator operator. He noted that he understood the issue of needing an excavator, but the purchase would not completely eliminate the need of a contracted excavator.
 - Craig Deyo noted that he understood the concerns, and added that the town did not need a large excavator on an everyday basis to complete general maintenance and grant projects. He added that technically the excavator identified for purchase was not a mini excavator, it was a 308, sufficient for the town's needs, that many towns do not own large excavators and if one is needed, yes the town may need to rent or contract for those services, like last summer there was an issue with the contracted

excavator not being able to complete work as needed, and the town had to rent an excavator and complete the project in house. The Highway Department is trying to avoid doing that, to have an excavator when it is needed for projects, and to keep the Highway Department staff busy all year.

➤ Debbie Andrews commented that the purchase sounded good.

- Review and discussion ARTICLE 06. To elect all Town Officers as required by law:

One Cemetery Commissioner for a term of three (3) years

One Select Board member for a term of two (2) years

One Select Board member for a term of three (3) years

One Select Board member for a term of one year remaining on a two (2) year term

One Select Board member for a term of two years remaining on a three (3) year term

One Town Moderator for a term of one (1) year

One Town Constable for a term of one (1) year

➤ Vicky Congdon wondered if Steve Goldfield wanted to introduce himself, as he was the only non BSB member running for election, and that she would like to meet him.

- Steve Goldfield, said hello, introduced himself and provided information about himself and his family, and that he looked forward to serving the town if elected.

- Vicky Congdon thanked Steve Goldfield for stepping forward.

➤ Allison Smith gave her thanks to everyone stepping up to serve the town.

Mica Cassara asked if there were any final comments or questions.

- Craig Deyo noted that Billy Atwood joined the Highway Department team and was a very experienced/good excavator operator, and that the town would not need to hire an operator for a rental excavator.
- Lynda DesLauriers asked if the project done by the excavator contractor on the Bolton Valley Access Road last summer would have been able to be done in-house with an excavator.
 - Craig Deyo noted that the Highway Department would have been able to complete that project on the Bolton Valley Access Road and more.
- Steve Barner noted that from his personal experience, Bill Atwood was one of the best heavy equipment operators in the state.
- Mica Cassara thanked all who participated and Janet Metz for her kind words, adding that it had been his honor to serve as BSB chair the past few years, living in Bolton was a privilege, and he was honored to give something back to the town for that privilege

4. **Motion to Adjourn Hearing:** Lynda DesLauriers made the motion “to adjourn the hearing.” Paula Gervia seconded. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed (5-0) at 7:22 p.m.

Attest: Amy Grover, Clerk

Minutes are unofficial until approved. These minutes were read and approved by the Bolton Select Board on March 7, 2022.

Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C.

Certified Public Accountants

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January 11, 2023

Selectboard
Town of Bolton, Vermont
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway
Bolton, Vermont 05676

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Bolton, Vermont as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022, and have issued our report dated January 11, 2023. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and “Government Auditing Standards”, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our engagement letter to you dated May 9, 2022. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Our Responsibilities under U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards and “Government Auditing Standards”

As stated in our engagement letter, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express opinions about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

As part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the Town of Bolton, Vermont. Such considerations are solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Town of Bolton, Vermont’s financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit.

Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement. We are responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures specifically to identify such matters.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously communicated to you in our engagement letter.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Town of Bolton, Vermont are described in Note I to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year. We noted no transactions entered into by the Town of Bolton, Vermont during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. None of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Town of Bolton, Vermont

-3-

January 11, 2023

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated January 11, 2023.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a “second opinion” on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Town of Bolton’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor’s opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to our retention as the Town of Bolton, Vermont’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

We were not engaged to report on the Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements and Changes in Modified Cash Basis Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – Budgetary Basis – General Fund and the combining fund financial statements which accompanies the financial statements. We did not audit or perform other procedures on this other information and we not express any opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the use of the Selectboard and management of the Town of Bolton, Vermont and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

Sullivan, Powers & Co.

SULLIVAN, POWERS & CO.
Certified Public Accountants

The full Auditor’s Report is available at www.boltonvt.com

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT

Delinquent Taxes outstanding as of June 31, 2021	\$34,187.01
Delinquent Taxes assigned for collection as of May 19, 2022	+\$65,317.50
Total Delinquent Taxes assigned for collection	\$99,504.51
Delinquent Taxes collected from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022	-\$75,576.54
Adjustments, Errors, Omissions, and Abatements	-\$682.63
Outstanding Delinquent Taxes as of June 30, 2022	<u>\$23,245.34</u> =====

*These numbers do not include collections of Delinquent Taxes from July 1, 2022 to the time of this annual report.

Delinquent Taxes collected from July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022	\$18,677.44
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Election Day BCA member Paula Gervia & volunteer Andrew Gervia.

Town of Bolton Expenditure Report and Draft FY 23/24 Budget

	FY 19/20		FY 20/21		FY 21/22		AVG FY 20/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY23/24 Change	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		Budget	Draft Budget	(\$)	(%)
Town Administration											
Personnel											
Clerk & Asst. Clerk/Treasurer Wages	\$82,772	\$82,994	\$84,844	\$85,197	\$87,168	\$88,741	\$ 85,120	\$91,046	\$98,928	\$7,882	
Zoning Officer Wages	\$25,085	\$23,572	\$25,709	\$19,775	\$23,587	\$23,587	\$ 22,311	\$24,523	\$17,972	(\$6,551)	-26.7%
Board Clerk/PC, CC, EC, CPC	\$1,620	\$1,229	\$1,660	\$1,278	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$ 1,419	\$1,770	\$1,803	\$33	1.9%
Assessor Assistant Wages	\$550	\$0	\$560	\$0	\$570	\$0	-				
PTO Pay Out	\$3,447	\$2,223	\$3,531	\$2,772	\$3,619	\$2,841	\$ 2,612	\$3,716	\$3,982	\$266	7.2%
Social Security	\$9,446	\$9,705	\$9,662	\$9,726	\$10,265	\$9,914	\$ 9,782	\$10,675	\$10,500	(\$175)	-1.6%
Retirement	\$4,963	\$5,161	\$5,320	\$5,497	\$5,701	\$6,185	\$ 5,614	\$6,534	\$7,076	\$542	8.3%
Health Insurance	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,002	\$ 10,001	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	0.0%
Dental Coverage	\$1,286	\$1,273	\$1,325	\$1,206	\$1,416	\$1,166	\$ 1,215	\$1,320	\$1,135	(\$185)	-14.0%
Worker's Comp Insurance	\$625	\$742	\$850	\$621	\$900	\$730	\$ 698	\$875	\$790	(\$85)	-9.7%
Unemployment Insurance	\$375	\$104	\$175	\$321	\$428	\$532	\$ 319	\$441	\$475	\$34	7.7%
Disability Insurance	\$377	\$309	\$331	\$317	\$345	\$267	\$ 298	\$344	\$340	\$6	1.8%
Training	\$500	\$95	\$500	\$126	\$500	\$432	\$ 218	\$250	\$250	\$0	0.0%
Select Board Stipends	\$3,900	\$3,720	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$4,350	\$ 3,990	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$0	0.0%
Constable Stipend	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$1,000	\$250	\$250	\$ 500	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.0%
Animal Control Officer Stipend	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$ 500	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.0%
Health Officer Stipend	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$ 250	\$250	\$250	\$0	0.0%
BCA/BTA Stipend	\$600	\$490	\$650	\$240	\$650	\$470	\$ 400	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.0%
Board Stipends	\$1,800	\$1,100	\$1,800	\$1,780	\$2,040	\$1,400	\$ 1,427	\$2,040	\$2,040	\$0	0.0%
Town Office											
Heating Fuel	\$1,000	\$775	\$1,000	\$604	\$1,000	\$474	\$ 618	\$1,200	\$1,250	\$50	4.2%
Electricity	\$1,350	\$1,586	\$1,450	\$1,419	\$1,700	\$1,387	\$ 1,464	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$0	0.0%
Trash Removal	\$371	\$487	\$500	\$1,776	\$575	\$2,325	\$ 1,529	\$1,850	\$2,600	\$750	40.5%
Building Maintenance/Repairs	\$2,500	\$5,359	\$2,500	\$3,785	\$2,500	\$3,020	\$ 4,055	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0.0%
Office Operating Expenses	\$6,900	\$6,749	\$6,900	\$6,970	\$6,900	\$6,638	\$ 6,786	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$0	0.0%
Telephone/Fax/Internet	\$3,500	\$3,541	\$3,500	\$3,973	\$3,900	\$3,670	\$ 3,728	\$4,100	\$4,775	\$675	16.5%
Copier Lease & Images	\$3,200	\$2,740	\$3,200	\$2,644	\$3,200	\$2,770	\$ 2,718	\$3,500	\$3,700	\$200	5.7%
Meeting Expenses	\$300	\$329	\$300	\$67	\$300	\$200	\$ 199	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
Bolton Gazette	\$2,300	\$230	\$350	\$318	\$350	\$321	\$ 290	\$350	\$350	\$0	0.0%
Postage	\$3,500	\$2,809	\$3,500	\$2,814	\$3,500	\$3,499	\$ 3,041	\$3,500	\$3,750	\$250	7.1%
Printing/Advertising	\$5,000	\$4,649	\$3,750	\$4,299	\$4,300	\$3,350	\$ 4,099	\$4,300	\$4,500	\$200	4.7%
Digital Land Record									\$2,500	\$2,500	NA
Land Record Archiving	\$3,000	\$2,954	\$3,000	\$3,241	\$3,000	\$834	\$ 2,343	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.0%
Property Maintenance	\$2,500	\$1,319	\$2,000	\$1,642	\$2,000	\$430	\$ 1,130	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
Property & Casualty Insurance	\$6,350	\$5,890	\$6,150	\$5,970	\$6,488	\$4,956	\$ 5,605	\$7,550	\$8,110	\$560	7.4%
Cemetery Care	\$4,000	\$2,920	\$4,250	\$2,965	\$3,500	\$2,892	\$ 2,926	\$3,500	\$3,200	(\$300)	-8.6%
Office/Computer Equipment	\$2,400	\$7,341	\$3,500	\$3,501	\$2,000	\$3,777	\$ 4,873	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$2,000	100.0%
Computer Tech Support	\$7,775	\$7,050	\$8,000	\$5,799	\$8,000	\$10,837	\$ 7,895	\$8,000	\$9,525	\$1,525	19.1%
NEMRC	\$2,100	\$2,239	\$5,725	\$5,756	\$5,875	\$5,779	\$ 4,591	\$5,900	\$6,000	\$100	1.7%
Web Page Expenses	\$100	\$156	\$100	\$136	\$250	\$0	\$ 97	\$250	\$250	\$0	0.0%
Election Expenses	\$1,500	\$1,839	\$3,500	\$2,816	\$1,600	\$892	\$ 1,849	\$3,500	\$2,100	(\$1,400)	-40.0%
Constable Expenses	\$250	\$0	\$200	\$253	\$200	\$0	\$ 84	\$200	\$200	\$0	0.0%
Assessor Expenses	\$700	\$478	\$500	\$642	\$500	\$558	\$ 559	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.0%
Zoning/Health Officer Expenses	\$200	\$184	\$200	\$163	\$200	\$106	\$ 151	\$200	\$100	(\$100)	-50.0%
Recreation Fund	\$750	\$571	\$750	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$ 190	\$200	\$0	(\$200)	-100.0%
Conservation Commission	\$600	\$400	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$261	\$ 454	\$700	\$600	(\$100)	-14.3%
Planning Commission	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$1,375	\$3,000	\$3,995	\$ 2,790	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	0.0%

Development Review Board	\$250	\$70	\$400	\$0	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$23	\$100	\$100	\$0	0.0%
Taxes, Fees												
Membership Fees	\$4,005	\$4,010	\$4,130	\$4,065	\$4,130	\$4,092	\$4,140	4,056	\$4,635	\$4,635	\$495	12.0%
County Tax	\$5,950	\$5,816	\$6,115	\$5,830	\$6,122	\$5,933	\$6,200	5,860	\$6,530	\$6,530	\$330	5.3%
Fees (bank & state)	\$1,250	\$1,008	\$1,250	\$1,115	\$1,250	\$1,181	\$1,250	1,101	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$0	0.0%
Contracted Services												
Legal Services	\$20,000	\$12,238	\$20,000	\$23,554	\$20,000	\$6,179	\$14,000	13,990	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0	0.0%
Bookkeeping/Auditing Services	\$10,650	\$10,650	\$14,650	\$14,650	\$14,900	\$14,900	\$15,230	13,400	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$770	5.1%
Property Tax Maps	\$1,750	\$1,755	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$1,850	\$1,850	\$2,000	1,785	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$200	10.0%
Assessor Services	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$25,550	\$17,496	\$25,350	\$17,777	\$18,500	17,091	\$19,425	\$19,425	\$925	5.0%
Richmond Rescue	\$19,220	\$19,220	\$19,604	\$19,604	\$19,996	\$19,996	\$19,996	19,607	\$19,214	(\$1,782)		-8.9%
Speed Control Services	\$4,000	\$1,290	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	430	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
RE-Appraisal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	\$7,500	\$12,250	\$4,750	63.3%
Service Organization Allocations												
Chittenden Unit Special Investigations	\$2,159	\$2,159	\$2,209	\$2,209	\$2,204	\$2,204	\$1,822	2,191	\$1,822	\$0	(\$1,822)	-100.0%
Visiting Nurses Association	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$1,000	750	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.0%
Committee on Temporary Shelter	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$0	250	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
Our Community Cares	\$275	\$275	\$275	\$275	\$500	\$500	\$500	350	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.0%
Steps to End Domestic Violence	\$275	\$275	\$350	\$350	\$500	\$500	\$0	375	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
Front Porch Forum	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$0	50	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
Waterbury Senior Center	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.0%
Age Well	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$0	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
Library Card Reimbursement	\$815	\$650	\$800	\$330	\$800	\$725	\$425	568	\$425	\$425	\$0	0.0%
Vermont Family Network	\$0	\$0	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$0	167	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
VT Adult Learning	\$0	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$0	67	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
Bolton's Senior Meals	\$0	\$0	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$250	500	\$250	\$250	\$0	0.0%
Town Administration Subtotal	\$302,141	\$286,778	\$320,675	\$301,412	\$320,929	\$295,425	\$320,887	\$294,538	\$333,230	\$	12,343	3.8%

	FY19/20	FY20/210	FY21/22	AVG	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY23/24 CHANGE
	Budget	Actual	Budget	20-22	Budget	Budget	Change (\$)
Highway Department							
Personnel							
Wages/FT	\$118,373.00	\$115,549	\$122,324.00	\$116,732	\$143,790.00	\$139,920	\$187,054.00
Wages/OT	\$10,244.00	\$15,756	\$10,586.00	\$19,397	\$18,666.00	\$26,022	\$15,365.00
Wages/PT	\$5,161.00	\$2,455	\$5,291.00	\$5,774	\$5,424.00	\$3,918	\$6,182.00
Road Commissioner Stipend	\$2,000.00	\$2,000	\$2,000.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$6,747.00
PTO Pay Out	\$3,114.00	\$1,071	\$4,667.00	\$1,400	\$4,237.00	\$1,516	\$6,556.00
Workers Comp	\$9,766.00	\$10,175	\$10,710.00	\$9,269	\$10,448.00	\$9,717	\$14,325.00
Unemployment Insurance	\$600.00	\$74	\$225.00	\$233	\$608.00	\$552	\$750.00
Disability Insurance	\$630.00	\$489	\$518.00	\$326	\$530.00	\$408	\$620.00
Social Security	\$10,851.00	\$11,180	\$11,312.00	\$11,815	\$13,549.00	\$14,042	\$16,885.00
Retirement	\$6,631.00	\$6,710	\$7,258.00	\$7,346	\$9,050.00	\$9,229	\$12,282.00
Health Insurance	\$35,530.00	\$25,812	\$24,771.00	\$29,473	\$43,326.00	\$24,447	\$39,125.00
Dental Insurance	\$1,441.00	\$1,046	\$1,125.00	\$1,296	\$1,729.00	\$1,014	\$1,640.00
Uniforms	\$2,000.00	\$1,623	\$2,000.00	\$1,847	\$2,000.00	\$5,385	\$4,000.00
Training Fees and Mileage	\$1,000.00	\$191	\$1,000.00	\$0	\$600.00	\$574	\$900.00
Contracted Services	\$8,000.00	\$2,400	\$14,000.00	\$20,910	\$14,000.00	\$27,165	\$10,000.00
Town Garage							
Garage Operating Expenses	\$7,000.00	\$8,522	\$9,000.00	\$9,180	\$9,000.00	\$8,469	\$12,000.00
Telephone	\$4,820.00	\$2,778	\$3,250.00	\$2,951	\$3,000.00	\$4,000	\$3,600.00
Heating Fuel	\$3,100.00	\$3,330	\$3,500.00	\$2,787	\$3,500.00	\$2,600	\$3,500.00
Electricity	\$2,100.00	\$2,000	\$2,100.00	\$2,194	\$2,100.00	\$2,341	\$2,325.00
Building Maintenance	\$4,000.00	\$150	\$4,000.00	\$3,637	\$4,000.00	\$7,257	\$14,500.00
							\$10,000
							222.2%

Property and Casualty Insurance	\$6,900.00	\$6,827	\$6,800.00	\$6,452	\$7,324.00	\$7,494	\$	6,924	\$8,595.00	\$10,295.00	\$1,700	19.8%
Municipal Roads General Permit	\$500.00	\$500	\$740.00	\$740	\$740.00	\$500	\$	580	\$740.00	\$500.00	(\$240)	-32.4%
Equipment												
Tree Removal	\$1,000.00	\$0	\$1,000.00	\$600	\$1,000.00	\$2,200	\$	933	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000	200.0%
Equip Rentals	\$2,500.00	\$1,876	\$2,500.00	\$1,759	\$2,500.00	\$10,993	\$	4,876	\$16,500.00	\$12,000.00	(\$4,500)	-27.3%
Equip Repair	\$600.00	\$255	\$600.00	\$333	\$1,000.00	\$3,339	\$	1,309	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,000	50.0%
Small Equip Purchase	\$4,500.00	\$2,062	\$4,500.00	\$13,464	\$4,000.00	\$5,023	\$	6,850	\$4,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$2,000	50.0%
Safety Equip	\$500.00	\$54	\$500.00	\$1,048	\$800.00	\$1,157	\$	753	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000	100.0%
Tools	\$1,000.00	\$9	\$1,200.00	\$1,328	\$1,200.00	\$7,170	\$	2,836	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,000	50.0%
Materials												
Gravel	\$40,000.00	\$15,090	\$40,000.00	\$35,464	\$20,000.00	\$20,032	\$	23,529	\$40,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$20,000	50.0%
Sand	\$10,500.00	\$13,956	\$10,500.00	\$9,400	\$11,000.00	\$5,626	\$	9,661	\$11,000.00	\$22,000.00	\$11,000	100.0%
Resurfacing	\$70,000.00	\$70,001	\$80,000.00	\$80,000	\$80,000.00	\$80,000	\$	76,667	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$0	0.0%
Cold Patch	\$800.00	\$346	\$1,000.00	\$294	\$1,000.00	\$239	\$	293	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000	100.0%
Erosion Control	\$1,000.00	\$78	\$1,000.00	\$1,018	\$1,000.00	\$338	\$	478	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0	0.0%
Stone Lining	\$10,000.00	\$0	\$10,000.00	\$780	\$8,000.00	\$0	\$	260	\$8,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$1,000	12.5%
Culverts	\$6,000.00	\$0	\$6,000.00	\$5,341	\$5,000.00	\$29,612	\$	11,651	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0	0.0%
Road Signs	\$2,000.00	\$268	\$2,000.00	\$4,620	\$2,500.00	\$650	\$	1,846	\$2,500.00	\$4,000.00	\$1,500	60.0%
Chloride	\$1,000.00	\$0	\$1,000.00	\$0	\$1,000.00	\$1,001	\$	334	\$500.00	\$6,000.00	\$5,500	1100.0%
Salt	\$48,000.00	\$55,290	\$50,000.00	\$50,059	\$55,000.00	\$52,087	\$	52,479	\$55,000.00	\$58,000.00	\$3,000	5.5%
Vehicles												
2013 Dodge	\$4,000.00	\$2,045	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$	682	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
2020 International #3 Landscape/CV	\$0.00	\$0	\$500.00	\$685	\$1,000.00	\$3,353	\$	1,346	\$1,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$7,000	700.0%
2021 International Tandem #1	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$5,667	\$	1,889	\$3,500.00	\$4,000.00	\$500	100.0%
2018 Loader	\$100.00	\$378	\$400.00	\$6,074	\$800.00	\$3,497	\$	3,316	\$800.00	\$8,000.00	\$7,200	900.0%
2017 International #1	\$1,500.00	\$9,344	\$2,000.00	\$7,104	\$3,500.00	\$0	\$	5,483	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
2017 International #2	\$1,000.00	\$2,998	\$1,500.00	\$4,734	\$3,500.00	\$10,852	\$	6,195	\$3,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$1,000	28.6%
2021 Grader	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$1,947	\$	649	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,500	100.0%
2022 Excavator												
1999 Grader	\$5,000.00	\$72	\$5,000.00	\$660	\$5,000.00	\$0	\$	244	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000	NA
IMT Roadside Mower	\$2,500.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$	-	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Fuel	\$25,000.00	\$19,442	\$25,000.00	\$15,993	\$25,000.00	\$27,057	\$	20,831	\$25,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$5,000	20.0%
Oil/Lube	\$3,000.00	\$1,998	\$4,000.00	\$670	\$2,500.00	\$4,404	\$	2,357	\$2,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$3,500	140.0%
Tires	\$3,500.00	\$3,843	\$3,500.00	\$2,443	\$4,000.00	\$7,820	\$	4,702	\$5,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$15,000	300.0%
Cutting Edges	\$5,000.00	\$5,688	\$5,000.00	\$4,950	\$6,000.00	\$6,244	\$	5,627	\$6,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$4,000	66.7%
Highway Dept Subtotal	\$493,761	\$425,731	\$505,877	\$502,580	\$543,921	\$586,878	\$	505,063	\$582,808	\$736,469	\$153,161	26.4%

Fire Department	FY19/20	FY20/21	FY21/22	AVG	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY23/24 CHANGE
Personnel	Budget	Actual	Budget	20-22	Budget	Budget	Change (\$)
Fire Chief Stipend	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$1,000
Volunteer Training Stipends	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$	\$9,000	\$11,000	\$1,000
Training Fees and Mileage	\$1,500	\$1,132	\$1,500	\$	\$1,235	\$2,000	\$500
Social Security	\$0	\$0	\$880	\$	\$880	\$995	\$153
Turnout Gear	\$4,500	\$5,874	\$4,500	\$	\$5,441	\$6,000	\$500
General Operations							
General Operations	\$7,000	\$7,992	\$7,000	\$	\$8,894	\$8,000	\$500
Property and Casualty Insurance	\$14,150	\$13,337	\$14,350	\$	\$13,868	\$14,750	\$250
Workman's Comp/ Unemployment Insurance	\$1,075	\$1,560	\$1,500	\$	\$1,527	\$1,925	\$225
Telephone/Internet	\$4,250	\$3,259	\$3,900	\$	\$3,458	\$3,500	\$0
Mutual Aid Dues	\$150	\$250	\$300	\$	\$250	\$300	\$0
Dispatch Services	\$4,000	\$3,890	\$4,000	\$	\$3,938	\$4,000	\$0

	FY19/20		FY20/21		FY21/22		AVG	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY23/24 Change	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual				Change (\$)	% Change
Reserve Fund Contributions											
Town Office Capital Reserve	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$ 4,167	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.0%
Planning Project Fund	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$ 4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	0.0%
Highway Garage Reserve Fund	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 2,667	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
Highway Equipment Reserve Fund	\$21,567	\$21,567	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$29,000	\$29,000	\$ 21,522	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$0	0.0%
Highway Projects	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$ 17,500	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0	0.0%
Fire Station Reserve Fund	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$ 2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0.0%
Fire Equipment Reserve Fund	\$14,376	\$14,376	\$23,500	\$23,500	\$23,500	\$23,500	\$ 20,459	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$0	0.0%
Reserve Fund Subtotal	\$55,443	\$52,943	\$74,000	\$74,000	\$89,000	\$89,000	\$ 71,981	\$89,000	\$89,000	\$0	0.0%
TOTAL	\$1,037,324	\$951,867	\$1,079,264	\$1,054,671	\$1,110,774	\$1,134,363	\$ 1,046,967	\$ 1,165,162	\$ 1,342,280	\$ 176,618	15.2%

TOWN OF BOLTON RESERVE FUND SPREADSHEET

ACCOUNT		D (1)	E (2)	I (3)	Description	Accumulative FY 21-22
HIGHWAY ACCOUNTS						
Highway Equip	130,467.52	29,000.00				159,467.52
Highway Projects	155,167.91	25,000.00				180,167.91
Highway Buildings	64,800.00					64,800.00
Highway Resurf/Guard	21,958.97					21,958.97
Road Cut Deposit	2,000.00					2,000.00
						-
FIRE ACCOUNTS						
FD Equipment	158,577.00	38,338.00	85,235.00			111,680.00
FD Station	20,101.00	2,500.00				22,601.00
FD-Hose	1,515.00					1,515.00
GENERAL ACCOUNTS						
Town Office Reserve	8,500	5,000.00				13,500.00
Restoration	21,963.00	6,848.00				28,811.00
Land Conservation	37,038.31	3,313.69	20,750.00			19,602.00
Firewood Sales for Co	280.00					280.00
Planning Reserve Fund	18,544.39	4,000.00				22,544.39
						-
						-
						-
Ytd Interest				645.88		648,927.79
						649,573.67
		113,999.69	105,985.00			
		21-22 Deposits	21-22 Expenses	21-22 Interest		649,573.67



TOWN OF BOLTON TAX RATE INFORMATION

FY	Non-Resident Education Rate	Resident Education Rate	Municipal	MMU Accrual	Conservation	Library	Total	Town Budget	Annual Taxes per \$100,000 of Value
13-14	\$1.4366	\$1.5501	.52		.0025		\$1.9566 (non) \$2.0701 (resident)	\$802,600	\$1,959.10 \$2,072.60
14-15	\$1.5048	\$1.7046	.53		.0025		\$2.0348 (non) \$2.2346 (resident)	\$847,900	\$2,037.30 \$2,237.10
15-16	\$1.4965	\$1.5895	.54				\$2.0365 (non) \$2.1295 (resident)	\$893,927	\$2,036.50 \$2,129.50
16-17*	\$1.5895	\$1.0639	.5979		.0025		\$2.1899 (non) \$2.2043 (resident)	\$927,490	\$2,189.90 \$2,204.30
17-18	\$1.5496	\$1.4922	.5905		.0025		\$2.1426 (non) \$2.200852 (resident)	\$936,048	\$2,142.60 \$2,085.20
18-19	\$1.5862	\$1.4950	.6469		.0025		\$2.2356 (non) \$2.1474 (resident)	\$1,009,389	\$2,2356 \$2,1474
19-20	\$1.6592	\$1.5463	.6571		.0025		\$2.3188 (non) \$2.2059 (resident)	\$1,037,324	\$2,318.80 \$2,295.90
20-21	\$1.7369	\$1.5698	.6861		.0025		\$2.4255 (Non) \$2.2584 (Resident)	\$1,079,264	\$2,425.50 \$2,258.40
21-22	\$1.7989	\$1.6498	.6778		.0025		\$2.4792 (Non) \$2.3301 (Resident)	\$1,110,774	\$2,479.20 \$2,330.10
22-23	\$1.7156	\$1.5255	.7312		.0025		\$2.4493 (Non) \$2.2592 (Resident)	\$1,165,162	\$2,449.30 \$2,259.20

**Reappraisal completion year*



MMU Day of Service - students completing trail work in the PPCA.

TOWN OF BOLTON

Reports • Letters

Assessor
Bolton's Own Little Libraries
Clerk and Treasurer
Conservation Commission
Development Review Board
Economic Resource Committee
Energy Committee
Fire Warden (burning permits)
Highway Department
Planning Commission
Planning & Zoning Administrator
Select Board
Vital Records
Volunteer Fire Department



Ethan Tapper Forester of the Year.

TOWN ASSESSOR

This past year has been a busy and productive year in the Assessor Office. In the winter and spring we completed the known changes to property such as the changes approved through the local permit process. We also realized the real estate market in Vermont and Bolton is rising to the point we will be required to update the values. As it turns out, the recent equalization study confirmed the changes with the common level of appraisal (“CLA”) dropping to 75.48% and the coefficient of dispersion (“COD”) rising to 17.92%. With these indicators forthcoming, and after successful completion of a Data Quality Study, the Select Board and State Tax Department authorized a reappraisal for 2023 in the form of a Statistical Update.

We will be working to update the Bolton property values for the 2023 Grand List. The balance of the winter and spring will be directed to developing a new land schedule and updating the other tables (building costs and depreciation) to more closely reflect the local real estate market.

We would like to thank the property owners who cooperated with us on the data quality study. Several properties of various types, locations and values were randomly selected for inspection and verification of the information on record. We visited each and were generally greeted in a very kind and respectful manner. Thanks to those who supported us completing this aspect of the reappraisal.

As in the past, we are accessible most Wednesdays and would be pleased to discuss our work with you, at your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Renshaw

Ted Nelson

Bolton Assessors from the Vermont Appraisal Co.



Assessors Amber Renshaw & Ted Nelson

BOLTON'S OWN LITTLE LIBRARY GROUP

It's been another year of reading and book exchanges at our Bolton's Own Little Libraries (BOLL). The BOLLs have gotten good use in 2022 as it's such an easy place to find a good read, or to leave off a book you've enjoyed and want to share with others. Thank you to all our volunteers who've been stocking and caretaking our seven small, self-service libraries in neighborhoods throughout Bolton.

Each library houses two to four dozen books and operates under the "Take a Book, Leave a Book" policy. BOLLs are open 24 / 7 and have a wide array of books for all ages. Inventory is constantly changing as people exchange books, so stop by one today to see what's available. There's no due date or late fees ever-- just pop it back in any BOLL box when you're finished or pass it along to a friend.

How do you find the BOLL nearest you? The BOLLs are the brightly painted little boxes that are located at: Fernwood Manor, 445 Duxbury Road, Bolton Valley in the main circle, halfway down Notch Road, Stage Road about across from the Condos, where the Long Trail crosses Rt. 2, and the Town Offices. Thank you to Brea Dorsey for spearheading the move and caretaking of the Bolton Valley BOLL. Steve and Jeannie Barner have added a brand-new Little Library of their own at the end of their driveway at the crest of Stage Road as well!



We're finding that early readers are still some of the most popular books to disappear from a BOLL box, and we want to give a special thank you to the Richmond Free Library Librarians Wendy and Rebecca for their on-going donations of early readers and books for all ages when our book supplies dwindle. Do you have a collection of children's books you'd be ready to pass along? If so, please visit your local BOLL box to drop off a few now and or reach out for us to donate them for our backstock.

The BOLLs exist and thrive with our community of readers and volunteers who look after them. We always welcome new volunteers to help rotate the books between the libraries. If you are interested in helping to look after the BOLLs, please be in touch with us at aludwin@me.com or jendudleygaillard@gmail.com.

Submitted by Amy Ludwin & Jen Dudley-Gaillard on behalf of The Bolton's Own Little Library Group

CLERK AND TREASURER

Town Meeting 2023

We are returning to our traditional in-person Town Meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 6, 2023, with voting by Australian ballot taking place on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Both Town Meeting and voting will be held in the Smilie School gym.

The Town will be hosting a CCC (Cake! Coffee! Cider!) Hour beginning at 6:30 p.m., prior to the start of Town Meeting on Monday, March 6, 2023. This is replacing the traditional potluck dinner, as the Town Meeting potluck dinner survey responses revealed that our community overwhelmingly supported this shift. We hope that you will join us and take advantage of the continued and traditional opportunity to chat with our representatives Theresa Wood and Tom Stevens, as well as Bolton board and committee members.

Reminder – as we are returning to our traditional in-person Town Meeting, Articles 1 – 4, which include the town budget under Article 1, and appropriation of uncommitted general funds under Article 3, will be transacted/voted from the floor on Monday, March 6, 2023.

Articles 5 – 9, which includes the Election of Officers and the Conservation Fund ¼ cent, will be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Finances:

- **Audit:** The FY 21-22 audit was completed in early January 2023. No significant deficiencies nor material weaknesses were identified. The complete audit report is posted on the town website: <http://boltonvt.com/documents/>
- **Budget:** Drafting the FY 23-24 budget was a challenge. Select Board members, town staff and Capital Planning Committee members reviewed past and anticipated expenditures during multiple meetings trying to carefully balance the realistic costs of running the town with the impact of increases to our community. The Bolton community will have an opportunity to address budget concerns or questions with the Select Board and town staff at Town Meeting on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 7 p.m.
- **Debt:** The Town's current debt service of \$93,658 accounts for approximately 6.97% of the proposed municipal budget of \$1,342,280. This is a decrease from 7.57% in FY 22-23.
- **Reserve Fund:** As of June 30, 2022, the Reserve Fund balance stood at \$640,913.10 and does not include the \$89,000 in Reserve Fund contributions which were voter approved as budgeted in FY 22-23. A copy of the Reserve Fund spreadsheet is included in the Town Report. Please refer to the spreadsheet for specific amounts within the fund.

Voter Checklist and Elections:

- The Town registered 97 new/transferred voters in 2022, and the checklist (as of 1/18/23) stands at 1010 voters, with 146 challenged voters.
- Many thanks to the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) and the many volunteers who assisted with running the 2022: Town Meeting, August Primary, and November General elections.

- The largest election changes in 2022 were the installation of an official ballot box at the Town Office and shifting to the use of a vote tabulator. Tabulators are required for all general elections when the voter checklist reaches 1,000+ as of December 31st on an odd numbered year. As we realized we would easily surpass that triggering threshold, and not wanting our first use of a tabulator to be during the November 2024 Presidential General Election, the Board of Civil Authority voted to institute the use of a tabulator (provided by the State of Vermont) starting with the 2022 August Primary election. We recognize this was a big change for both Bolton voters and election officials, and we appreciated everyone's patience and support as we all experienced a steep learning curve! Going forward, we anticipate using the tabulator for all elections, both local and general.
- Town Meeting 2022 saw 179 voters out of 980 registered voters participate, 18.2%.

Town Records:

- During the 2022 calendar year, 492 documents totaling 1,321 pages were recorded in the Land Records.
- The largest Land Record change in 2022 was providing for digital access of Bolton's Land Records. The Town contracted with Cott Systems, using ARPA funds, and the project is nearing completion. When completed, folks will be able to access 40 years of Bolton Land Records online at RECORDhub: <https://cottsystems.com/recordhub-search-gateway/>
- Review of Lister, DRB and zoning files for Bolton properties is ongoing (as is organization in general to enable easier record access and location), continuing to address the removal of private information such as social security and bank account numbers, removal of multiple copies, and replacing rusting paper clips with steel paper clips as recommended by VSARA.

Dog Licensing:

- There were 134 dogs registered in 2022 (three less than in 2021).
- Reminder: all dogs and wolf hybrids are required by state statute 20 V.S.A. § 3581 to be licensed on or before April 1st of each year. A current rabies certificate is required for a license, and we are happy to issue licenses by mail. Please note: license fees for 2022 are per VT statute and include a late fee for dogs licensed after April 1st. The fees are as follows:
Prior to April 1st: neutered/spayed \$9, un-neutered/un-spayed \$13.
After April 1st: neutered/spayed \$11, un-neutered/un-spayed \$17.
- The Town's Animal Control Officer is Rob Mullen. Rob should be contacted for any domestic animal complaints. Note: Bolton does not have a cat ordinance! Please see the town website for contact information: <http://boltonvt.com/contact-us/>

Grand List:

- The 2022 Grand List shows a total of 782 taxable parcels, with 383 homesteads declared, and a total municipal value of \$1,339,085. This is a decrease in value of \$57,341 from 2021.
- 2022 Equalization Study Results: Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) 75.48% or 0.7548, Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) 17.92%.
- CLA definition: This is a term used by the VT Department of Taxes and it affects every VT property owner's school tax calculation. The CLA is an adjustment to listed property values, calculated annually for each town to adjust the listed value of properties to reflect fair market value as closely as possible. A number over 100% indicates that the property is generally

listed for more than its fair market value. A number less than 100% indicates that property is generally listed for less than its fair market value. A CLA below 85% or over 115% necessitates a reappraisal (932 V.S.A. § 4041a). A re-appraisal is currently underway, see the Assessor's Report for more information.

- COD definition: This is a measure of the average deviation between selling prices of recently sold properties from the average town-wide level of appraisal. A COD of 10% or less is considered to reflect a relatively high level of equity across taxpayers' assessments. By statute, if a town's COD is greater than 20%, the state is required to withhold education, transportation, and other funds from the offending town.

Services Provided to our Residents:

- DMV renewals (\$3)
- Dog Licensing (see above for fees)
- Faxing, copying (no charge)
- Notary (no charge), Town Clerk only. Please note, the town has a "Notarial Services Policy." We do not notarize wills, mortgages, deeds, divorce documents or any document pertaining to child custody/support, nor copies of documents such as driver licenses, passports, diplomas, etc.
- Sale of Green Mountain Passports (\$2)
- Voter registration (no charge)

Thank you:

As always, I want to recognize and thank all our town employees, elected officials, town boards and committees, representatives to county boards, volunteer groups, and volunteers (over 60 people!) who all contribute enormously to making our community a wonderful place to live, work and play. We depend on all of you to help keep our town operating smoothly and efficiently. I know in years past I have recognized certain individuals for their contributions to Bolton – this year is different, as I am taking this opportunity to equally thank all 60+ of the folks who support our town in a myriad of ways... THANK YOU!

Please take the time to read the board/committee/commission reports included in this Town Report. As always, I hope that their efforts may entice you to step forward to also volunteer - there are several volunteer opportunities available, please see the town website for more information.

With appreciation to the residents of Bolton for providing this opportunity to serve our town,

Amy Grover, Town Clerk & Treasurer

Amy Grover, Town Clerk & Treasurer, Kelly Diglio, Zoning Administrator, Carol Devlin, Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer



CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

More than 61% of the acreage in Bolton is formally conserved land. The role of the Bolton Conservation Commission (BCC) is to promote stewardship of natural and cultural resources in Bolton and to advise the Select Board, Planning Commission, Development Review Board and other town groups as needed on matters relating to the environment. The BCC typically convenes on the fourth Monday of every month at 6:00 in the Town Office. You can also attend virtually online or by telephone. Phone in and log in information can be viewed on the BCC page of the Town website, scroll down to see those details under the upcoming meeting agenda. We welcome interested citizens at our meetings.

The BCC is proud to report use of Conservation Funds to assist in the conservation of two important parcels. Town voters approved the ¼ cent addition to the tax rate last year which added about \$3,000 to the fund. In December 2021, a 176-acre private parcel that abuts approximately 70,000 acres of key wildlife corridor and sensitive higher elevation wetlands was protected, with Conservation Funds paying for some of the cost. The mostly forested parcel will be managed for both timber harvesting and to promote biodiversity and ecological function.

With leadership from John Westie and the support of the many Friends of Wheeler Field (FOWF), Wheeler Field in West Bolton has been purchased and deeded to the town. Some of the purchase price came from the largest Conservation Fund request granted to date! The BCC will work with FOWF to create a management plan for this space based on town-wide input. We are excited to help re-introduce the field back into common use!

The Libby's Look Trail re-route at the Preston Pond Conservation Area (PPCA) is complete and open for use! The re-route avoids fragile wet areas to protect against further erosion and soil compaction. Thanks to the many hands that participated in this project. The BCC would especially like to thank Will Peery for leading work crews and engineering and constructing trail features, PPCA Steward Rob Mullen for his ongoing oversight, Amy Ludwin as the driving force behind a large crew of local volunteers and Quinn Keating who gladly assists with signage, at times with the help of CHMS students. Wow, we've got a wonderful community around us. Thank you to our friends on the: team from MMU for lending a hand with a day of service, our local Boy Scouts troop and our friends from the REI store in Williston who also showed up for us ready to work! Please come enjoy the trails!

The BCC supports sharing our town's natural beauty and outdoor recreation spaces, and we look forward to participating in the creation of a town-wide public recreation management plan that will provide consistent guidance for addressing the challenges that come with increased popularity. The group will be looking at all the recreation sites in Town. The Sara Holbrook parcel, Bolton Potholes and the Bolton Dome are examples of many recreational assets in Bolton that are free to enjoy. If you would like to participate in the Recreation Study Group please contact Deb Shelby through the Bolton Town Office.

City Nature Challenge, a world-wide citizen science campaign to survey the biological diversity of our planet, was undertaken here in Bolton! Many folks participated over 4 days; they observed and identified 163 individual species. If you'd like to participate in this year's challenge, mark your calendar for April 28-May 1. Thanks to BCC member Pamela "flask" Gude for her organizational effort of this project. Flask is also the CC liaison



Conservation Commission members Virginia Haviland, Rob Mullen, virtually Pamela Gude, Amy Ludwin, Jerry Mullen, Steve McLeod, & Tucker Andrews

with a team of UVM students from the Rubenstein School doing a study of the area at the bottom of the Bolton Valley access road. They have provided us with some possible solutions to problems of soil compaction and water runoff.

The BCC welcomed a partnership with Bee the Change, a group dedicated to providing more habitat for pollinators. One of their goals is a pollinator planting in every Vermont town. The BCC recommended to the Bolton Select Board that we partner with Bee the Change to create pollinator habitat on the roughly 1 acre FEMA site on RT 2. Bee the Change plants and provides for the garden for 2 years. We are happy to host this intentional pollinator habitat.

Green Up Day was a huge success. Thank you to every townspeople who lent a hand! Shout out to Amy Grover for setting us up with Green up day bags and signs for the Town garage, Pamela Gude worked that day as scout/concierge, Jane Agran supervised the dumpsters area at the Town garage, Amy Ludwin for outreach to CRAGVT. A big thank you to CRAGVT and the Green Mountain Club whose volunteers so generously give their time to help keep Bolton clean!

Submitted for the Bolton Conservation Commission by Tucker Andrews, Amy Ludwin and Virginia Haviland

Additional members:

Pamela “flask” Gude

Steve McLeod

Rob Mullen

Jerry Mullen



Will and Steve Peery Volunterraing in the PPCA.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Bolton's Development Review Board (DRB) is a five-member volunteer board appointed by the Select Board to administer the town's adopted zoning, subdivision and flood hazard regulations. The DRB is a "quasi-judicial" board – we hold warned public hearings, conduct site visits, and issue written decisions on subdivision and development applications, site plan amendments, conditional uses, zoning appeals, waiver and variance requests. It also hears appeals of decisions of the Zoning Administrator. The Town's development ordinance and state statutes set criteria upon which the DRB makes its decisions.



DRB members Rob Ricketson, John Devine, virtual Spencer Nowak, Jon Ignatowski, staff, Steve Diglio, Adam Miller, missing Adam Beaudry

Our regular monthly meetings, held on the fourth Thursday of the month, are open to the public. If needed (rarely), special meetings are held on the second Thursday. Public hearings on specific applications under review are warned in Seven Days, and by mail to abutting property owners. DRB meeting agendas are posted in advance on the DRB page of the town website, and in 3 locations in the village (town office, fire station and Smilie School). The DRB also meets in deliberative sessions as needed to review application information and hearing materials, and to draft its findings and decisions. All Board meeting minutes and decisions are available for review at the Town Office, and on DRB page of the town's website (at: <http://boltonvt.com/boards-minutes/development-review-board/>).

The DRB met twelve times and held nine public hearings in 2022. The following applications were reviewed this past year:

2022-01-DRB; Applicant & Property Owner: John Ethan Tapper. Seeking final subdivision approval for a two-lot subdivision on 325 Bolton Valley Access Rd. The property is in the Rural I District. (Tax Map #9-0100041).

2022-03-DRB; Applicant & Property Owner: Felix and Wendy Streeter. Seeking conditional use approval to construct a single-family home on steep slopes on 5008 Stage Rd. The property is in the Rural I District. (Tax Map #1-0024980).

2022-08-DRB; Applicant: Lenore Hayes. Property Owner: Burlington Community Land Trust & Champlain Housing Trust. Appealing Zoning Administrator's notice of violation regarding raised bed gardens located in a stream setback on 3244 Duxbury Rd. The property is located in the Rural I District. (Tax Map #15-0013244).

2022-11-DRB; Applicant & Property Owner: Catherine Antley and Gideon Bavly. Seeking final subdivision approval for a boundary line adjustment on 569 Mill Brook Rd. The property is in the Forest, Conservation, and Rural II Districts. (Tax Map #2-0060509).

2022-17-DRB; Applicant: Lenore Hayes. Property Owner: Burlington Community Land Trust & Champlain Housing Trust. Appealing Zoning Administrator's notice of violation for a pool and associated deck located in a stream setback on 3244 Duxbury Rd. The property is located in the Rural I District. (Tax Map #15-0013244).

2022-23-DRB; Applicant: Lindsay DesLauriers. Property Owner: BVR LLC. Seeking conditional use review and steep slopes review for a nordic ski facility hut located on 4302 Bolton Valley Access Rd. The project is located in the Conservation District. (Tax Map #7-3004250).

2022-29-DRB; Applicant: Tonya Wheelock. Property Owner: Betty A & Leland E Wheelock and Tonya L Wheelock. Seeking front setback waiver for a sugarhouse addition on 4384 Stage Rd. The property is in the Rural I District. (Tax Map #1-0034384).

2022-31-DRB; Applicant & Property Owner: Larissa Urban. Seeking front setback waiver for an addition (2 car garage) to an existing nonconforming structure (woodshed) on 4017 Stage Rd. The property is in the Rural I District. (Tax Map #11-0034017).

2022-33-DRB; Applicant & Property Owner: Samantha Avant. Seeking setback waivers for northern and southern property boundaries for an 8' x 16' porch on 3477 Stage Rd. The property is the Rural II District. (Tax Map #11-0033477).

2022-11-DRB; Reconsideration; Applicant & Property Owner: Catherine Antley and Gideon Bavly. Seeking a reconsideration of a final subdivision approval for a boundary line adjustment on 739 Mill Brook Rd. The property is in the Forest, Conservation, and Rural II Districts. (Tax Map #2-0060509).

2022-43-DRB; Applicant & Property Owner: Eastcote Holdings LLC. Seeking approval for a second curb cut and the development of a gravel parking lot for recreational uses on 1070 Theodore Roosevelt Highway. The property is in the Rural I, Rural II and Flood Hazard Overlay District. (Tax Map #14-2001320).

2022-50-DRB; Applicant & Property Owner: BV Timber LLC. Seeking conditional use approval to install two 500-gallon fuel tanks, one 275-gallon fuel tank, and three associated 500-gallon precast concrete fuel containment systems on 3227 Bolton Valley Access Rd. The property is in the Rural II, Resort Residential, Forest, and Conservation Districts (Tax Map #7-3003227).

2022-53-DRB; Applicant & Property Owner: Mathew and Katelin Morrisette. Seeking site plan approval and a setback waiver to install a second curb cut and construct a ~864 square foot garage on 193 Wentworth Rd. The property is in the Resort Residential District (Tax Map #4-9000193).

Current DRB members include Stephen Diglio (Chair), Adam Beaudry (Vice Chair), Rob Ricketson, John Devine, and Adam Miller. Spencer Nowak currently serves as an alternate. The DRB also received much appreciated staff support this year from Planning & Zoning Administrator and DRB Clerk Jon Ignatowski.



Crates of Cheer 2022!

ECONOMIC RESOURCE COMMITTEE

The Economic Resource Committee (ERC) has continued its work to track the broadband efforts in the Town of Bolton. Our 3 members meet on a quarterly basis and we are always seeking new members. Deb Shelby has continued to share her valuable expertise and time as a caring and passionate community member – and for that we are grateful! The ERC liaises with the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB), state representation, Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT), and other service providers to advocate for the expansion and completion of bringing broadband to all town residents.



ERC members Allison Smith, Ernest Levesque & Tammy McGuriman

Several events marked the forward movement of this effort in our town. In late May, a press conference was held in West Bolton by the VCBB and WCVT with Governor Phil Scott and U.S. Congressman Peter Welch in attendance, as well as staff from U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy's office, and other state agencies. The press conference highlighted Bolton as the first town to receive funds from the VCBB and celebrated the work that was underway to bring fiber to Bolton. Bolton has been showcased as a model for other towns to follow and the defining characteristic that sets Bolton apart is the grassroots effort by residents, like Deb Shelby, to survey and communicate need for broadband to state and federal entities while coordinating with town leadership and local service providers.

This fall, the VCBB announced that it was extending the time period for which funding could be utilized and it also expanded the amount it would be matching town contributions. With the updates to the town match program, the VCBB retroactively increased the amount of matching on pledges made prior to September 15, 2022 during the initial phase of the program to \$200,000 per town. This increased the amount the VCBB was providing for WCVT to complete its build of Bolton's fiber from \$58,081.89 to \$200,000, an increase of \$141,918.11.

WCVT originally intended to have the end of 2022. They have made the timeline as their work continued included acquiring materials and spite this, they remain committed-Bolton. WCVT has defined four or remain on schedule for 2023: Area, RT2 North Area, and RT2 has engineered, built and cutover Golf Course Area and RT2 North completed the site surveys on the Ski currently in the process of detailed remaining two areas will begin as 2023, with most customer installer of the year. When completed, have fiber in the Ski Way and RT2 2022, WCVT has converted 135 locations to fiber and has another 25 that are either scheduled for installation or are in waiting for the customer call back to schedule installation.



Celebrating Broadband in Bolton!

all its sites in Bolton completed by great progress but have adjusted ues. Challenges to their progress labor to complete the work. Dedicated to upgrading all their sites in areas that are still being addressed the Golf Course Area, the Ski Way South Area. At this time WCVT the majority of customers in the Area. Further, WCVT has com-Way Area and RT2 South and is engineering. Construction in these soon as the weather permits in tions occurring in the second quar-an additional 320 customers will South Areas. As of December

Of the few areas that are served by other providers, the ERC continues to track and advocate for those areas as well, one of which is the Sharkeyville section of Bolton. This area is serviced by Consolidated Communications and they have consistently communicated to the ERC that they have until 2027 to complete broadband builds in areas like Sharkeyville with the federal funds that they have received for this purpose.

If you would like to join this effort, please reach out to the ERC or attend an upcoming meeting to learn more.

Allison Smith
Ernest Levesque
Tammy McGuriman



Broadband comes to Bolton!

ENERGY COMMITTEE

At their December 15, 2022, meeting, the Energy Committee voted 3-0 to recommend that the Select Board dissolve the Energy Committee due to lack of recruits and capacity. At their December 20, 2022, meeting, the Select Board accepted the Energy Committee's recommendation to dissolve the committee and voted 4-0 in favor of doing so.

Consequently, the Town of Bolton no longer has an active Energy Committee but will continue to use the Energy Committee page on the town website to provide energy information and resources.

Should there be community interest in re-instating the Energy Committee, community members can contact the Town Office to request an appointment with the Select Board to start that process.

The former charge of the Energy Committee was to support a range of activities to decrease energy consumption in Town, promote energy efficiency, and support the development of renewable energy in the Town of Bolton. including a focus on activities that lower energy bills for the Town, residents, and businesses of Bolton, and create jobs in Vermont.

We want to recognize and thank the Energy Committee's members; Juliette Juillerat, Lexie Haselton, Peter Schoen and former member and Chair Jeremy Knepper for their "energy," and commitment in bringing energy resources to our residents and helping to inform and implement energy savings for the town since 2018.

Thank you!



New Ballot Box

LETTER FROM FIRE WARDEN

For burning permits, please contact me directly on my cell phone at 802-399-1412. Messages left at the fire station may not be checked or returned in time. A separate permit is needed for each burn. Any burning without a permit is subject to being put out by the fire department.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Gervia,
Fire Warden



Fire Truck 2.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

The year 2022 has been year of changes and differences.

The first part of the year was like most other years maintaining our town highways in winter conditions, which led to spring and the unfortunate mud that seemed more significant than most other years!

Once the weather improved, we were able to accomplish some much-needed routine road maintenance work. We also completed a Better Roads grant funded project on the Bolton Valley Access Road which consisted of cleaning ditches, berms and the adding stone help to help address erosion issues and meet Municipal Road General Permit requirements. The work completed with this grant was just one step toward getting the Bolton Valley Access Road to the condition we would like to have it in the future.

This year we have also purchased new equipment which we anticipate will help with our road condition's forward progress; a new 140 Cat Grader, and a new 310 Cat Mini Hydraulic Excavator. These new pieces of equipment will improve our abilities in performing road maintenance tasks and reduce down time due to equipment break downs.

In early spring/summer, two Highway Department employees resigned, which unfortunately led to the Highway Department not being able to "run on all cylinders" due to the lack of staff. Eric Andrews did outstanding job making sure daily tasks and projects were completed with the odds stacked against him.

Coming into this winter season, there will be some new faces in the trucks keeping our roads open at all the different hours of the day and night, so with that being said, please have some patience with us, please don't crowd the plow, and please drive responsibly. Thank you.

I look forward to meeting many of you folks in town, and I appreciate all the support.

Sincerely,

Jacob Johnson
Road Commissioner



Highway Department staff members Jacob Johnson, Road Commissioner, Eric Andrews, Forman, Jim Kilpeck



The new Highway Department excavator.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT



PC members Merrick Gillies, Kaelyn Modrak, Steve Barner, Clerk Carol Devlin; virtually Jon Ignatowski, staff, Evan DesLauriers

Bolton's Planning Commission (PC) consists of five volunteers appointed by the Select Board. Current members (in 2022) are Steve Barner (Chair), Kaelyn Modrak (vice-chair), Adam Beaudry, Evan DesLauriers, and Merrick Gillies. The PC is grateful that Merrick has stepped up to volunteer, as Kaelyn has announced that she will be stepping down at the end of 2022. Assistant Town Clerk Carol Devlin continues to provide excellent support as clerk. The PC seeks at least one additional member, so if you have an interest in the town's future, please let the Town Clerk know and we will get in touch with you.

Planning & Zoning Administrator Jon Ignatowski has provided exceptional service throughout his tenure at Bolton but has taken a new job with Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. He is currently still supporting Bolton as interim ZA, and the town is working hard to find a qualified person for the permanent position. With the current job market this is proving to be quite difficult, and Jon cannot continue doing two jobs much longer, so the PC is considering

its options, going forward. The Planning Commission and everyone involved with town government who have worked with Jon would like to thank him for his professionalism and the amazing talent and effort he has provided as Planning & Zoning Administrator. We were lucky to have him as long as we did.

The PC typically meets on the third Tuesday of the month. As always, interested residents are invited to attend PC meetings and provide their feedback. Agendas and minutes are posted in a timely fashion on the Town's website. The PC is responsible for drafting and amending the Bolton Town Plan and our zoning regulations (The Bolton Land Use and Development Regulations, or BLUDRs). It also participates in the regional planning process and engages in comprehensive planning. The PC is strictly a planning body with no authority over development projects and, as such, does not issue permits, or review specific proposals for development. These town functions fall under the jurisdiction of the Development Review Board and Planning & Zoning Administrator.

With significant assistance from Taylor Newton, working under a grant from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission and with some funding from the town, the PC completed another round of updates to the Town Plan. There were several areas left unaddressed in the May 2021 Town Plan amendments, and this effort addressed these, with an additional focus of incorporating the results of the Bolton Valley Resort Master Plan project. The goal of this latter effort has been to create a framework that will keep the town informed of the resort's development goals, define the constraints under which these goals may be developed, and streamline the permitting process for development projects defined in an approved Resort Master Plan.

Concurrent to wrapping up the Town Plan amendments, the PC also worked to incorporate these changes into the Bolton Land Use Development Regulations (BLUDRs, a.k.a. zoning ordinance), which was also last updated in May of 2021. In addition to addressing these changes, amendments were proposed in response to unanticipated issues that have caused some otherwise straightforward permit applications to have to go through the Development Review Board for approval. The goal of zoning is to provide the rules that force development to comply with the Town Plan, not to serve as a barrier to development. Bolton's topography and development history can generate situations in which a strict reading of the ordinance creates unintentional obstacles. Some BLUDRs updates were intended to address these issues, such as where a parcel has a

small area that exceeds the steep slopes limitations, but avoiding this area in a development proposal would be difficult or impossible.

Several issues with the proposed BLUDRs amendments were raised in the public hearing, leading the PC to withdraw amendments related to the Resort Master Plan, trails, and steep slopes for additional review and to send on the rest to the Selectboard, where they were eventually approved. Since then, the PC has been working with Jon Ignatowski to address community input received at the public hearing. In the case of trails, the proposed amendments had included new requirements that could create significant barriers to any new trail development. While some community members thought that limiting environmental impacts made these amendments valuable, others felt that some requirements could effectively halt all new trail development in the town, which was not the intent. Former PC member Deb Shelby has been organizing a new, ad hoc committee that intends to inventory existing trails and recreation in town; gather information on known wildlife habitat, wintering areas, and migration patterns; and develop a recreation plan for the town. This document will then be incorporated into the BLUDRs. The town has had significant issues with inadequate parking at a few existing trailheads, as well as visitor behavior at some natural resources, such as the Potholes, and we want to make sure that we do not allow new or expanded facilities that create similar problems. Bolton has wildlife migration corridors that have been identified by state wildlife management experts, and we need to ensure that recreation development does not create undue barriers for wildlife.

The PC expects to complete the process of incorporating public feedback related to the Resort Master Plan and steep slopes into the BLUDRs amendments and to have another public hearing in 2023, though we will wait for the Recreation Plan project to be completed before looking at amendments related to trails.

For more information about the PC, see the Bolton website at <http://www.boltonvt.com>, or contact the Town Office.

Planning Commission Chair: Steve Barner

Vice Chair: Kaelyn Modrak

Members: Adam Beaudry, Evan DesLauriers, Merrick Gillies



Election Day volunteers Don and Ann Whitman

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT



Jon Ignatowski, Planning & Zoning Administrator

The Town of Bolton Land Use and Development Regulations require a zoning permit for all building projects, boundary adjustments and land development. Under the Regulations, land development is broadly defined as ‘the construction, reconstruction, conversion, structural alteration, relocation, or enlargement of any building or other structure, or of any mining, excavation or landfill, and any change in the use of any building or other structure, or land, or extension of use of land [117 VSA §4303(10)].’

A zoning permit is required prior to the start of excavation and construction with almost every type of building project. While most people associate zoning permits with home construction, Bolton generally requires a building permit for all structures, including sheds, pools, and decks. Additionally, zoning permits are required if renovation work results in a change (larger or smaller) of exterior dimensions.

Bolton’s zoning regulations affect every property in the Town of Bolton, and they are concerned with more than just construction. For instance, our regulations require that a 50-foot vegetative buffer must be maintained along Joiner Brook, Duck Brook, Goose Pond Brook, Gleason Brook, Honey Hollow Stream, Preston Brook, Mill Brook, Pinneo Brook, and the South Branch of Mill Brook. The regulations also require that all development on slopes between 15% - 25% require special review, while development on slopes greater than 25% is generally prohibited. Regulations like these have been instituted to protect Bolton’s natural resources in addition to ensuring the safety of all residents.

If you are planning on developing your property in any way, from patios to homes to everything in between, I encourage you to contact me for information and guidance. I can help you determine how the town’s regulations apply to your plans, which applications are needed, and the required fees. You can reach me by email at zoningbolton@gmavt.net. (Note: Because this is a part-time position, please allow up to 3 business days to return your call, or respond to your email.)

Also, if you received a zoning permit and have completed your project, contact me to see if you need a Certificate of Occupancy (CO). In many cases, a CO is required to close out the zoning permit prior to the use or occupancy of a primary residence or other insulated structure. A missing (but needed) CO is considered a cloud on the title of a property, which may prevent you from closing on the sale of your property down the road. If you’re unsure if you (or a prior owner) obtained a CO on a prior zoning permit, I can look it up and confirm if this is an issue for your property.

Copies of the Bolton Land Use and Development Regulations and the town Zoning District Map are available online at our town website. Zoning permit applications can be obtained at the town office, or downloaded from our website.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Ignatowski

Planning & Zoning Administrator

2022 Zoning Permits – At a Glance	
Single-family dwellings	4
Two-family dwellings	0
Accessory dwellings	0
Mobile home replacements	2
Additions/Decks/Porches	4
Accessory outbuildings/structures	6
Exempt agricultural outbuildings	0
Boundary-line adjustments	3
Ponds	0
Conditional Use/Change of Use	3
Home Occupations	0
Signs	0
Commercial Structures	0
Permit Revisions	0
Renewals of permit	1
Certificates of Occupancy	11
Notices of Violation	1
Zoning Certifications	21
Applications referred to the Development Review Board	9
Subdivisions & Planned Unit Developments	2
Subdivision & Site Plan Amendments	0
TOTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS	61

SELECT BOARD

With this seemingly never-ending ordeal with COVID-19, the town continues to hold all board meetings, including those of various committees and commissions, as hybrid meetings to allow for broader community access. Agendas with information to join the meeting for community input are posted on the town website, as well as at the Bolton Town Office, Simile School and the Bolton Fire Station.

This year we again saw turnover on the Select Board with two resignations this past year. Rich Reid showed interest in serving our town and was appointed to fill one vacancy and most recently, Leah Scott expressed an interest and was appointed to fill the remaining vacancy. Both will serve until Town Meeting where they have the opportunity to run for re-election to fill the remaining years on their respective terms.



Select Board members Paula Gervia, Vice Chair, Andrew Pond, Lynda DesLauriers, Chair, Rich Reid, Leah Scott

Our Highway Department also saw some turnover this year. At this time we are happy to say we have three full time personnel on board. We want to welcome Jacob Johnson as our new Road Commissioner and Jim Kilpeck as a new Highway Technician as they join Eric Andrews, Highway Foreman, to round out the team.

As this is the year of change, we had one more department change as our Planning and Zoning Administrator, Jon Ignatowski, has moved on to a new adventure in planning with the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. Jon had stepped into the role as our interim administrator while we worked to fill the position. We now welcome Kelly Diglio to the position.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF, aka ARPA) which provides \$350 billion to state and local governments across the nation for the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Of Vermont's \$1.25 billion share, over \$200 million (about \$300 per Vermonter) was allocated to municipalities, and Bolton received \$352,776.11. The Select Board has discretion over how to spend Bolton's ARPA funds. Funds have currently been used to help continue the expansion of broadband service in town, procure the digitization of land records, purchase a new generator for the town office, and purchase new fire rescue tools. Much of the remaining funds are further earmarked for energy efficiency projects on our town buildings.

Some notable happenings throughout the last year:

- The Friends of Wheeler Field (FOWF) organization was able to secure the purchase of Lot #7 and donated the property to the town. The FOWF and the Conservation Commission will be working on a property management plan in the coming year.
- The town has been working with FEMA to finalize the buyout of a property that was deemed in danger due to a bank erosion. Rather than tear down the house, it was able to be removed from the dangerous site and moved to a new location to help secure housing for a local veteran.
- With the increase in recreational opportunities in Bolton, the need for review of different ordinances also increases. The Select Board is working with the Conservation Commission to review an ordinance and

management plan for the Sara Holbrook Property.

- Most recently, the Select Board is in the process of receiving a formal study of our paved roads. We anticipate that this study will help guide decisions on maintaining our road infrastructure, and we plan to provide for community engagement and seek the help of our representatives as we navigate funding for our complicated road maintenance issues.
- A town wide reappraisal is in the works, using a statistical analysis approach. Please see the Assessor's report for more information.

A special thanks to our town staff for all their work, which repeatedly surpasses their daily duties. Town Clerk, Amy Grover and Assistant Town Clerk, Carol Devlin keep the town running effectively and efficiently with their calm and steady hands.

Thank you to all of our volunteers and appointed personnel for their commitment to our town. If you are interested in serving the town in any capacity, please check out the town website, town Facebook page, or front porch forum for opportunities.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Select Board,

Lynda Deslauriers, Chair

Paula Gervia, Vice-Chair

Andrew Pond

Rich Reid

Leah Scott



*Board of Civil Authority members Brenda McKeown
Chair, Paula Gervia, Vice Chair, Andrew Pond, Lynda
DesLauriers, Rich Reid, Leah Scott, missing Steve Diglio
and John Devine*

VITAL RECORDS

Between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022, the Town of Bolton recorded seven births, three females and four males.

In the same period, seven Civil Marriages were performed.

Five deaths were recorded during the 2022 calendar year.



Summer Coffee Hour on the lawn.

BOLTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

In 2022, the Fire Department responded to 188 calls. Calls responded to this year include:

Structure Fires - 5	Chimney Fires - 3	Brush Fires - 6
Vehicle Fires - 7	Smoke Investigations - 6	Fire Alarms - 15
Carbon Monoxide Alarms - 12	Power Line Obstructions - 8	Gas Leak - 1
Odor Investigations - 8	Rescue Assists - 14	Water/Climber Rescues - 2
Elevator Emergency - 1	Good Intent Call - 2	Vehicle Crashes - 98

* 66 responses (includes crashes or fires) on I89

In addition to serving our own community, the department also responds to mutual aid calls. This year we assisted Richmond, Huntington, Williston, Waterbury, Stowe, and Underhill/Jericho. We also added an automatic response with Richmond Fire, which means both departments respond simultaneously to any call in either town.

This year Chief Mike Gervia and Captain Matt Mead traveled to Nebraska to take delivery of the new Fire Rescue Truck. It is used for every call and carries specialized equipment.

The department was also able to utilize some of the town's ARPA funds to purchase new Jaws of Life rescue tools. These tools are battery operated and are used to extricate people from cars.

As in any emergency situation, please give all responders room to do their jobs. Emergencies happen at all hours of the day or night, and across all weather conditions. There may be trucks, equipment or members in the roads or across parking areas. If the roads are blocked, please wait for the signal to proceed. Responders need the space to do their job and clean up as easily as they can in all situations.

The members meet and train weekly and will respond to all emergency calls. They spend hours each week preparing and practicing techniques to use in any emergency. There are many different jobs done as firefighters. If you are interested in joining, please stop by on Tuesday nights at the station.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Gervia,
Fire Chief



Bolton Volunteer Fire Department

OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)

Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD)

Community Senior Center

Home Health & Hospice (HHH)

Legislative Report

Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC)

Richmond Rescue

Vermont Department of Health

Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Waterbury Senior Center



Thanks to Janet Metz and Doris Wheelock for all of their hard work organizing Bolton's Senior Dinners!



110 West Canal Street, Suite 202
Winooski, Vermont 05404-2109
802-846-4490
www.ccrpcvt.org

FY2022 ANNUAL REPORT Bolton

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is a political subdivision of the State created by the municipalities of Chittenden County in 1966 for the development of policies, plans and programs that address regional issues and opportunities in Chittenden County. Its vision is to be a pre-eminent, integrated regional organization that plans for healthy, vibrant communities, economic development, and efficient transportation of people and goods while improving the region's livability. The CCRPC serves as the region's federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and is responsible for comprehensive and collaborative transportation planning involving municipalities, state and federal agencies and other key stakeholders in Chittenden County. The CCRPC works to ensure implementation of the regional transportation plan and provides technical and planning assistance to its member municipalities, and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans).

The CCRPC is governed by a 29-member board consisting of one representative from each of the County's 19 municipalities; transportation representatives from VTrans, Green Mountain Transit (GMT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Burlington International Airport (BIA), and a rail industry representative; and, at-large members representing the interests of agriculture, environmental conservation, business, and housing/socio-economic. The legislative body of each Chittenden County municipality selects its own representative and alternate. The full CCRPC selects the at-large representatives.

The CCRPC appreciates the continued opportunity to work with its municipal members to plan appropriately for the region's future to protect and improve the special quality of life that is shared throughout Chittenden County. In FY22, the CCRPC invested approximately \$5.9 million in regional land use, transportation, emergency management, energy, natural resources, public engagement, training, and technical assistance. The program leverages more than \$4.5 million in Federal and State investment with \$250,400 in municipal dues and another \$175,000 in local match for specific projects—a more than 10:1 return on local investment.

Bolton representatives to the CCRPC Board and other committees in FY22 were:

- CCRPC Representative – Vacant | CCRPC Alternate – Joss Besse
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – Joss Besse
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) – Joss Besse
- Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) – Joss Besse
- Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) – Michael Cassara, Amy Grover

Specific activities the CCRPC is engaged in with Bolton, as well as CCRPC's regional activities, are discussed in the following sections.

Bolton Activities

In FY2022, the CCRPC provided assistance to Bolton on the following projects and initiatives:

- **I-89 Interchange Review (Bolton & Milton):** As a supplement to the I-89 2050 Study, this assessment reviewed two interchange concepts, one in Milton near the West Milton Road bridge over I-89, and one in Bolton near the Bolton Valley Access Road. Both locations have previously undergone some form of study. However, the previous studies date back to the late 1980s/early 1990s. This study assessed geometrics based on recent design standards and environmental characteristics based on current regulations, for each interchange. The final report was completed in February 2022: https://studiesandreports.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Bolton-Milton_Final_Report_20220221.pdf. This was a regional project, and the total consultant budget was \$30,000.
- **Bolton Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):** The CCRPC has continued to assist Bolton with the administration of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for community water and sewer system improvements (grant), and resort facility upgrades (loan) at Bolton Valley. Assistance with this grant will continue into FY23.
- **Bolton Municipal Planning/Zoning Assistance:** CCRPC staff continued to work with the Bolton Planning Commission to provide expertise and technical support to update the Municipal Plan and Bolton's Land Development Regulations.
- **Water Quality Planning Assistance:** The CCRPC continued to provide assistance with Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) compliance and the Grants-In-Aid Program. Using Grants-In-Aid funding, the CCRPC assisted Bolton in updating two non-compliant segments on Bolton Valley Access Road. Staff also reviewed and sent REI updates to the DEC data portal before the December 31st, 2021 deadline.
- **Emergency Management – LEMP:** CCRPC staff offered assistance in preparation of the annual Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP), to ensure that Bolton identified a chain of command for efficient response in the event of an emergency.
- **Chittenden County Brownfields Program:** CCRPC obtained a \$400,000 EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant in FY16; and a \$300,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant in FY18. Since the fall of 2016, using these two grants the program has provided \$586,488 to assess perceived or real contamination issues in various municipalities, including 4302 Bolton Valley Access Road (Bolton Valley Resort). For more information, visit: <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/economic-development/brownfields/>.
- **Geographic Information Systems:** The Bolton Map Viewer was updated with new data incorporated from the Bolton Resource map: <https://map.ccrpcvt.org/boltonplanviewer/>.
- **Traffic Counts:** Traffic counts conducted in support of Bolton's transportation projects and studies can be found here: <http://vtrans.ms2soft.com/>.
- **Elders and Persons with Disabilities (E&D) Transportation Program:** The Chittenden County E&D Transportation Program supports community members through affordable transportation to medical appointments, access to fresh food at the grocery store, and social visits with friends and family. In our region, Green Mountain Transit (GMT) contracts with the Special Services

Transportation Agency (SSTA) to provide the service. The program uses a combination of lift-equipped vans, sedans and minivans, along with volunteer drivers who use personal vehicles to give rides to E&D users. While still adapting from the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the E&D program has still delivered vital transportation assistance to older adults and persons with disabilities in Bolton.

- **Technical Assistance:** CCRPC staff provided a variety of technical assistance to the Town, including:
 - Assistance with ARPA-Broadband questions and wrote a letter of support for a Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom application to the VT Community Broadband Board.
 - Collaborated on updates to the Enhanced Energy Plan and potential timeline for the Determination of Energy Compliance.
 - Worked with the Bolton Capital Planning Committee to plan for future capital improvement within the Town.

Bolton Projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The TIP (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/transportation-improvement-program/>) is a prioritized, multi-year list of transportation projects in Chittenden County. To receive federal funds, each transportation project, program or operation must be authorized through the TIP. Bolton projects included in the TIP are listed below. These projects are also identified in the FY22 Vermont Agency of Transportation Capital Program for design or construction.

- **US2 Resurfacing, Bolton-Richmond:** \$18 million for resurfacing US2 in Bolton and Richmond. Construction will be completed in 2024.

FY2023 CCRPC Work Program

Project Name	Brief Description	Total Budget
Bolton Municipal Paving Evaluation	Bolton seeks a detailed analysis of existing physical infrastructure, stormwater drainage issues, and (limited) geotechnical boring of existing pavement.	\$18,000 budget which includes a \$3,600 local match.

Regional Activities

- **ECOS Plan Implementation:** The CCRPC continues to implement the strategies of the *2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan* (<http://www.ecosproject.com/2018-ecos-plan>). The ECOS Plan (Environment; Community; Opportunity; Sustainability) is the regional plan for Chittenden County and combines three plans into one: The Regional Plan, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The 2021 ECOS Annual Report summarizes progress toward the goals set in the ECOS Plan:

(<http://www.ecosproject.com/2021-annual-report>). In addition, the ECOS Scorecard monitors the accomplishments and indicators depicting progress towards all 17 of the ECOS goals (<https://embed.clearimpact.com/Scorecard/Embed/8502>).

- **Chittenden County Municipal Legislative Briefing:** On December 7th, the CCRPC hosted a legislative briefing to serve as a forum for municipal representatives and legislators to connect on important topics for the upcoming legislative session. The focal areas for the 2021 briefing included: Smart Growth Investment; Economic Recovery; Governance & Funding (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commission/policies-positions/>).
- **Public Engagement & Racial Equity:** Achieving a healthy, inclusive, and prosperous future for Chittenden County is the vision of our Regional ECOS Plan. However, the ECOS partners know we cannot achieve that future without addressing the systemic racism in our community. While addressing inequity has been one of the eight key strategies in the ECOS Plan since 2013, there is much work to be done. The **2014 Public Participation Plan** (PPP: <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/public-participation-plan/>) guides our program and policy outreach and will be updated in FY23 with a renewed focus on analyzing inequities in all sectors of our work to ensure that we actively eliminate barriers and foster an inclusive and meaningful public engagement for all planning and policy work we do – this meaningful engagement is the foundation that leads to actions that meet the needs of our diverse community. In FY22 the CCRPC continued to address issues related to racial and economic disparities through the following actions:
 - Continued working with equity consultant The Creative Discourse Group (TCDG) to address racial equity within CCRPC. Their work included an Organizational Equity Assessment of CCRPC with recommendations.
 - Established a CCRPC Racial Equity Leadership Team (ELT) which has evolved into a newly forming Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) to guide the CCRPC's equity work.
 - Facilitating, providing, and/or taking advantage of educational opportunities for our staff, municipalities, and other local and regional partners that address inequities and advance anti-racism efforts.
 - Strengthening existing relationships and partnerships and forging new ones with Vermont organizations working to advance anti-racism efforts.
 - In partnership with TCDG, hosted a Planning for Equity Summit as way to engage outside individuals and external partners in examining our organization's policies, practices, culture, and services through the lens of anti-racism and white privilege to ensure they reflect our commitment to racial justice.
- **Building Homes Together:** The CCRPC, Champlain Housing Trust and Evernorth concluded the first Building Homes Together campaign, which has been a five-year outreach, education, and advocacy effort focused on the production of much-needed housing in Chittenden County. The campaign set a goal of 3,500 new homes from 2016 to 2020, with 700 of them permanently affordable to low-income households. Over the five years, 3,659 net new homes were built, but only 536 of them are permanently affordable, achieving 77% of the affordable housing goal. Following the conclusion of the first campaign, the Building Homes Together 2.0 campaign was launched last fall with the goal of building 5,000 homes by 2025 for people of all incomes, including at least 1,250 affordable homes. To review the latest housing data, infographics and

press releases, more information can be found at <http://www.ecosproject.com/building-homes-together/>.

- **Emergency Management:** The CCRPC helped the State transition from regional Local Emergency Planning Committees to a statewide LEPC starting in July 2021. Concurrent with that change a Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) was formed consisting of two representatives from each municipality and others involved in emergency management in Chittenden County. The purpose of the REMC is to coordinate and support regional all-hazard emergency planning and preparedness activities to improve the region's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all disasters. CCRPC staff participate in a wide array of emergency management-related workshops and exercises to support our role in the SEOC when called upon. The CCRPC also served as the local liaison between municipalities and the state to collect damage assessment information after significant storm events, helped with emergency preparedness for hazardous materials incidents, collected information from each municipality on annual implementation of hazard mitigation activities, and worked with municipalities to complete Local Emergency Management Plans. Finally, CCRPC assisted IEM, a national consulting firm, with drafts of the 2022 Chittenden County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/emergency-management/hazard-mitigation-plan/>) and its municipal annexes.
- **Regional Energy Planning:** The CCRPC continues initiatives to support the Region's Enhanced Energy Plan (<http://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/regional-energy-plan/>). The CCRPC hired an energy project manager in September and participated in implementation activities funded by ACCD, which included a Button-Up Vermont event, statewide RPC roundtables, a resource to towns for addressing climate change in land use policy (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Climate-Change-and-Land-Use-Standard-Resolution-20220427.pdf>), energy committee roundtables, technical assistance to energy committees and municipal staff, promotion of CVOEO low-income weatherization program, and electric vehicle, energy storage, heat pump, and weatherization education webinars.
- **Chittenden County Park and Ride Plan Update:** This plan assesses existing park and ride facilities in Chittenden County, identify opportunities for improvements to the existing facilities, and evaluate the potential for new facilities that will benefit commuters and residents throughout the CCRPC region and adjacent communities. This plan also evaluates recent travel trends and establishes a methodology and process to determine whether there is demand for new facilities and where new facilities may be warranted. The plan will be finalized later this fall.
- **Chittenden County I-89 2050 Study:** The CCRPC in collaboration with VTrans, municipalities, and other interested parties completed the I-89 2050 Study. The study evaluated existing multimodal conditions along the I-89 Corridor and its interchanges; assessed numerous new and improved interchange alternatives; conducted extensive outreach to the public including underserved populations, municipal officials, and other stakeholder groups; developed and analyzed bundles of multimodal corridor improvements, and created an implementation plan that will guide the corridor toward the project's vision over the next 30 years. For more information, please visit the project website: <https://envision89.com/>.

- Transportation Demand Management (TDM):** In partnership with VTrans, CCRPC staff managed the transition of the **Way to Go! School Challenge** into **Park Your Carbon** (<https://www.connectingcommuters.org/parkyourcarbon>). <http://www.waytogovt.org> The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the effectiveness of Way to Go! which was a school-focused K-12 program to encourage sustainable transportation and demonstrate the environmental and financial benefits of non-single occupant vehicle travel. Park Your Carbon was created to pandemic-proof this TDM program and create a fun, engaging brand with easy participation by all Vermonters. Since the transportation sector is the largest contributor to statewide greenhouse gas emissions, educating and encouraging a shift in transportation behavior away from driving alone can help Vermont meet its climate and energy goals. The CCRPC participated in CATMA's Employer Transportation Coordinator (ETC) Network program and events to learn from other ETC Network members about employee TDM benefits and programs. The CCRPC also continued to collaborate with regional TDM partners to evaluate strategies and policies to encourage sustainable modes of transportation such as walking, biking, ridesharing, vanpooling, transit, bikesharing and carsharing. TDM partners include: the Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA), CarShare VT, the University of Vermont, Green Mountain Transit (GMT), Local Motion, Greenride Bikeshare, Go! Vermont/VTrans, and United Way.
- Public Transportation Planning:** The CCRPC remains engaged with GMT in a wide variety of public transit planning projects and initiatives to support the continued development of a transportation system that is efficient, equitable and environmentally sustainable. In FY22, the CCRPC staff participated in Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) meetings (<https://www.actweb.org/>), continued to participate in Tri-Town Transportation Committee meetings to review community-based solutions to enhance mobility in Jericho, Underhill and Cambridge, served as a stakeholder for the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition's Future of Rural Transit Project (<https://vtccc.w3.uvm.edu/projects/future-of-rural-transit/>) and managed the Transit Finance Study that developed transit financing options for the Legislature to consider (https://studiesandreports.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Transit_Funding_Report_Dec2021.pdf).
- Elders and Persons with Disabilities (E&D) Transportation Program:** The Chittenden County E&D Transportation Program supports community members through affordable transportation to medical appointments, access to fresh food at the grocery store, and social visits with friends and family. In FY22, the E&D Committee held four quarterly meetings to discuss program funding, volunteer driver utilization and opportunities to enhance transportation equity within our region. In coordination with VTrans, the CCRPC hosted the 3rd Annual E&D Transportation Summit in Burlington. More information about the event can be found here: (<https://vtrans.vermont.gov/public-transit/E-and-D>). The CCRPC also managed the E&D, ADA & Medicaid Call Center Feasibility Study: (<https://studiesandreports.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/GMT-SSTA-Call-Center-Draft-Final-Report.pdf>).
- Active Transportation Planning:** The CCRPC began updating the 2017 Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP, <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-work/our-plans/regional-bikeped-plan/>), which serves as the active transportation element of the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The ATP includes recommended priority corridors, programs and policies to support active transportation throughout the region. CCRPC staff collaborated with TDM partners and local municipalities to expand the Greenride Bikeshare system and convert

the fleet to electric assist bicycles (www.greenridebikeshare.com). The CCRPC also promoted TDM strategies and provided bike/ped-related technical assistance to municipalities and businesses, assisted municipalities with bike/ped grant and UPWP applications, managed bike/ped-related UPWP projects, and conducted bike/ped counts on paths, designated bike lanes, and other roadways. The CCRPC also continued to host the 2021 webinar series from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycling Professionals for municipalities and regional partners.

- **Clean Water:** The CCRPC's water quality initiatives help to safeguard our clean drinking water, support our recreation and tourism industry, and make our municipalities more resilient to flood events. The CCRPC continues to host the Clean Water Advisory Committee and the MS-4 Sub-Committee (<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/clean-water-advisory-committee/>) and provide guidance for the Vermont Clean Water Fund. CCRPC staff also joined the Lake Champlain Sea Grant Program Advisory Committee, and managed Design Implementation Block Grant projects on behalf of select towns to design stormwater treatment practices. The CCRPC also supported education programs such as the Rethink Runoff (<http://www.rethinkrunoff.org>) on behalf of nine of our municipalities, assisted with watershed resiliency mapping, participated in water quality-focused policy discussions. As the newly designated Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) for the Northern Lake Champlain Direct Drainages, Basin (5), CCRPC worked to seat the Basin 5 Water Quality Council which will assist the CCRPC as it oversees the development and implementation of non-regulatory water quality improvement projects that reduce phosphorus loading into these streams and Lake Champlain.
- **Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) Compliance and Water Quality Planning Assistance:** CCRPC staff continues to work with all Chittenden County municipalities on meeting their MRGP obligations. This includes evaluating segments through Road Erosion Inventories (REIs), tracking and documenting upgraded segments and outlets, and reporting to DEC. Staff also assists municipalities with the State's Grants in Aid (GIA) program, which allocates funding to participating towns for stormwater improvements related to the MRGP. In FY2022, 13 Chittenden County municipalities signed up to participate in the GIA program. An estimated 38 non-compliant segments will be upgraded using the allocated \$253,000.
- **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy:** With federal funding from the US Economic Development Administration, CCRPC continued work on a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for our region in concert with the Addison, Rutland and Central VT regions -- collectively called the West Central Vermont CEDS. This document will help identify priority economic development strategies and projects and will be used by a variety of federal and state funding programs when making grant decisions. The project will be completed in late 2022.
- **VTculverts:** CCRPC staff worked with a consultant to upgrade the VTculverts website (<https://www.vtculverts.org/>). The new website allows easy in-the-field bridge and culvert inventories to be conducted. VTculverts is a great tool to visually see town-maintained bridges and culverts on a map or chart. Between the new website and training, municipal use of the website has increased.
- **Regional Technical Assistance:** This includes, but is not limited to, municipal technical assistance for various transportation issues, GIS mapping, and bylaw revisions, Act 250/Section 248 application reviews, grant administration and grant application assistance for plans,

projects and initiatives at the local level that help advance the ECOS Strategies, Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

- **Lake Champlain Byway:** Chittenden County includes eight of the Byway's 22 communities: Milton, Colchester, Winooski, Essex Junction, Burlington, South Burlington, Shelburne, and Charlotte. CCRPC staff maintained the Byway website (<https://lakechamplainbyway.com/>) including a helpful Interactive Map (<http://map.ccrpcvt.org/lcbyway/>). Additionally, CCRPC secured sponsorship funds from Hello Burlington to host its Byway audio stories App & Phone line (<https://lakechamplainbyway.com/explore-our-regions/mobile-story-app/>).

For further information about the CCRPC, please visit <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/> or contact CCRPC Executive Director, Charlie Baker: cbaker@ccrpcvt.org.



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CSWD Fiscal Year 2022 Summary

Thanks to conservative budgeting and significant belt-tightening, the Chittenden Solid Waste District remained on strong financial footing in Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022). The District's FY22 total operating expenses were \$12,336,755 and operating revenues were \$16,569,666 for a net surplus of \$4,232,911. This surplus was applied to CSWD's reserves following the Board-approved prioritization schedule (see "Budget Memo" under FY2023 Budget on the Financial Information page of cswd.net.)

The residents, businesses, and institutions of our 18 member towns and cities generated an estimated 305,389 tons of materials to be managed in calendar year 2021, compared with 270,207 tons in 2020, with the increase likely due to increased construction and overall economic activity. Chittenden County continues to be among the national leaders in landfill diversion, with an estimated 66.7% of those materials recovered in 2021 via composting (food scraps, leaves, and yard trimmings), anaerobic digestion, and recycling of Blue-Bin materials, Special Recycling, and Construction and Demolition materials. (The 2021 Diversion Report will be posted in October 2022.)

This foundation enabled CSWD to focus on strengthening our infrastructure and our commitments to our members, staff, and our mission: *To reduce and manage the solid waste generated within Chittenden County in an environmentally sound, efficient, effective, and economical manner.*

STRENGTHENING CSWD'S INFRASTRUCTURE

Preparing for a New Materials Recovery Facility

In March 2022, the CSWD Board of Commissioners voted unanimously in favor of CSWD submitting a bond request to the voters of Chittenden County in the November 2022 General Election enabling CSWD to borrow \$22 million to build a new Materials Recovery Facility.

Organics Diversion Facility: Phase 1 work completed, foodware ban implemented

The first phase of a three-part expansion of CSWD's Organics Diversion Facility (or ODF – where Green Mountain Compost is made) was completed in FY22. This phase included implementation of a windrow turner that replaced four pieces of heavy equipment and reduced windrow-turning time from two weeks to three hours. The completion of a new curing and sales area enabled staff to remove all sales traffic to a separate gate, decreasing congestion and increasing safety for all facility users.

Due to increased contamination from non-compostable materials, the ODF began accepting only food scraps, paper towels and napkins, and newspaper, paper bags, and certified compostable bags used for lining food scrap collection containers as of January 1, 2022. CSWD provided just shy of a year of notice to vendors, commercial and institutional consumers of compostable products, food scrap haulers, and the public. A blog post on the drivers for this decision is on the CSWD website.

New Administration Building approved

COVID-19 demonstrated the necessity of healthy and safe working facilities and the shortcomings of CSWD's Administration offices at 1021 Redmond Road in this regard. CSWD's Board of Commissioners approved planning for new offices to be pursued into FY23.

Other operational changes included the end of CSWD operation of the Drop-Off Center in Richmond after almost 30 years. CSWD submitted a bid for continued operation of the facility, but the Richmond Select Board voted to award the contract to Casella Waste Systems when CSWD's lease expired on December 31, 2021. Though it was not the outcome we desired, the removal of this facility reduced CSWD operating expenses, enabled us to deploy experienced staff to other sites, and provided an opportunity for CSWD to re-evaluate our community's needs.

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY AND EMPLOYEES

CSWD was not immune to the labor shortages experienced across Vermont, and the Board of Commissioners convened an Ad Hoc Committee to review employee compensation and benefits, ensuring the District is competitive in the labor marketplace and the compensation structure is clear and fair.

The Board adopted a Declaration of Inclusion at their May meeting, with staff forming a Justice, Equity, Diversion, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee devoted to ensuring and exploring opportunities for implementation of the Declaration's principles.

The CSWD Board passed resolutions recognizing retiring employees Nancy Plunkett (30 years) who implemented mandatory recycling in Chittenden County in 1993 and expanded CSWD's education and research programs, and Lee Tuure (29 years), who transformed "town dump" locations into CSWD's beloved Drop-Off Centers. The Board also recognized the volunteer service of Commissioners Abby Foulk (Shelburne-nine years) and Doug Taff (Hinesburg-12 years).

CSWD staff reported on the 2021 (biannual) Household Solid Waste Survey Report, with key findings including that 93% of respondents reported a favorable impression of CSWD, and strong support for bonding for a new MRF. The survey also revealed opportunities for CSWD to provide more communication on appropriate materials management, particularly to new residents. Staff began the process for amending the CSWD Solid Waste Management Ordinance, which will wrap up in FY23.

Overall, FY22 proved an extremely busy year as CSWD staff and Board of Commissioners rebooted projects stalled by the pandemic and looked ahead to opportunities to build on the District's 35 years of public service to Chittenden County.

Paul Ruess

Chair, Board of Commissioners

Sarah Reeves

Executive Director



2022 Annual Report to our Towns

Doing More for More Seniors

We're extremely pleased that we were able to return to a full schedule of programs and activities in 2022. We did so with some prudent health precautions. Our policy continues to require masking when people are in close proximity in large groups or traveling in carpools. Many seniors also "mask-up" voluntarily. None of the health measures deterred enthusiastic participation, however. Our seniors were highly motivated to re-connect with friends for the activities they like. In fact, well over 500 area seniors engaged in learning programs and activities both on-line and in-person, and that's more than ever.

Of course, the easing of public health mandates helped boost participation. But we've also done several things that prompted more seniors to enjoy what we make available. These are some of the initiatives we've put in place to make that happen:

More activities and more volunteer leaders.

On average, our seniors have had over 30 different ways each week to improve wellness, stay active, learn and socialize. Even with those numbers, our board and our activity leaders seem to be on a constant quest to find new things that appeal to more seniors with different interests. Also, when one of our seniors suggests a new activity, we pursue it.

Making new activities a reality involves identifying others with a similar interest and finding someone to lead and coordinate the activity. The work continues to pay dividends, in the form of a growing activities menu and a cadre of volunteer activity leaders that now stands at 47! Their work has resulted in these new activities in 2022:

- Ukes R Us: learn, have fun and strum along with a group.
- Communal Garden: thanks, Richmond Community Garden, for help with the grant.
- Co-Ed Softball: *non-competitive*, just fun to play -- or watch!
- Weight Loss Support: helping each other in an on-line group.
- Tai Chi for Arthritis: try it!
- Writing Class: tips and discussions for aspiring writers, poets and novelists.
- Huntington Coffee: weekly coffee and conversation now in all three towns.
- Canasta: a great addition to social games.
- Grief Support: another group resource for help in difficult times.
- Balance Training: basic to good health and staying active, and it's on-line.
- Richmond Singers: this exuberant group lifts your spirits while lifting their own!

-2-

Optional activity fees open the door to more seniors.

Some activities have a cost to the CSC. Examples include professional instructors for line dancing, and rental fees for bowling. In the past, we suggested a contribution for participants to cover those costs. Thanks to our donors, we now make the fees completely optional and cover any shortfall. This opens the door to those whose personal circumstances get in the way of contributing a fee, and we do it in a way that protects their privacy.

On-line format engages seniors from home.

One resource we kept from the COVID isolation era is the on-line format for learning programs and certain activities. It lets seniors enjoy so much without having to leave home. The format works well for speakers' programs and activities like meditation, and support and discussion groups. Seniors also connect for our Story Circle, sharing meaningful and humorous episodes from their lives. We also offer "hybrid" on-line and in-person activities to accommodate as many seniors as possible.

Foot clinic helps many.

Thanks to Richmond Family Medicine and volunteer RNs and staff, the CSC-coordinated foot clinic helps those seniors unable to get basic foot care. Voluntary contributions help cover the cost of supplies.

Friends and neighbors fund the budget for all we do.

The CSC does not draw on our towns' tax revenues. Donors provide the \$29,500 we budget for equipment, facility rentals, and fees for speakers and professional activity leaders. This budget also lets us update seniors on what's available: Our weekly newsletter reaches over 800 email addresses; our ad in *The Times Ink* delivers activities and programs news to thousands, our YouTube channel carries the CSC's learning programs, and our website tells our full story. Just as importantly, our leaders and participants spread their personal enthusiasm for all we do.

Our towns and organizations are our "Center."

We thank our towns and local organizations for the spaces they provide for activities either free or for a small cost. Because we have no physical "center" to maintain, we can dedicate the vast majority of our budget and energy to programs, activities and initiatives, all focused on doing more for more seniors.



Always popular: CSC weekly coffee time at the Bolton fire station.



The new CSC Community Garden proved popular for gathering and growing.



Seniors enjoy a game of cribbage with instructor Rod Wheelock.



Learning to strum and sing along with the CSC's Ukes R Us group.



Easy walks and conversation took place even after the snow fell.

THE
University of Vermont
HEALTH NETWORK

Home Health & Hospice

Home Health Services for
Adults and Children

Long-Term Care

Adult Day Program

Palliative Care

Hospice Care

McClure Miller Respite House

Ms. Amy Grover
Town Clerk
Town of Bolton

Dear Ms. Grover,

The University of Vermont Health Network - Home Health & Hospice, with the support of Bolton, provides innovative, high-value, compassionate care to Vermonters, regardless of their ability to pay. Together we make a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Last year, Home Health & Hospice cared for 4,218 individuals and families and provided millions in charitable care to people throughout Chittenden & Grand Isle Counties, including important end-of-life care at the McClure Miller Respite House. Annual contributions from the 22 cities and towns we serve are vital to ensure we can continue to meet the needs in your community.

Attached you will find a report on Home Health & Hospice services provided in Bolton during our most recent reporting period (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) and our request for funding in FY2024.

I welcome an opportunity to meet with your Selectboard or committee members to discuss our services and request and to answer any questions.

Our talented and compassionate front line caregivers work to provide the highest level of care where patients want to be – at home. Empowering people to receive care where they are most comfortable leads to better patient outcomes and lower costs for all. **Thank you for your continued partnership.**

Sincerely,



Maya Ferris
Director of Development

UVM Health Network - Home Health & Hospice Request for Funding Town of Bolton

For FY2024, Home Health & Hospice (HH&H) is requesting a contribution of \$1,000.

UVM Health Network—Home Health & Hospice cared for **6** people in Bolton during our past fiscal year (July 2021-June 2022) with the following services:

HH&H	Visits
Nursing	20
Physical Therapy	26
Social Work	6
Total	52

Cost of Care	Amount
Total cost of HHH Care	\$12,976
Amount reimbursed to HHH*	\$7,917
Unreimbursed Care	\$5,058

*reimbursed through Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, contracts and patient fees

HH&H requests annual contributions from each town and city in our two-county service area. Your contribution is critical to supporting the **millions of dollars** in unreimbursed care we provided this year.

Last year, HH&H cared for over **4,000** people of all ages, regardless of their ability to pay. Your contribution helps ensure Richmond residents can access innovative, high-value, compassionate care wherever they call home to keep them healthy, independent and active members of your community.



THE
University of Vermont
HEALTH NETWORK
Home Health & Hospice

2022



THE
University of Vermont
HEALTH NETWORK

Home Health & Hospice

OUR PROGRAMS

Adult Home Health
Hospice & Palliative Care
McClure Miller Respite House
Family & Children's Program
Long-Term Care
Adult Day Program
Foot Care

The UVM Health Network—Home Health & Hospice cared for 6 Bolton residents in the last year.



Bolton residents received \$5,058 in free or charity care in the last year.

2022 Annual Report for Bolton

Care at Home. For All Ages and Stages of Life.

Vermont's oldest and largest non-profit home health and hospice agency and the only Medicare-certified inpatient hospice residence. The University of Vermont Health Network—Home Health & Hospice is part of a health system. This ensures that care at home is integrated for individuals and families in Chittenden and Grand Isle counties.

OUR IMPACT

HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE BY THE NUMBERS



138,522

Hours of care provided



4,307

Patients served, at all ages and stages of life



4,224

Days of care provided at McClure Miller Respite House

Compassionate Care that Places People at the Center.

Services and Support. All based on our patients' goals.

We provide a wide range of high-quality care at home for adults with acute and chronic illnesses, help families through pre- and post-natal visits and pediatric therapies, and offer hospice care for those at end of life.

Experience Matters.

Our patient and family experience of care ratings surpass Vermont and National averages.

The way our patients experience care is important to us. [Medicare's Care Compare website](#) publicly displays our ratings, demonstrating that our patients and their caregivers rate us highly for home health and hospice care and would recommend our agency to their friends and family.

Town Meeting Report

Rep. Theresa Wood & Rep. Tom Stevens

Highlights of the 2022 Session –



The 2022 session brought the Legislature back to the State House; however, it was a far cry from “normal” business. COVID protocols were still in place, as was the use of ZOOM for health-compromised legislators. The halls were pretty quiet and we were still working diligently to make the best decisions possible for the use of federal relief dollars to invest wisely for Vermonters both in the short- and long-term.

Budget

The Legislature passed an \$8.3 billion budget that honored the commitment the legislature made at the beginning of the pandemic to support Vermonters, their families and their communities across all 14 counties, and to insure a strong recovery statewide. As is customary in Vermont, the Legislature passed a balanced budget.

An additional \$453.7 million in federal COVID relief was approved for 5 broad areas including: economy, workforce and communities, housing, broadband connectivity, climate action and clean water. Significant investments were made in long term care services and supports that provided a long-overdue 8% rate increase for designated mental health/disability agencies, home health agencies, adult day programs and other long term care service providers.

The Vermont State Colleges had a base increase of \$10 million plus an additional \$14.9 million to “bridge” the ongoing transition to financial and operational health. The UVM base budget increased by \$10 million, the first such increase in 14 years. This assisted UVM in holding the line on any tuition increases again this year.

Continuing support to increase the availability and affordability of child care also occurred with an investment of an additional \$4.9 million, pending reports to be delivered in the 2023 session detailing potential sources of funding to meet the goal of no family paying more than 10% of their income towards child care.

The Housing Crisis

Housing first. In order to address nearly any other issue an individual or family may encounter, they need to have a home. While record investments are being made in this area, they cannot meet the need quickly enough. Federal funds are being depleted, and along with that, reductions in housing supports are occurring.

However, at the same time, nearly \$376 million has been invested in various housing initiatives in the last 3 years. In fiscal year 2023, this includes \$20 million toward forgivable loans for property owners to bring vacant properties back up to code and to prioritize accessory dwelling units. \$22 million is dedicated to subsidizing new construction to lower the costs for middle income homebuyers, as well as funds for repair and improvement grants for manufactured homes.

Improving Our Child Care

We know that child care is essential to supporting Vermont’s children, families, communities, and economy. The child care and early education system is fragile. Vermonters pay more of their income on childcare than any other state. Vermont parents of toddlers spend 25.3% of their annual income on childcare. Even if a family can afford it, finding quality childcare is tough and the pandemic was tough on childcare. To meet demand, the State would need to bring approximately 8,000 spots online. In an effort to avoid a complete dismantling of the system during the pandemic, a number of investments were made to bolster the childcare system. \$27 million was invested to stabilize childcare providers; \$7 million was added for retention bonuses; \$800,000 was added for capacity grants with a focus of increasing spaces for birth – 3 year olds.

Clean Water and Climate

The legislature continues to support clean water for Vermont. This includes investing in water, sewer and storm water infrastructure and programs that improve community resilience to climate change, such as flooding. Examples of these investments include:

- \$31 million for storm water retrofit projects related to the 3-acre rule
- \$15 million for community-scale and decentralized wastewater projects for underserved designated centers
- \$5 million to install/enhance pretreatment processes to address toxic wastes
- \$10 million to upgrade or replace water/wastewater systems at risk of failure
- \$20 million to reduce/eliminate wet weather sewer overflows
- \$6.5 million to improve water and wastewater systems for mobile home parks
- \$15 million to replace failed on-site water and wastewater supplies for low income Vermonters unable to afford loans
- \$1.5 million to update leaking service lines; replacing outdated fixtures, etc.

Additional federal funding is anticipated through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Nearly \$130 million is invested in fiscal year 2023 for climate improvements – recognizing that transportation and building heating are the sectors that pose the greatest challenges in reducing greenhouse emissions. These investments include:

- \$45 million to the Home Weatherization Program
- \$35 million to the Electric Efficiency Fund
- \$2 million to support electric vehicle charging infrastructure
- \$20 million to provide low- and moderate-income households with financial and technical assistance to upgrade home electrical systems, plus \$5 million to install heat-pump water heaters
- \$2 million for low- and moderate-income households to purchase electric equipment for heating, cooling and vehicle charging
- \$15 million to improve landscape resilience and mitigate flood hazards
- \$4.8 million to assist farms to minimize erosion and reduce waste discharge
- \$1 to plan up to 5,000 trees to improve air quality and reduce heat island effects.
- \$8 million to electrical distribution utilities to implement advanced metering infrastructure.

What’s Ahead for the 2023 Session –

Your two state representatives have been appointed Committee Chairs for two important committees. Rep. Theresa Wood is Chair of House Human Services Committee and Rep. Tom Stevens is Chair of the General and Housing Committee. In these roles, we have the responsibility to address the needs of some of Vermont’s most vulnerable citizens – those without housing, people with disabilities, at-risk children and families, and older Vermonters. We will continue to work on addressing the housing and child care crises, as well as looking to support families and businesses with an insurance program for paid family and medical leave. We will also be evaluating the use of unprecedented federal funds and redeploying unused or underused funds. There are 8 new committee chairs and over one-third of the House members are new to the body. It will be a year of transition and continued work to improve the lives of Vermonters across the State and in our home district.

We continue to be honored to serve our communities and constituents and remain available for questions, comments and conversation about this report or any other issues or topics of interest to you. A wealth of information can also be found on our legislative webpage: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Theresa Wood, Chair
Human Services Committee

Rep. Tom Stevens, Chair
General and Housing Committee



Our Community Cares Camp, Inc.
PO Box 503
Richmond, VT 05477
Email: occcvermont@gmail.com
802-434-6006



Jana Brown ~ Asher Carfaro ~ Connie van Eeghen ~ Jessica Johnson ~ Tim Kane
~ Kyle Silliman-Smith

October 14, 2022

Town of Bolton Selectboard
3045 Theodor Roosevelt Highway
Bolton, VT 05676

ATTN: Amy Grover, Town Clerk & Treasurer

Dear Bolton Selectboard,

Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC) continues our service to the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District through our primary mission of helping address food insecurity and creating an environment where every child can find success. We do this through our core values of providing fresh food that is lovingly and well prepared, where everyone has a place to discover new talents and learn leadership skills with enrichment activities. We foster a community of inclusiveness, diversity, and service, which is imperative to healthy, positive youth development. Children receive positive support from caring adults that help inspire children to envision their future and see themselves as a contributing member of our community. According to the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 84% of the Mount Mansfield Unified Union school district youth report having at least one adult or teacher they can talk to if they need help. The culture and relationships built during camp go beyond just the summer; the impact can last a lifetime!

OCCC serves as a vital resource to the Bolton Community by providing a free enrichment day camp and summer meals to Bolton children. It is our responsibility as members of the greater community to provide two free meals a day and positive experiences during the summer. This year Bolton represented 25.8% of the campers. In all, 32 children, youth, and adults from Bolton benefited from OCCC. Therefore, we are requesting \$500.00 from the Town of Bolton to support this necessary community program that has clear benefits for participants and their families. As laid out in the Bolton Town Plan of 2017, Bolton's vision is to foster community connections and vibrant neighborhoods. Our Mission is to create a caring, nourishing community where every child can find success. OCCC supports your vision.

Our camp also addresses the opportunity gap, which prevents children from economically stressed families from accessing the extra enrichment activities like music, art, and sports that help build connections with peers and create a meaningful life. Multiple stressors like sickness, low income, family transitions, substance misuse, transportation, and homelessness can contribute to the opportunity gap. According to the 2020 Census for Chittenden County, more than 1 in 7 children under 18 lived in food-insecure households. It is challenging to raise children in our rapidly changing world, and this free camp allows everyone to have access to a summer food program and enrichment activities.

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www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org

<https://www.facebook.com/OCCCVT>

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Jana Brown ~ Asher Carfaro ~ Connie van Eeghen ~ Jessica Johnson ~ Tim Kane
 ~ Kyle Silliman-Smith

2022 Our Community Cares Camp was another one for the books! It's hard to believe we have offered this camp for 13 years. Each year we seem to come back stronger despite any adversity that comes our way. With many COVID protocols lifted, we ran camp as we have traditionally done, which was so nice and definitely added to the overall success of the camp. Children were engaged, active, and happy with the variety of activities we had this year, from field trips to STEM activities to community events and more!

We continue our service to the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District through our primary mission of helping address food insecurity and creating an environment where every child finds success. We do this through our core values of providing fresh food that is lovingly and well-prepared. We foster a community of inclusiveness, diversity, and service. Children and youth have a place to discover new talents and learn leadership skills. During camp, children receive positive support from caring adults and help inspire them to envision their future and see themselves as contributing members of our community.

Our Community Cares Camp, and many of our partner organizations are committed to helping end food insecurity in our area. Our camp also addresses the opportunity gap that arises when children from economically stressed families cannot afford the extra enrichment activities like music, art, and sports that help build connections with peers and create a meaningful life. It is challenging to raise children in our rapidly changing world. There can be multiple stressors like sickness, low income, family transitions, etc.

We provide four weeks of food and fun in the summer in a caring and safe environment. The MMUUSD Transportation Department helps lift barriers and provides support for our program. Every year, our camp works tirelessly to bring our message to the community and beyond. Based on the support our camp receives, we can help that many children. Our goal is to take as many families and children as possible. With COVID-19, we are seeing an exacerbation of more and more children with trauma, social and emotional concerns, and mental health issues. In addition, families are challenged with childcare care hardships, child protection concerns, substance abuse, family violence, and incarceration. Our camp helps families fill that gap and relieve some family stressors!

Our financial numbers are not all in for this year. Based on 2021 numbers, the cost for a camper to attend our camp was \$1,098.00 for four weeks. That's \$68.63 per day/ \$274.53 per week. So it costs the camp \$102,114.00 for 93 campers. The cost per camper will increase for this year.

The State of Vermont increased its minimum wage, and there were increases in most goods due to inflation and supply chain demands.

This year we had 93 registered campers, up from 87 last year. Of that, 35% were new campers, and 65% were returning. An important piece to note is that roughly 52% of our campers have a support plan in school, whether it's an IEP, 504, or EST. Most of our campers are mainstream students. This year saw an increase in campers who attend alternative class environments. Additionally, we served about two homeless families from our district this summer. Another incredible fact about how OCCC has touched so

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many lives; 18% of the 2022 MMU graduating class had a connection with OCCC either by camper, counselor, or counselor in training(CIT).

We served 2,563 meals which are 291 more than in 2021! The USDA meal counting process changed from only free and reduced children's meals being reimbursable to all meals being reimbursed. This was HUGE for us as our meals are not regularly reimbursed because our school district is not a free and reduced district, as less than 50% of residents qualify. As a result of COVID and meals being provided at no cost to children over the last couple of years, so very few families completed the free and reduced meal forms. As a result, OCCC would have only been reimbursed for 1/10 of the food cost. Unfortunately, we missed out on providing meals to Part2 for the first week of camp because of the documenting process required by the USDA and the State of Vermont. However, with the new USDA Federal change, all of our meals were reimbursed totaling **\$10,025.90!**

We packed so much fun, exploring, field trips, friendships, music, and more into every minute of camp! Our week started with a visit from CLiF (Children's Literacy Foundation). All of our campers, Part2, children attending the Extended School Year, and the COVID Recovery program chose two new free books to take home. In addition, OCCC is grateful to have a local author and illustrator, Diana Dunn, visit our camp over two days! She donated books, read to campers, and held workshops for different aged campers to make their own books. We look forward to Dianna's visit each summer!

Campers enjoyed our Art Program again this year. They made different origami wonders, created different sea creatures, and really loved perler bead creations.

We were outside every chance we had and played games like kickball, wallball, gaga ball, badminton, basketball, soccer, and chalk art. In addition, we had several "water days" with different water activities, water balloons, sponge painting, etc. Buddy Dubay taught children to explore music, instruments, and singing.

Our last day of camp culminated with an hour-long talent show put on by the campers.

OCCC added STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) as a new activity this summer. The campers loved making volcanoes and seeing what happens when certain compounds are mixed together! Campers made journals, older campers built an egg drop, played with oobleck, and explored how vinegar reacts with different household items! They built fabulous creations with marshmallows and toothpicks, styrofoam, and q-tips.

This July was much warmer than last summer, so we were able to increase our outdoor excursions. We took field trips to the Audubon, Underhill Pond, Maple Street Park in Essex, the Park on the Richmond Green, and the Richmond Library. Some of our campers have never been on a hiking trail or in the woods, so that was a fantastic outing for them! They played and enjoyed the cool brook at the Audubon on several hot summer days! At the library, the campers enjoyed read-aloud and scavenger hunts with prizes at the end!

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Many thanks for support from the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District, Camels Hump Middle School, and the Transportation Department at MMUUSD. Their help made this camp successful for our community's children and teens!

We held our first-ever Books and Bagels event put on by campers for their families. During our Cooking Program, campers enjoyed making fresh homemade bagels. Campers invited their families to enjoy the bagels and read books together. They choose more free books to take home and enjoy. Families enjoyed being in a school again and seeing their camper's space!

Our Cooking Program, led for the second year by Kira Mincar, UVM Graduate with a bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Food Science, was again back to its total capacity! Campers made "chip" vegetables, decorated cupcakes, and learned how to make healthy muffins. Additionally, the campers enjoyed making smoothies and bagels. We had a guest cook for a week, Marie Thomas. She helped orchestrate an amazing "chopped" competition with our oldest group, LAC. Everything was delicious, from a twist on quiche to a gluten-free apple pie!

The kitchen has two strong women who stepped in and stepped up this year, Stephanie Lafreniere, the Head Chef from Bolton, and Angela Boisvert of Jericho. In addition, we are fortunate to have Jaren Skinner and Hanna Johnson return to our kitchen this summer. We also had a culinary intern, Grace Wolaver, assist and learn in the commercial kitchen. They worked as a team, bringing our Offer vs. Serve food program through supply chain issues, and thoughtfully prepared fun and healthy meals for our campers and staff. We had fresh smoothies, house-made muffins, blueberry/peach breakfast bake, pizza, fresh fruit/veggies, and a salad bar. For our youngest groups, this was the first time children could "choose" their own food, and it was not served in brown bags, no clamshell take-out containers, etc. They learned patience, balance, and choosing healthy options. It was so heartwarming to see campers sitting together again. They were sitting with friends, making new friends, and enjoying freshly prepared meals!

While not all the numbers are in yet for 2022, OCCC will finish its year on budget. This year we had a large PPP II Loan wholly forgiven! As well as a previous PPP I loan from last year was forgiven. In addition, OCCC received a significant personal donation that helped us stay on budget. We cannot express our gratitude for the support from local towns, churches, lodges, grantors, and most importantly, our friends and community members who donate because they all recognize this wonderful camp's benefits for now and the future.

The camp had some visitors tour the camp, including OCCC Board Members Connie van Eeghen and Jana Brown, June Heston from the Richmond Select Board, Jay Furr from the Richmond Select Board, and School Board Member Tara Arneson from Richmond. Everyone had great questions coming from different points of view. It was wonderful to be able to have visitors and show the different board memberships what we are all about! We hope to have more visitors next year.

Our staff of counselors, counselors in training, and directors are an essential part of the camp! We had an outstanding group this summer. Many are students from MMU, Essex High School, and CHMS. Some were new, and others were returning counselors and CITs. In addition, OCCC had several college students working with us this summer. The culinary, as well as our hands-on staff, complete full days of

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orientation and training. We are fortunate to have Howard Center Clinicians and First Call continue providing some of our training. We are so fortunate to have dedicated and talented teens and staff!

Our Community Cares Camp continues to be a staple in the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District. We would not have any of the success we do without the support from so many community entities, funders, and volunteers. Camp, in general, has such a positive vibe because of the love and energy everyone puts in day in and day out. The memories created will undoubtedly last them a lifetime, and we are already looking forward to summer 2023!

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Parent
Executive Director

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Survey responses by campers, parents/guardians, and staff:

Parent/Guardian survey response: This was a wonderful opportunity. Thank you very much!

Parent/Guardian survey response: My kids enjoyed it so much and hope to be able to go next year.

Parent/Guardian survey response: My daughter received an award for being a good friend. This made her (and her parents!) so proud.

Parent/Guardian survey response: My son learned about Dungeons and Dragons and was happy to be around older kids his age. My daughter made new friends and had a very positive experience.

Camper survey response: Loved; the cooking, going outside, and the field trips.

More bikes/scooter time

Loved the people

Staff survey response: Creating relationships between all of my campers and fellow counselors.

Staff survey response: What I got from my experience at OCCC was a new sense of leadership. Leadership is not something I have had many times before, so this camp has helped me with that quality.

Staff Survey response: This job has taught me how to be a responsible and supportive member of a team, as well as brought me great amounts of joy. This year more than the others, I think the responsibility part was the newest bit of information, consistently filling out a timesheet, being in charge of keeping people on a schedule, have daily things to complete and fulfill.

Staff survey response: I learned a lot of quick thinking skills as well as time management and compromise skills.

Staff survey response: This was my fourth year working for OCCC, and it is my favorite part of the year. This job and the people in it have been my saving grace, and the happiness it brings to me is enough for me to do it every year.

Staff survey response: The whole team at OCCC camp was positive and wholehearted. Leading us are some great examples of humans giving lots of patience, love, support, Kindness, and great direction. Very pleased as a staff member and as a parent. My children felt like home at OCCC this year, and that alone filled my heart a million times over. Thank you.

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Building a caring community - where every child can find success

Richmond Rescue

In 2022 we celebrated the 40th anniversary of Andy Squires as a volunteer of Richmond Rescue. Andy began volunteering before many of our members were even born. His dedication to our organization and to the people we serve has been extraordinary. We look forward to celebrating his 45th anniversary in 2027.

The year began with many COVID vaccine clinics and presented another unique opportunity to partner with the State of Vermont. We were able to cross train some of our AEMTs and paramedics to work as phlebotomists in a state-run blood bank held at UVM to address a critical shortage of donated blood. By the end of the pilot program we had obtained 225 pints of blood which was all used at local hospitals. As of the end of 2022, we had administered 17,800 COVID vaccines and more continue to happen each month.

This was our first full year of covering the Towns of Hinesburg and St. George. The additional call volume has allowed our members to use their training more often and maintain their proficiency. The additional service area added 342 calls and 195 transports to our previous call volume.

We were excited to get back to providing our usual array of community outreach activities. We held our 5th bike helmet giveaway and distributed more than 125 bike helmets to children. We also taught CPR and first aid to 195 people. Having citizens trained in CPR leads to much better outcomes in cardiac arrest.

The Camels Hump Backcountry Rescue Team provided their services for a number of challenging calls. The most notable response was for a male hiker in his sixties suffering from chest pain, high on the Long Trail on Camels Hump. Our team responded with a number of other teams and provided ambulance level care in backcountry. He was safely carried out of the woods to a waiting ambulance and received care for a heart attack at UVM. Thanks to a generous donation from the patient, we were able to purchase a portable 12-lead EKG machine for use in the backcountry. We're excited to continue to increase our capabilities.

Statistics from 2022:

Total requests for service: 1190
Calls for service in Bolton: 116
Requests to Interstate 89: 74
Average ambulance response time in Bolton: 16 minutes
Number of active volunteers in 2022: 45
Total volunteer hours: 23,480
Address signs made in 2022: 84
Total address signs made since start of program: 1030

2023 will be a year of planned vehicle purchases. We are remounting the box from our 2014 ambulance onto a new 2023 Ford F550 chassis. By remounting the box we are able to save about 30% over the price of a new ambulance. We are also purchasing an SUV response vehicle to enhance our capabilities. Due to the long lead-time for vehicles, these purchases have been in the planning phase for years.

Beyond responding to 911 calls, we are proud to offer a number of other public health services. We continue to offer affordable E911 address signage, courses and bystander trainings through our CPR training center and car seat fitting. As a public health organization, we consider these initiatives central to our mission.

We are grateful for the privilege of serving our communities and look forward to the coming year.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors and Members of Richmond Rescue



RICHMOND RESCUE, INC.

216 RAILROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VT 05477
PHONE: (802) 434-2394
DIRECTOR@RICHMONDRESCUE.ORG

September 22, 2022

Dear Bolton Selectboard,

This past year was a year of change as we wound down our COVID vaccination and testing work. We also started providing ambulance service to the towns of Hinesburg and St. George which has given our members more opportunities to hone their skills and gain experience.

Here are a few of the highlights of the last fiscal year:

- Volunteer, Andy Squires, celebrated his 40th year as a member of Richmond Rescue
- We administered more than 17,500 COVID vaccinations since vaccinating began
- The Camels Hump Backcountry Rescue Team responded to many backcountry emergencies on Camels Hump and Mount Mansfield.
- Our Director, Michael Chiarella, was recognized as a Community Champion for Trauma by the UVM Medical Center
- We recently made our 1000th E911 address sign
- We gave out more than 150 bike helmets to kids and adults in our community

By the numbers 2021-2022:

- Richmond Rescue responded to 1103 calls and transported 607 patients
- Total calls in Bolton: 75 (included Bolton Valley but not I-89)
- Total calls to Bolton Valley: 13
- Total calls to I-89 in Bolton: 27
- Average response time to calls in Bolton: 17:28

Our volunteer workforce remains strong with 37 active volunteers donating more than 24,000 hours each year.

The additional call volume from Hinesburg and St. George will allow us to reduce our financial reliance on the towns we serve. We are taking this opportunity to reset our per capita rate to \$14 and to update town populations with 2020 census data.

Town	Total Population	Pop. served by RR	22-23 Appropriation	23-24 Appropriation
Bolton	1301	1301	\$19,996.00	\$18,214.00
Hinesburg	4698	4698	\$65,772.00	\$65,772.00
Huntington	1934	1934	\$37,752.00	\$27,076.00
Jericho	5104	1000	\$18,000.00	\$14,000.00
Richmond	4167	4167	\$78,012.00	\$58,338.00
St. George	794	794	\$11,116.00	\$11,116.00
Starksboro	1756	421	\$4,400.00	\$5,894.00
			\$235,048.00	\$200,410.00

Please contact me if you have any concerns about the population listed for your town.

For the 2023-2024 fiscal year, Richmond Rescue is requesting \$18,214 from the Town of Bolton

As always, we are committed to financial and operational transparency. We have attached a copy of our proposed budget and statistics from last year. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to have us meet with the Selectboard.

Sincerely,



Michael Chiarella
Director of Operations



Bolton's Senior Dinner attendees.



State of Vermont
Department of Health
Burlington Local Health Office
108 Cherry Street, Suite 102
Burlington VT, 05402

[phone] 802-863-7323
[toll free] 888-253-8803
HealthVermont.gov

Local Health Office Annual Report 2022

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. Your district office is at the address and phone number above. We provide essential services and resources to towns in order to protect and promote the health and well-being of people in Vermont. For example, in the past year and beyond, we:

Protected communities from COVID-19: Since the pandemic began three years ago, our doors have remained open and we've been able to serve communities thanks to individuals, families, schools, businesses, first responders, and countless others that worked with us to meet the needs of local towns. We provided vaccine, testing, and information, along with other key public health services. In collaboration with community partners, since COVID-19 response efforts began, the Burlington Local Health Office hosted over 200 COVID-19 vaccination clinics and provided over 20,000 COVID-19 doses. Since August 2021, local health offices across Vermont have documented and helped manage over 8,000 COVID-19 related situations, including over 1,200 COVID-19 outbreaks. Learn more at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/disease-control/covid-19>.

Ensured local preparedness for future emergencies: We worked with partners like schools, hospitals, and emergency personnel to ensure effective pandemic response and support preparedness to distribute medicine, supplies, and information during public health emergencies. This year, we responded to the emergence of human monkeypox virus by sharing information and providing vaccine to community members. As of November 2022, over 90 vaccine doses have been administered.

Stayed attentive to people and communities most underserved: We provided services and resources to people who are more likely to experience adverse health outcomes due to health inequities. For example, we provided vaccine at schools without access, shelters, meal and food distribution sites, farms, and more.

Supported student health and youth empowerment: According to the Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 66% of students in Chittenden County agree or strongly agree that they "believe they matter to people in their community." Regionally, efforts like mentoring and afterschool enrichment programs help to ensure youth feel valued and included.

Promoted health in all policies: Health is not just individual behaviors and access to care, it's also housing, transportation, food access, education, natural resources, and other social determinants of health. We worked with towns, schools, worksites, healthcare providers, and other community organizations to establish plans, policies, and programming that improve health and wellness. To achieve health, we must continue to work together to improve opportunities for health across all sectors and periods of our lives.

Provided WIC services and resources to families and children: Provided WIC nutrition education and support to 3,128 people between July 1, 2021 – June 31, 2022. WIC enables families to save on groceries so they can have more to spend on other things their family needs, empowers families with breastfeeding/chestfeeding support, and provides referrals to other health and nutrition services. Learn more at www.healthvermont.gov/wic.

Collaborated with Town Health Officers around environmental health: To help Vermonters better understand the relationship between their environment and their health, we worked with towns and other local partners to share information about lead, cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), food safety, drinking water, climate change, healthy homes, and healthy schools. Learn more at www.healthvermont.gov/environment.

Learn more about what we do at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/local/burlington>.

Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Serving and Strengthening Vermont Local Government

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, owned by its member municipalities, with a mission to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. It is directed by a 13-member Board of Directors elected by the membership and comprising municipal officials from across the state.

Member Benefits - All 247 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, as are 142 other municipal entities that include villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions, and fire districts. Members have exclusive access to a wide range of specialized benefits, expertise, and services, including:

- **Legal and technical assistance**, including prompt responses to member questions that often involve how to comply with state and federal requirements. During the past year, staff responded to thousands of member questions and published guidance, templates, research reports, and FAQs. In 2022, VLCT began offering additional government finance training and consulting services and launched the new Federal Funding Assistance Program (FFAP). FFAP offers communities advice on complying with federal rules surrounding pandemic funding, provides direction and insight on accessing billions of dollars in federal infrastructure funding, and provides input to state leaders on designing and implementing grant programs for municipalities.
- **Trainings and timely communications on topics of specific concern to officials** who carry out their duties required by state law. The League provided training via webinars, onsite classes, and during the hallmark annual event, Town Fair, the largest gathering of municipal officials in the state. VLCT's Equity Committee also published an online equity toolkit that assists municipalities in centering the work of justice, diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in their decision making, policies, practices, and programs.
- **Representation before the state legislature, state agencies, and the federal government**, ensuring that municipal voices are heard collectively and as a single, united voice. VLCT's recent legislative efforts have helped provide cities and towns additional resources to respond to the pandemic, address road and bridge repair, tackle cybersecurity, improve housing and economic growth, promote renewable energy, provide emergency medical services, address equity and inclusion, and ensure the quality of our drinking water. Specific success in 2022 includes securing \$45 million in funding to help municipalities make energy improvements in their buildings, securing \$250,000 for VLCT's Federal Funding Assistance Program, increasing Municipal Planning Grants to \$870,000, securing \$250,000 for the Vermont Office of Racial Equity to launch the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Action, Leadership Program, and increasing municipal authorities in statute. Members are also represented at the federal level to Vermont's Congressional delegation and through our partner, the National League of Cities.
- **Access to insurance programs**. The Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) provides comprehensive and cost-effective property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance coverage, programs, and services that protect the assets of your community. The VLCT Unemployment Insurance Trust provides unemployment insurance at stable pricing. VLCT also provides members with the option to purchase life, disability, dental, and vision insurance products at a competitive price. All the programs offer coverage and products that members need and ask for, help Vermont municipalities stretch their budgets, and are *only* available to VLCT members.

Members are welcome to contact VLCT anytime to ask questions and to access resources to help them carry out the important work of local government. **To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, visit vlct.org.** Recent audited financial statements are available at vlct.org/AuditReports.

December 20, 2022

To the voters of the town of Bolton:

The Waterbury Area Senior Citizens Association (WASCA) once again needs your help in supporting the vital work it does to enrich the lives of seniors in our community. This letter serves as our **formal request for funding in the amount of \$1,000**. This is the same amount that you allocated to us last year.

While we can't predict specifically how many Bolton seniors will need the nutritional services we provide in the coming year (whether through Meals on Wheels or congregate dining in our Senior Center), or how many will participate in our various health clinics or special activities that are designed to reduce social isolation, we do know that there are difficult times ahead. From food to fuel, we are all experiencing higher costs, and seniors living on fixed or low incomes are especially impacted. At the Center, we are rolling up our sleeves to manage increasing expenses without compromising the quality of our services. On top of that, our small but mighty staff and team of amazing volunteers have risen to every challenge, especially through the darkest days of Covid, to meet the needs of elders in our community.

We are proud to report that WASCA delivered over 18,000 meals to homebound seniors in Waterbury, Duxbury, Bolton, Moretown and Middlesex in FY22. 356 of those meals were delivered in Bolton specifically. We also prepared and served over 1,000 congregate lunches in our dining room. The average cost to provide a meal is \$11.47. We receive \$3.80 per meal in Federal funding through the Older Americans Act, leaving a shortfall of \$7.67/meal. That is why the financial support of the towns we serve is so important.

On behalf of our seniors, thank you!

Sincerely,

Maureen White, Treasurer
Justin Blackman, Board Chair

SCHOOL SECTION

Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District Our Schools' Reports

Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District Budget Summary





Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District

10 River Road Jericho, VT 05465

P:802-434-2128 F:802-899-4001

mmuUSD.office@mmuUSD.org

www.mmuUSD.org

January 12, 2023

Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District Annual Report

The Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) Annual Report will be available February 16, 2023. The report will include a proposed 2023-24 school district budget, tax rate information and a review of operations, activities and assessment results for Mount Mansfield Unified Union's nine schools:

- Smilie Memorial School (PK-4)
- Brewster Pierce Memorial School (PK-4)
- Jericho Elementary School (K-4)
- Richmond Elementary School (PK-4)
- Underhill ID School (Preschools)
- Underhill Central School (K-4)
- Browns River Middle School (Grades 5-8)
- Camels Hump Middle School (Grades 5-8)
- Mt. Mansfield Union High School (Grades 9-12)

The Annual Report can be found at your local town office, public school, MMUUSD Central Office or online at <https://www.mmuUSD.org/>. Upon request, a printed copy will be mailed to you by calling 434-2128.

If you have questions, please contact the Central Office at 434-2128 or by email at mmuUSD.office@mmuUSD.org.

Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District Our Schools



Smilie Memorial School

Derek Howard, Principal

Enrollment: Prek-4 76

As the new Principal at Smilie Memorial School, it was my pleasure to welcome new and returning faculty and staff to Smilie. Amanda Allemeier finished last academic year as a paraeducator and returned this year to continue in the role. An alumnus of the Smilie School, Colby Antonacci joined us as the paraeducator in preschool and is now also working 1-1 with students utilizing his psychology degree and interpersonal skills. Emma Parent, another MMU alumnus, moved from preschool to teach in a first and second grade classroom leaving space for Shannon Zachary to join us to teach in the preschool. Bridgette Tozzi joined us from Colchester Middle School as our music teacher. Claire Tourin joined Kyle Dubois to teach grades three and four. David Rye became our PE teacher working at both Smilie and Brewster-Pierce. A lot of new faces have enhanced the culture and learning opportunities at Smilie Memorial School.



On September 19th, we hosted an Open House - our first in-person in 3 years. This was an ideal opportunity to show the community the hard work that the Smilie School Community had done to update the front of our school. It was fitting that the event started with Barbara Tomasi-Gay unveiling the murals installed on the school that were created by students and parents. The school opened and welcomed parents and community members into the building to meet and greet with teachers and stroll through the hallways and classrooms.

During the month of September, kindergarten, first and second grades visited Adams Apple Orchard and picked apples for some baking projects. Unfortunately, the all-school hike to Bolton Dome and Bolton Valley Resort had to be canceled due to the weather but our 3rd and 4th graders were able to visit Petra Cliffs in December where they had an introduction to climbing.



Coming out of the pandemic has meant that students have to relearn 'normal' school. One of the first priorities was to teach and reteach all of our school drills. This included fire drills, securing the building, hold in place and our evacuation drill. The evacuation drill at Smilie Memorial School was conducted in collaboration with Bolton Fire Department. Smilie staff and students evacuated to Bolton Fire Station from the school where everyone got a tour of the fire trucks and the station building.



In October we created a name and voted for our local VTrans snowplow. Then in November 'The Bolton Yeti' visited the students at Smilie School.

The Smilie Memorial School community donated nonperishable food items and gifts for the Crate of Cheer and The Giving Tree. These items



were distributed throughout our community to families in need. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

During a wonderful December morning at Smilie Memorial School, the K/1/2 students welcomed the adults in their lives to the Books and Bagels event. The classes made bagels the day before and shared the treats and their love of reading.

Since September, the Smilie faculty have been meeting weekly in their grade level teams analyzing the data to improve learning for all students. Weekly, the teachers and support staff look at academic data from different curriculum areas including Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies. During these meetings, student support staff also give feedback to teachers regarding the social emotional supports being implemented for students. Faculty meetings occur twice monthly, the agenda for these is set by our guided coalition that also meets twice monthly. The collaboration between all staff, parents, and community is what makes Smilie Memorial School a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students.



Brewster-Pierce Memorial School

Sally Hayes, Principal

Enrollment: PreK-4 110

As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, Brewster-Pierce staff and families continue to work collaboratively to meet a new set of needs for our learners. Our students continue to grow academically, socially and emotionally and have persevered through many obstacles presented by the pandemic. This fall we were thrilled to welcome family members back into school. Family members volunteer at BPMS in a variety of ways including helping with special projects, assisting in small group math, volunteering on outdoor days and helping to serve lunch. Our parent group continues to work tirelessly supporting educational projects, field trips and providing special teaching resources. Families contribute so much to the culture at BPMS and continue to support many enriching educational opportunities; we are grateful for their continued support.

BPMS students enjoy learning in many content areas including math, literacy, science, social studies, unified arts and social emotional learning. We continue to work on integrating and combining content in order to provide opportunities for children to make cross curricular connections. As we prepare our young readers we have shifted our focus in the past two years to include a focus on phonemic awareness and phonological awareness. Studies have proven that when children receive direct instruction in phonics and phonological awareness, it lays a strong foundation as they're learning to read. We have been adjusting our teaching practices to strengthen literacy skills in all grades K-4 and improve overall reading readiness. During math practice we focus on repeated practice of foundational skills to provide a strong scaffold for harder math concepts; one goal is learning to apply math to real life situations. Social and emotional learning has been a critical area of learning especially as children work through identifying strong emotions and learning strategies for self regulation. We continue to prioritize managing peer relations and self management including: mindfulness, emotional regulation and restorative practices.

BPMS staff continues to focus on integrating themes of equity, diversity and inclusion throughout our teaching practices with a goal of embedding these practices into our school culture. With the guidance of Kat Yun, equity and inclusion coach, and our school based ABAR team we will work on updating lessons and exploring identity throughout this school year. The identity work will begin first as an entire staff as well as with students. We continue to read culturally responsive texts during lessons which enrich our learning by presenting multiple perspectives and diverse representations. As educators, we realize that our success in this important work will in part be measured by how we can engage our students in these dialogues in compassionate and developmentally appropriate ways.



Modeling and teaching wellness has always been a priority at Brewster- Pierce. We have always valued our farm to school food program which prioritizes providing nutritious meals and snacks for our students and staff using local ingredients and presenting a rainbow of delicious foods at every meal. Our school food program thrived for over thirty years under the leadership of Alison Forrest and after her retirement in June she passed the important work to Hilary Redman, Anne Martell and Peter Merritt. With our new leadership team our school food program continues to thrive and is truly a gold standard in providing nutritious food choices and acts as a lesson in healthy eating every day.

Outdoor Learning experiences are enjoyed by students and staff weekly at BPMS. The preschool students lead the way and enjoy outdoor experiences every single day in their Forest Classroom and many areas surrounding our school including: the Huntington Community Forest, Brush Brook and the Huntington River. The goal for outdoor education is to immerse children in the natural world and guide them in place based learning. Outdoor learning opportunities provide unstructured time that encourages children to make choices about their learning, persevere through challenges and take healthy risks. Outdoor education is designed to foster a child's natural inquisitiveness, creativity, and desire to learn. Outdoor Education is embedded into our school culture and learning.



Jericho Elementary School

Todd Rohlen, Principal

Enrollment: K-4 312

Hello! My name is Todd Rohlen and I am the new principal here at JES. I live in Jeffersonville with my wife and two kids. I have been in education for a long time, as a pK-8 principal, a middle school science teacher, and even before that, I was an instructor for Outward Bound, leading canoeing and backpacking trips in Maine. I have spent my career empowering students to work harder and do more for themselves, and I look forward to continuing that work here in Jericho. Since I began in July, I have been working to get to know the school, staff, students, and the community. I love getting to visit classrooms, where everyday I see passionate teachers engaging curious kids on a variety of different subjects. Our kids look forward to being here because it is a remarkable school!

After a few years of Covid restrictions, we have loved having families back in the building, as well as getting our classes back out into the community. We have welcomed families into the school with some grade level open houses, some celebrations of writing, and more. It's been great to have more engagement between the school and homes, as well as the bigger community. We have had some exciting field trips so far, including taking advantage of a piece of property on Nashville Road, lovingly called "Camp Swampy." Kids have been learning ecology and more onsite there. The whole 3rd grade got to learn while sailing on Lake Champlain with the Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center! The 4th grade visited the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum to learn more about the history and ecology of the lake, and the 1st grade just went to the Vermont Teddy Bear Factory. While our learning in school is certainly at the core of what we do, it has been wonderful to bring back some of these enriching experiences in the greater community.

A big focus across the District is meeting the needs of each learner in our schools. As we know, students come with a variety of needs and learning styles. We are working hard on our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), which are the systems we have set up around the school to help meet the needs of every student. This means we are



continually assessing what our kids know, and where they might need extra support. Staff then works to get students the help they need. As you might imagine, it takes a lot of planning and attention to detail to create a system like this and to keep it running.

We have also been making sure our building is well maintained and updated. Last spring, we replaced much of the fire alarm system to make sure that was up to date. Over the summer, we updated to digital control for the heating system. We have started replacing the boards on the boardwalk and that work will continue when the weather warms. We have also started construction on a roof for the outdoor pizza oven, which will help that last much longer.

Lastly, I want to give a large thank you to our parent organization, Partners in Education, PIE. They are working so hard to help provide enriching experiences for students, to help the staff feel appreciated, and to take care of our amazing school and grounds.



Richmond Elementary School

Jeremy Rector, Principal

Enrollment: PreK-4 322

The RES Parent Teacher Organization is in full swing this year! After tremendous growth over the past 3 years, the PTO meets monthly with roughly eight members attending every meeting, and several others joining as they are able to. While the energy and support of the community has been extremely positive and overflowing throughout the pandemic, this year there is a new feel and a community "charge" as we are rallying together to build several new play structures across the campus. Additionally, with fewer restrictions and health protocols, RES has seen a resurgence of guest visitors, community events, and facilities use!

Student voice is a critical component to a healthy and resilient school community. With that, we continue to work collectively to provide an engaging curriculum that naturally weaves student choice and voice into daily practice. Students are seen as partners to solving the problems and challenges of the day; be it academic, social-emotional, or structural. PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Systems) remains a core component of what we do at RES, helping students by providing direct instruction and intentional learning opportunities that help students to develop agency and self advocacy all while celebrating the strength of the individual and the group. It is with this sense of agency and recognition that the students brought their voice to the playground redesign process. Last April I provided students with a "Principal's Challenge" and asked them to consider the playground we have in place and to reimagine it: What are the components that we have that they appreciate? What would they like to have that isn't already there? What would they like it to look like? As you could imagine, nearly every single student sent me a drawing and a list of the things they love and the things they would love to see. It was with their voice that a new design was built upon, and the students are so excited to see the project moving forward.

A primary curricular focus this year is centered around working in collaboration to support the diverse needs that have resulted from the pandemic. Teachers and staff are working diligently to hone in on the specific needs of individuals, and working collectively to find resolution. Coming together weekly, grade level teachers meet with interventionists, special educators, and administrators to collectively ask these four essential questions: What do we expect our students to learn? (Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum) How will we know they learned it? (Formative Assessment) What will we do when they don't learn it? (Reteaching/Additional Time and Support) and What will we do when they do learn it? (Extension). Through these team meetings and the work of our larger faculty meetings, we have begun to deepen our collective commitments toward a Professional Learning Community and take important next steps toward a robust Multi-tiered System of Supports.





Underhill Central School

Jennifer Cote, Principal

Enrollment: K-4 149

The staff at Underhill Central School kicked off the 22-23 school year feeling energized and inspired. We welcomed eight new staff members to our school this year! The energy from the new and existing staff is positive and vibrant. Our teaching and support staff are strong, collaborative and cohesive. We are also thrilled to be welcoming families and community members back into our building this year to help support and provide enrichment opportunities for our students. We are excited to bring back the All School Meeting this year. The entire school comes together during this time to celebrate our learners, community and various other initiatives and events that are happening. Each classroom leads an All School Meeting once a year to promote student's confidence and leadership skills. Other events and celebrations this year include the Welcome Back School Picnic, Morning Open House, Turkey Trot, Recycle Rhonda, Mask Parade, and Snow Motion. Building community is a core value at UCS and we cherish opportunities to come together to celebrate.



UCS staff are committed to strengthening diversity, equity and inclusion in our school and throughout the Underhill community. We use character traits such as empathy, gratitude and kindness as points for discussing diversity, equity and inclusion. Teachers use a variety of children's books for students to explore these character traits and deepen their understanding of what each trait looks like, feels like and sounds like at school, at home and in their community. With the support of the district and school-based ABAR committees, our staff continue to examine their own biases and assumptions.

Staff continue to work with our district coaches to focus on strategies for engaging and improving student learning in literacy, math, science and social studies. A priority for our work this year has been creating benchmarks for literacy and a scope and sequence for phonics work in PreK-4th grade. We continue to reflect and revise our practices in all content areas as we interact with current research and engage in professional development. Additionally, we prioritize social and emotional learning for all students. Staff use mindfulness, responsive classroom and restorative practice approaches to support students with emotional regulation, self management, and connection with themselves and others.

As we develop a robust Multi-Tiered System of Supports, grade level teams are engaging in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) this year. PLC's promote a culture of collaboration with a focus on student learning and results. This time is essential for teaching and learning. Teams composed of classroom teachers, related service providers, interventionists, and building administrators meet each week to collaborate and analyze student data and adjust instruction to meet the needs of our various learners.



On behalf of our entire staff, we thank you for your continued support of our efforts. We are committed to maintaining the high-quality level of education for our students and appreciate the Underhill community's support of our school.



Browns River Middle School

Kevin Hamilton, Principal

Rebecca Marsh, Assistant Principal

Enrollment: 5-8 368

This school year Browns River Middle School students and staff are looking to rebuild our community and routines after being in COVID protocols for the past two and a half years. This will be the first year that our current 8th grade class will be able to experience a normal middle school year without modifications and restrictions from the pandemic.



The focus on reconnecting our community begins with our school wide advisory program known as Nest. Every Wednesday morning our students are broken down into small multi grade level groups of approximately 8-10 children. Each group known as a flock, meets with the same adult advisor for 30 minutes and all groups focus on the same activity. Students will have the same advisor for their entire 4 year experience while at BRMS. The beginning of the year focused on getting to know each other and to build community within the groups. Throughout the year we will be focusing on other topics that we want to address as a school community. As we move into the new year we will be talking about what it means to be a positive member of a community and how we can all work together as unique individuals. There has been positive feedback from both our students and staff about how this advisory has helped us to reconnect as a school community and make new friendships.

Our teachers continue to collaborate closely with the staff at Camels Hump Middle School to make sure that our curriculum and instruction is closely aligned so that our students have a similar experience when they enter MMUHS. Our academic coaches meet regularly with our teachers during the school and for after school meetings as they look to improve their instructional practices. The monthly early release days have been focused on the science and social studies curriculum. This is another opportunity for our staff to work closely with teachers from across the district. Our staff is also beginning to work in groups known as Professional Learning Communities as they look at specific student data to improve instruction and student learning outcomes.



Our student activities and clubs continue to have high participation rates. In addition to our athletic and music programs, our after school clubs have provided wonderful and healthy opportunities for our students to gather socially and build skills of working together. Some of our club offerings include: Cooking, Dungeons and Dragons, Math, Pride, NANOWRMO, Magic, Engineering, Drama, Newspaper, Volleyball, and Minecraft. Additionally we have added a vertical climbing wall and traverse wall to our gymnasium. Our Drama program is returning this spring with a performance that will be presented to the community in the spring! This will be the first production for our students since the fall of 2019. We are also excited that our students will be returning to the waters of Lake Champlain in February. The Penguin Plunge tradition is returning to BRMS! Over the past 15 years we have raised \$250,000 for the Vermont Special Olympics by fundraising for this event. Parent volunteers are always welcome to join us in the plunge!

We are looking forward to 2023 and the opportunities that lie ahead for our staff and students!



Camels Hump Middle School

Gretchen Muller, Principal
Wilhelmina Picard, Assistant Principal

Enrollment: 5-8 309

Camels Hump Middle School had a great start to the 2022-2023 school year and welcomed a large 5th grade class. We are so proud of these new Camels Hump Mountaineers. They have transitioned well into middle school life, have been enjoying more independence and are making new connections every day with their peers. Our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students have been incredible role models and have been thriving in an environment that finally feels less restrictive now that we are moving forward from two and half years of COVID protocols.

This year had additional positive highlights with the excitement of welcoming families into the school again. We were thrilled to offer an in-person open house which allowed families to move about the school to see classrooms, meet teachers and get a feel of what their student's day looks like. For some families this was the first time they've been in the school even though their student has been attending CHMS for several years. The connections and relationships that were made were wonderful. In addition to an in-person open house, we also hosted in-person family/teacher/student conferences, a 6th grade fun fair and grade-level project celebrations. The number of attendees has been fantastic and students have truly enjoyed the opportunity to share their learning with their peers and their families.

This year we also used feedback from students and teachers to reframe our schoolwide expectations as well as further develop our advisory program. We created guidelines for what it means to be a Mountaineer in all aspects of CHMS life. Students have embraced this new approach and continue to model and practice the qualities and behaviors of being an engaged, supportive and respectful Mountaineer. During advisory, students are in small grade-level groups once a week. Advisory is a time when we create a smaller community within our larger school community where students are welcomed, heard, seen, creating brave spaces for each other and building connections that are positive, caring and meaningful. Advisory is a big part of being a Mountaineer.

We are also collaboratively working to strengthen other aspects of CHMS specifically tied to the various ways in which we support our students academically and socially and emotionally. Our advisory program is tied to strengthening how we support students socially and emotionally. For supporting students academically, we are using different meeting structures, using data to inform our planning as well as identifying additional supports we need to put into place to assist students when we determine specific areas of growth. We feel incredibly fortunate to have experienced classroom teaching staff as well as experienced special educators, interventionists and support staff all working together to help students be successful.

Finally, our students are thrilled to be able to participate on athletic teams and to be able to choose different clubs to participate in after school. The ability for CHMS to offer these other opportunities for students helps to support them in a different way, allows for new bonds to be created, and brings joy to our school community. We are so grateful for the motivation and dedication of our faculty and staff that have created all these opportunities for our students inside and outside the classrooms.

Our Camels Hump Mountaineers are doing a fantastic job!





Mt. Mansfield Union High School

Michael Weston, Principal
Krystina Fernandez, Assistant Principal

David Marlow, Activities Director
Enrollment: 9-12 766

The 2021-2022 school year was our first step back to a “typical” school year. Students attended 5 days a week and classes returned to a bit more of a typical setting. We continued to wear masks and did not eat lunch in the cafeteria until March, but by the end of the year things looked very much like they did prior to the pandemic. Just as it was a process for our structures to return to normal, it was a process for our staff and students to return to the regular flow and demands of high school. However, as the year went all adjusted and we returned to focusing on how to move forward instead of how to adjust. We saw student success in many areas: MMU students achieved a proficient score on 82% of the AP Exams taken, MMUHS students take the SAT during their junior year and our scores continue to exceed state and national average, and our students earned 93% of their Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements. Another point I want to highlight is that over 72% of our student body were involved in at least one extracurricular activity. When we combine our extracurricular involvement with our Advisory program we believe we are creating an environment that allows for the formation of a healthy and supportive community.



The pinnacle of the year was the 55th Graduation Ceremony held at MMUHS on our soccer/lacrosse field. There were 192 members of the Class of 2022 and they celebrated their graduation on a cloud free warm Saturday morning. This class dealt with a lot in their time at MMU but when it came time for them to lead they did so with a smile and a positive attitude, this was appreciated by all and helped us through what could have been a very difficult year. The Class of 2022 has spread out across the globe and I know they are making all of us proud. I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to say thank you to everyone in this community who have created the environment that allows this school to be what it can be.

Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District Proposed Budget Summary

DESCRIPTION	APPROVED FY23 BUDGET	PROPOSED FY24 BUDGET	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
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EXPENDITURES

General Instructional Programs (PK-12)	22,018,512	22,915,266	896,754	4.07%
Special Education Programs (PK-12)	10,784,084	11,653,966	869,882	8.07%
Career and Technical Education	1,159,032	1,159,032	-	0.00%
Co-Curricular Activities	741,137	767,973	26,836	3.62%
Social Work, Guidance & Other Student Support Svcs.	1,658,563	1,733,712	75,149	4.53%
Health Services	579,226	607,140	27,914	4.82%
Curriculum Instruction & Professional Development	546,623	628,989	82,366	15.07%
Educational Media Services	2,355,409	2,498,822	143,413	6.09%
Board of Education, Legal & Negotiations	129,512	129,827	315	0.24%
Superintendent's Office	792,593	828,275	35,682	4.50%
School Administration & Support Services	2,638,111	2,775,238	137,127	5.20%
Fiscal & Treasurer Services	722,582	727,539	4,957	0.69%
Operations & Maintenance of Plant	4,374,157	4,596,893	222,736	5.09%
Transportation Services	2,539,647	2,772,813	233,166	9.18%
Capital Projects	325,000	325,000	-	0.00%
Other Fiscal Services	182,000	325,000	143,000	78.57%
Debt Service	864,709	828,627	(36,082)	-4.17%

Total Expenditures	52,410,895	55,274,112	2,863,215	5.46%
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ESTIMATED REVENUE

Education Spending Revenue	42,901,987	45,655,905	2,753,917.51	6.42%
Career & Technical Education Transfer	638,765	638,765	-	0.00%
Small School Grant	42,632	42,632	-	0.00%
Driver's Education	10,000	10,000	-	0.00%
High School Completion	30,000	30,000	-	0.00%
Tuition Income	80,000	90,000	10,000.00	12.50%
Interest Income	110,000	60,000	(50,000.00)	-45.45%
Transportation State Revenue	905,000	994,676	89,675.91	9.91%
Special Education State Revenue	5,937,511	6,312,135	374,624.00	6.31%
Other Income	80,000	90,000	10,000.00	12.50%
Prior Year Surplus/(Deficit)	1,675,000	1,350,000	(325,000.00)	-19.40%

Total Revenue	52,410,895	55,274,112	2,863,217	5.46%
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Town of Bolton
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway
Bolton, VT 05676