

2020 GROTON, VERMONT TOWN REPORT



REPORT OF THE TOWN OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

THANK YOU LINDA FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN
OF GROTON.

Linda Nunn served the Town of Groton for sixteen and half years as our Town Clerk.

She has held many Town offices as well- Assistant Town Clerk, Lister, Justice of the Peace, Assistant Treasurer, Collector of Current Taxes, Assistant Collector of Current Taxes, Town Service Officer, Selectboard Secretary, and a member of the Board of Abatement.

Countless hours were donated for the Food Shelf, Secret Santa and Senior Meals.

Linda was the voice on the phone when you called the Town Office for an answer to a multitude of questions. She was the lady with the leash in her bottom drawer when a stray dog was found.



THANK YOU KITTY
FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF
GROTON.



Caroline (Kitty) Diggins was a Lister for the Town of Groton for 14 Years. During those years there were numerous changes in the duties of the Listers. Kitty attended many hours of training to keep abreast of the requirements from the State of Vermont. She was instrumental in two Town wide reappraisals.

Kitty was called on to fill other Town positions over the years: Assistant Town Clerk, Board of Abatement, Community and Economic Development Committee, Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District, Building Committee, and Energy Coordinator.

Kitty also found time to volunteer for Recycling, The Buckaroos of 302, and for the Groton Fall Foliage Parade.

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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Select Board Chair	Wade Johnson, Sr.	584-3628	wjohnson@grotonvt.com
Select Board	Aaron Smith	584-3308	asmith@grotonvt.com
Select Board	Zachary Conaway		zconaway@grotonvt.com
Select Board Secretary	Debra Johnson	584-3628	secretary@grotonvt.com
Town Clerk	Carrie Peters	584-3276	townclerk@grotonvt.com
Town Treasurer	Lisa Hart	584-3131	treasurer@grotonvt.com
Highway Department	Harold Hatch Phillip Palmer	584-3209	grotonhwy@fairpoint.net
First Constable	Jim Downing	584-3211	
Fire Chief	Wade Johnson, Sr.	584-3628	grotonfire@fairpoint.net
Asst. Fire Chief	Shaun Stetson	584-3204	
Fire Station		584-3855	
Forest Fire Warden	Wade Johnson, Sr.	584-3628	
Forest Fire Warden Deputy	Justin Carle	584-4288	
Zoning Admin.	Dan Webster	584-4108	
Health Officer	Wade Johnson, Sr	584-3628	
Animal Control Officer & Pound Keeper	Michelle Boyer	802-439-5827	
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Carrie Peters	584-3004	cdt@grotonvt.com
Assessor	John Westinghouse	584-3155	assessor@grotonvt.com
Assistant Assessor	Dorothy Knott	584-3155	assistantassessor@grotonvt.com
Librarian	Jodi Fleurie-Wohlleb	584-3358	grotonlibraryvt@gmail.com
NEK Waste Supervisor	Timothy Dailey, Sr.	584-3876	
NEK Waste Alternate	Caroline Diggins	584-3589	
NVDA Representative	Brent Smith	584-3765	
NVDA Alternate	Mark Gleicher	584-3049	

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Zoning Board of Adjustment	Aaron Smith	584-3308	
	E. Charles Frost, Jr.	584-3310	
	Mark Gleicher	584-3049	
Planning Commission	Carrie Peters	584-3341	planning@grotonvt.com
	Steve Hart	584-3936	
	Brent Smith	584-3765	
	Emily Pratt		
	Michael Nahmais		
	Ruth Meteer		
Cemetery Commissioner	Aaron Smith	584-3308	
Tree Warden	Steve Murray	802-535-5643	
Emergency Mngmt. Coordinator	Brent Smith	584-3765	
Justice of the Peace	Linda Nunn	584-3881	
	Tirone Dyer	584-3730	
	Timothy Dailey, Sr.	584-3876	
	Brent Smith	584-3765	
	Dorothy Knott	584-3243	
	Deborah Jurist	584-3049	
	Carrie Peters	584-3341	
Green Up Coordinator	Alissa Smith	584-3308	
Town Grand Juror	Gary Lamberton	584-3917	
Fence Viewers	Wayne Dyer	584-3730	
	E. Charles Frost, Jr.	584-3310	
	Mark Gleicher	584-3049	
Inspectors of Wood, Lumber & Shingles	Robert Dorr	584-3359	
	Kenneth Ricker	584-3241	
Weigher of Coal	Frank Lapham	802-249-4887	
Webmaster	Gary Lamberton	584-3917	
Agent to Convey Real Estate	Deborah Jurist	584-3049	

WARNING: TOWN OF GROTON, VERMONT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021

The Legal Voters of the Town of Groton, are hereby warned and notified to vote at the Groton Community Building on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, from 10 am to 7 pm, and transact the following business by Australian Ballot:

ARTICLE 1 To elect the following Town Officers as provided for by the Public Laws of Vermont:

Moderator	One Year Term
Select Person	Three Year Term
Road Commissioner	One/Three Year Term
Treasurer	Three Year Term
Cemetery Commissioner	Three Year Term
Library Trustee	Three Year Term
Library Trustee	Three Year Term
Library Trustee	Three Year Term
BMU School Board Director	Three Year Term

ARTICLE 2 Shall the voters authorize to change the Road Commissioner's term from a 1 year term to a 3 year term?

ARTICLE 3 Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes on or before Friday, November 5, 2021, by 5:00 PM est. as the deadline for the payment of taxes? (Postmarks are not accepted as a timely payment)

WARNING: TOWN OF GROTON, VERMONT
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021

ARTICLE 4 Shall the voters authorize the Treasurer to collect current taxes?

ARTICLE 5 Shall the town establish a reserve fund to be called the Community Building Property Expansion Reserve Fund for the purpose of designing and implementing a new septic system, addressing drainage issues, memory wall etc., and to fund it by depositing \$40,000 from the General Fund surplus?

ARTICLE 6 Shall the voters authorize General Fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$635,199 of which \$449,879 shall be raised by taxes and \$185,320 by non-tax revenues?

ARTICLE 7 Shall the voters authorize Highway Fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$469,067 of which \$402,067 shall be raised by taxes and \$67,000 by non-tax revenues?

  
Wade Johnson Sr, Select Board Chair Aaron Smith, Select Board Zac Conaway, Select Board

The Select Board will hold an Informational hearing by Zoom on Feb. 25, 2021 at 6:30pm to discuss the Australian ballot articles on this warning.

Groton, Vermont, January 25, 2021

I hereby certify that the foregoing
was recorded before posting.

Attest, Carrie Peters Town Clerk

WARNING

BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #21 ANNUAL MEETING

The legal voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 (the "District"), comprising the legal voters, respectively, of the Towns of Groton, Ryegate, and Wells River, are hereby NOTIFIED AND WARNED to meet at their respective polling places, Groton Community Building, Ryegate Corner Town Hall and Wells River Village Garage, on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 from 10:00 AM (when the polls will open) to 7:00 PM (when the polls will close) to vote by Australian ballot on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for a term of one (1) year.

ARTICLE 2: To elect a Clerk for a term of one (1) year.

ARTICLE 3: To elect a Treasurer for the year ensuing.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year.

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 approve the school board to expend \$8,328,091, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,974.41 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is .203% less than spending for the current year.

A public informational hearing will be held on the above Australian ballot articles on March 1, 2021 beginning at 6:00 PM by Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92004799541?pwd=ei9mQkE2dGwNGpnRGx3am1SeHJKdz09>

Meeting ID: 920 0479 9541

Passcode: 191741

OR Join by phone

(US) +1 563-293-5428 (PIN: 501759604)

The legal voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 are further notified that voter qualification and registration relative to said Annual Meeting shall be as provided in Section 706u of Title 16 and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Dated at Wells River in the County of Orange and State of Vermont this 13th day of January, 2021

Angeline Alley

Angeline Alley

Sara Dennis

Sara Dennis

E. Paul Hazel

E. Paul Hazel

Allison Ingerson

Allison Ingerson

Judy Murray

Judy Murray

Kristen C. MURRAY

Kristen Murray

Allana Page

Alana Page

Kelsey Root-Winchester

Kelsey Root-Winchester

Sarah Ellen Sanders

Sarah Sanders

Recorded on this date prior to posting, January 13, 2021.

Janet Page

Janet Page
Clerk

BLUE MOUNTAIN UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT #21

Official Ballot

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, mark a cross (X) in the box at the right of that person's name. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name on the blank line in the appropriate block and mark a cross (X) in the box to the right.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a moderator for a term of one (1) year.

Brent Smith

☐

Write-In _____

☐

ARTICLE 2: To elect a Clerk for a term of one (1) year.

Please check or write-in:

Janet Page

☐

Write-In _____

☐

ARTICLE 3: To elect a Treasurer for the year ensuing.

Please check or write-in:

Murdena Baker

☐

Write-In _____

☐

To vote on the article as it appears on the ballot, place an "X" in the appropriate box.

ARTICLE 4: Shall the voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year?

If in favor of the Article, make an (X) in this box. YES ☐

If opposed to the Article, make an (X) in this box. NO ☐

ARTICLE 5: Shall the voters of the Blue Mountain Union School District #21 approve the school board to expend \$8,328,091, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,974.41 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is .203% less than spending for the current year.

If in favor of the Article, make an (X) in this box. YES ☐

If opposed to the Article, make an (X) in this box. NO ☐

GROTON, VERMONT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020

The Legal Voters of the Town of Groton, are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Groton Community Building in the Groton Village on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 10 o'clock in the morning, to transact the following business from the floor:

Peter Lyon said a prayer and Alissa Smith gave words of encouragement.

Brent Abare, Moderator stated there was voting for the Presidential Primary, Blue Mountain Union School Budget and Solid Waste Budget in the back of the building.

The Class of 2022 were doing the lunch and there is a Child care services down stairs.

The Flag salute was said.

Chip Conquest spoke on the condition of Route 302 and the complaints concerning the road, it is scheduled to be paved in 2021.

Chip Conquest spoke on Unclaimed property and people could look it up on Google. Chip Conquest talked about primary care work force shortage and a few other topics.

Henry Knott spoke on residents putting up reflective 911 signage so that the Fire or FAST Squad could find your property if there was an emergency and that you could order the signs from the Fire Dept.

Henry Knott also explained the Fire Department were installing smoke detectors and CO detectors at no cost for people.

Aaron Smith stated there are 2 cakes up front to recognize Brent Smith for all the years of dedicated service to the Town of Groton. Aaron read a piece from "A to Z" on Road Commissioner by Judson Carr.

Brent Abare reviewed Roberts Rules of Order for town meeting.

Brent Abare called Town Meeting to order at 10:25 AM.

Stan Pierce requested Brent Abare ask people to Please hold their noise down so that people could hear what was going on.

Bill Dickey from the American League spoke of ways they could help Veterans and survivors of Veterans. He also stated they could use more volunteers.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a moderator for the ensuing year. Peter Lyon nominated Brent Abare seconded by Stan Pierce. Roberta Dana nominated Brent Smith. Brent Smith declined. Hearing no other nominations Brent Abare was nominated.

ARTICLE 2: To act on the Town Report of the Town Officers as printed for the year ending December 31, 2019. Mary Grant made the motion to accept the Town Report as written. Dawn Evans seconded the motion. Lisa Hart, Treasurer had a couple of corrections on page 59 for the Library revenue. Motion passed.

ARTICLE 3 To see if, as provided in 17 V.S.A. Section 2646 (16), the Town will vote to elect a Road Commissioner or authorize the Select Board to appoint a Road Commissioner.

Peter Lyon made the motion to have the Selectboard appoint a Road Commissioner. Fred Braman seconded the motion. There was some discussion and Harold was asked what he would like to see. Harold answered elected. Jean Denson challenged the moderator decision. Jean Denson made the motion to elect the Road Commissioner. Stan Pierce seconded the motion. Passed.

ARTICLE 4 Shall the voters authorize the elimination of the office of Town Lister in accordance with 17 V.S.A. §2651c (b)(1) and replace it with a professionally qualified assessor who shall have the same powers, discharge the same duties, proceed in the discharge thereof in the same manner, and be subject to the same liabilities as are prescribed for Lister's or the Board of Lister's under the provisions of Title 32? And to authorize the Select Board to appoint an assistant to the Assessor?

Richard Montague moved the question. Gary Lamberton seconded the motion.

Dorothy Knott spoke giving a brief explanation as to the reasons of doing away with Lister's and going with an assessor with an appointed assistant.

Jean Denson moved the question. Stan Pierce seconded the motion. The article passed with a paper ballot of 77 total votes, 5 No to 72 Yes.

ARTICLE 5: To elect the following Town Officers as provided for by the Public Laws of Vermont, and citizens to serve on the other committees as herein specified, and have the Select board fix their compensations:
Phillip Palmer nominated Harold Hatch **Road Commissioner** for one year. Brenda Bruleigh seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations the Town Clerk cast one ballot for Harold Hatch. Harold Hatch was elected.

Erica Conaway nominated Zachary Conaway as **Select person** for Three years. Viola Emerson seconded the motion. The Town Clerk Cast one ballot for Zachary Conaway.

Sue Murray nominated Carrie Peters for **Town Clerk** for Three years. Martha Montague seconded the motion. Roberta Dana nominated Linda Nunn. Torie Peters seconded the motion. Linda Nunn declined the nomination Stating Carrie Peters had worked with her for three years and felt that Carrie would do a great job as the next Town Clerk. The Town Clerk cast one ballot for Carrie Peters.

There are no **Listers** to be voted on.

Shaun Stetson nominated Jim Downing as **1st Constable** for Two years. Jean Denson seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations the Town Clerk cast one ballot for Jim Downing.

Tracy Puffer nominated Carrie Peters for **Collector of Delinquent Taxes** for Three Years. Sara Dennis seconded the motion. Hearing no other nominations. The Town Clerk cast one ballot for Carrie Peters.

Alissa Smith nominated Deborah Jurist for **Library Trustee** Three Years. Zachary Conaway seconded the nomination. Henry Knott nominated Wayne Knott for Library Trustee Three Years. Deborah Jurist seconded the nomination. Both Deborah and Wayne spoke. Deborah Jurist was elected by voice vote.

Mark Shallberg nominated Aaron Smith for **Cemetery Commissioner** for Three Year. Shaun Stetson seconded the nomination. Hearing no other nominations Aaron Smith was elected.

Aaron Smith nominated Mark Shallberg for **Cemetery Commissioner** for One Year. Shaun Stetson seconded the nomination. Hearing no other nominations Mark Shallberg was elected.

Shaun Stetson nominated Gary Lamberton for **Town Grand Juror** for one year. Jean Denson seconded the nomination. Hearing no other nominations. Gary Lamberton was elected.

Roberta Dana made the motion to have the Selectboard appoint **Town Agent** for One year, Liise Shallberg seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

Roberta Dana made the motion to have the Selectboard appoint the **Town Agent to Convey Real Estate** for One year. Viola Emerson seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

ARTICLE 6: To elect by ballot one School Director to serve on the Board of Unified Union School District #21, for a three (3) year term.

Julie Oliver nominated Sarah Sanders for School Director. Viola Emerson seconded the nomination. Devon Powell nominated Tracy Puffer. Tracy Puffer stated she couldn't be a School Director because she was a teacher at the school. Hearing no other nominations the Town Clerk cast one ballot for Sarah Sanders.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Groton establish a reserve fund called the General Fund Surplus Reserve Fund in accordance with 24 V.S.A 2804 and deposit \$203,557.93 (this amount is currently in a CD listed on the Balance Sheet) from the General Fund Balance Surplus to fund the account?

Richard Montague moved the question. Jean Denson seconded the motion There was some discussion on this. Paper ballot vote 60 total, 18 No, 42 Yes. Article passed.

Article 8: Shall the Town of Groton fund the Highway Equipment Reserve account (\$64,189) and the Highway Infrastructure Reserve account (\$10,000) from the Highway Fund Balance Surplus and fund the General Fund Reserve Account (10 accounts listed in the Town Report Budget, \$76,745) from the General Fund Balance Surplus? A total of \$150,934. Article Passed.

ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Groton appropriate \$50,000, from the General Fund Balance Surplus to tear down, remove and fill in the Cilley House and to pay for the engineering costs of updating and improving the drainage around the Community Building and Emergency Services Building? Article Passed.

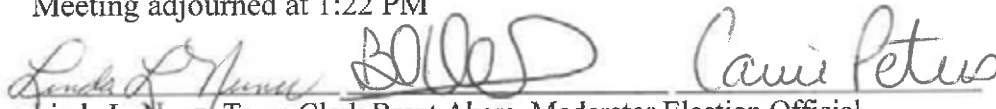
ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town of Groton establish a reserve fund to be called the Constable Durable Equipment Reserve Fund to be used for the purchase and replacement of durable equipment associated with the performance of Constable duties in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804? And appropriate \$4950 to fund this Reserve account?
There were some discussion. Article Passed.

ARTICLE 11 Shall the Town of Groton enter into a communications union district (CUD) to be known as NEK Community Broadband, under the provisions of 30 V.S.A Ch82? Michael Gaiss gave some information concerning the (CUD). Martin Klein spoke. Article Passed.

ARTICLE 12 Shall the Town of Groton set the due date of Friday, November 6, 2020, by 5:00 PM est. as the deadline for the payment of taxes? (Postmarks are not accepted as a timely payment) Article Passed.

ARTICLE 13 Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,120,438 of which \$661,513 shall be raised by taxes and \$458,925 by non-tax revenues? Peter Lyon made the motion to amend the amount and put \$3,000 into the Community and Economic Development line that is at 0\$ at this time. Fred Braman seconded the motion. It was explained the CEDC had been dissolved and this is why there are no funds in it. The amendment was voted down. Failed. Olin Gay called the question. Dan Webster seconded the motion. The article passed with \$1,125,388 as the final budget because of the addition of Article 10.

ARTICLE 14 To transact any other business proper to come before this meeting, this does not include the expenditure of town funds or other business acted upon in the preceding articles. Peter Lyon presented Mary Grant with a plaque for the many years of service to the Town and Fall Foliage. Fred Braman would like to see Town Meeting changed to an evening or weekend. Pam Smith spoke about the NEKSRS Program. Tonya Palmer and the whole town Thanked Linda Nunn for her service. Stan Pierce Thanked the Fire and FAST Squad for their services. Zachary Conaway spoke concerning the Library. Richard Montague made the motion to adjourn. Olin Gay seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:22 PM


Linda L. Nunn, Town Clerk Brent Abare, Moderator Election Official

Respectfully submitted by Linda L Nunn, March 7, 2020

Town Elected Officers

Position	Name	Term Expires	Term Length
Moderator	Brent Abare	2020	1 Year
Road Commissioner	Harold Hatch	2020	1 Year
Town Clerk	Linda Nunn	2020	3 Years
Town Treasurer	Lisa Hart	2021	3 Years
Select Board	Wade Johnson Sr	2022	3 Years
	Aaron Smith	2021	3 Years
	Deborah Jurist	2020	3 Years
Lister	Carolyn Diggins	2021	3 Years
	Dorothy Knott	2020	3 Years
BMU District #21 Director	Allison Ingerson	2022	3 Years
	Sara Dennis	2021	3 Years
	Julie Oliver	2020	3 Years
Library Trustee	Alissa Smith	2022	3 Years
	Debra Tinkham	Resigned	1 Year
	Torie Peters	2021	2 Years
	Wade Johnson Jr	2021	2 Years
	Peggy Burgin	2021	3 Years
	Zachary Conaway	2020	1 Year
Cemetery Commissioner	Tony Dennis	2022	3 Years
	Shaun Stetson	2021	3 Years
	Aaron Smith	2020	3 Years
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Carrie Peters	2020	3 years
First Constable	Jim Downing	2020	2 Years
Second Constable	Shaun Stetson	2021	2 Years
Town Grand Juror	Gary Lamberton	2020	1 Year
Agent to Convey Real Estate	Deborah Jurist	2020	1 Year

Town Officers Appointed by Select Board

Position	Name	Term Expires	Length of Term
Health Officer	Daniel Webster (Res.)	2021	3 Years
Fire Chief	Wade Johnson, Sr.	2021	1 Year
Forest Fire Warden	Wade Johnson, Sr.	2021	5 Years
911 Coordinator	Brent Smith	2021	1 Year
Emergency Management Coordinator	Brent Smith	2021	1 Year
Fence Viewers	Wayne Dyer	2021	1 year
	E. Charles Frost, Jr.	2021	1 Year
	Ken Murray	2021	1 year
Inspectors of Wood, Lumber & Shingles	Kenneth Ricker	2021	1 Year
	Robert Dorr	2021	1 Year
NVDA Representative	Brent Smith	2021	1 Year
NVDA Alternative	Mark Gleicher	2021	1 Year
Zoning Administrator	Daniel Webster	2021	1 Year
Assistant Zoning Administrator	Bradley Houghton, Jr.	2021	1 Year
Zoning Board of Adjustment	Aaron Smith	2021	1 Year
	E. Charles Frost, Jr.	2021	1 Year
	Mark Gleicher	2021	1 Year
Select Board Secretary	Debra Johnson	2021	1 Year
Assistant Assessor	Dorothy Knott	2021	1 Year
Town Agent	Donna Russo-Savage	2021	1 Year
Town Service Officer	Carrie Peters	2021	1 Year
Animal Control Officer	Michelle Boyer	2023	3 Year
NEK Solid Waste Supervisor	Timothy Dailey, Sr.	2021	1 Year
NEK Solid Waste Alternative	Carolyn Diggins	2021	1 Year
Town Grand Juror	Gary Lamberton	2021	1 Year

Appointments cont.

Agent To Convey Real Estate	Deborah Jurist	2021	1 Year
Tree Warden	Steve Murray	2021	1 Year
Webmaster	Gary Lamberton	2021	1 Year
Planning Commission	Carrie Peters	2021	1 Year
	Brent Smith	2021	1 Year
	Steve Hart	2021	1 Year
	Emily Pratt	2021	1 Year
	Ruth Meteer	2021	1 Year
	Michael Nahmais	2021	1 Year
Green Up Coordinator	Alissa Smith	2021	1 Year
Weigher of Coal	Frank Lapham	2021	1 Year

Board of Civil Authority is made up of:	Select Board Members	Wade Johnson, Sr Aaron Smith Zachary Conaway
	Justices of the Peace	Linda Nunn Brent Smith Tirone Dyer Timothy Dailey, Sr. Deborah Jurist Dorothy Knott Carrie Peters

Board of Abatement is made up of:	Town Clerk	Carrie Peters*
	Town Treasurer	Lisa Hart
	Select Board Members	Wade Johnson, Sr. Aaron Smith Zachary Conaway
		John Westinghouse
		Dorothy Knott*
	Justices of the Peace*	Brent Smith Tirone Dyer Timothy Dailey, Sr. Linda Nunn Deborah Jurist

2021 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2020 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2020	Actual FY - 2020	Budget FY - 2021	Notes
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES				
SELECTBOARD				
Selectboard & Secretary Wages & All Payroll Taxes	6,729	6,590.18	6,743	
Selectboard Assistant Stipend	0	0.00	1,000	
Advertising, Postage, Supplies, Training & Mileage	925	1,056.34	1,130	
1. SELECTBOARD TOTAL	7,654	7,646.52	8,873	
TOWN CLERK & TREASURER				
Clerk & Assistants Wages, Vacation & Payroll Taxes	48,589	46,067.81	40,779	
Treasurer & Assistants Wages, Vacation & Payroll Taxes	53,487	55,083.49	55,277	
Retirement Benefits	3,559	3,994.10	4,174	
Health Insurance	26,073	24,328.46	34,569	
Training & Mileage	800	57.84	600	
2. CLERK & TREASURER TOTAL	132,508	129,531.70	135,399	
OFFICE EXPENSES - CLERK & TREAS				
Dues, Postage, Supplies & Advertising	4,930	4,820.29	4,920	
Telephone/Internet	1,900	2,067.21	1,900	
Land Records Online			1,920	
NEMRC Disaster Recovery & Support, IT Services & Equipment	4,417	4,080.37	4,317	
3. OFFICE EXPENSES	11,247	10,967.87	13,057	
DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION				
Del Tax Collector Wages	10,000	11,158.72	10,000	Wages off set by Delinquent Tax Penalty
Payroll Taxes/Retirement	765	1,264.39	1,225	Revenue (wages paid by penalty portion
Postage, Supplies, Telephone & Advertising	1,065	743.28	1,065	of delinquent tax payments)
NEMRC Disaster Recovery	625	625.00	625	
Training & Mileage	110	0.00	85	
4. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION TOTAL	12,565	13,791.39	13,000	
TOWN REPORT				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	539	543.49	562	
Postage & Supplies	330	398.77	450	
Printing & Reproduction	1,315	1,315.00	1,315	
Training & Mileage	0	0.00	0	
5. TOWN REPORT TOTAL	2,184	2,257.26	2,327	
ELECTIONS				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	862	867.36	539	
Postage, Supplies & Advertising	1,240	1,127.59	2,365	
Training & Mileage	170	68.00	125	
6. ELECTIONS TOTAL	2,272	2,062.95	3,029	
ASSESSORS				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	37,673	38,598.00	38,987	
Dues, Postage & Supplies	1,410	722.66	910	
Telephone/Internet	1,100	1,399.40	1,200	
Training & Mileage	1,225	284.78	1,050	
NEMRC, Cards, Disaster Recov & GIS Mapping	7,162	7,041.15	7,170	
7. ASSESSORS TOTAL	48,570	48,045.99	49,317	

2021 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2020 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2020	Actual FY - 2020	Budget FY - 2021	Notes
TOWN GENERAL EXPENSES				
VLCT Pacif, Worker's Comp, Unemp Ins, IT Serv.	11,951	11,890.43	10,922	
8. INSURANCE TOTAL	11,951	11,890.43	10,922	
Professional Audit/Services	1,300	1,275.00	1,300	
Attorney Fees	3,500	450.00	3,500	
9. LEGAL & PROF. SERVICES TOTAL	4,800	1,725.00	4,800	
NVDA Dues	767	767.00	767	
VLCT Dues	2,338	2,338.00	2,338	
10. DUES TOTAL	3,105	3,105.00	3,105	
Money Order Fee, Wire Fee & Interest Expense	150	104.55	100	
Caledonia County Tax	14,000	14,063.00	14,100	
11. COUNTY TAX & INTEREST EXP TOTAL	14,150	14,167.55	14,200	
TOWN GENERAL EXPENSES TOTAL	34,006	30,887.98	33,027	
1-11 ADMINISTRATION TOTAL	251,006	245,191.66	258,029	
12. PLANNING COMMISSION				
Stipend & Payroll Taxes	323	336.45	323	
Postage, Printing & Reproduction	263	0.00	263	
Training & Mileage	85	0.00	85	
PLANNING COMMISSION TOTAL	671	336.45	671	
12. ZONING				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	1,346	1,162.63	1,346	
Postage, Supplies & Advertising	100	55.00	100	
Training & Mileage	200	0.00	200	
ZONING TOTAL	1,646	1,217.63	1,646	
12. PLANNING AND ZONING TOTAL	2,317	1,554.08	2,317	
TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS	0	0.00	0	
PUBLIC WORKS				
13. TOWN CLOCK TOTAL	450	450.00	477	
Ryegate/Groton Recycling	8,000	8,824.45	8,000	
NEKWMD-Assessment	920	919.80	920	
Green Up Day	200	177.00	250	
Brush Burning Unit	0	0.00	1,500	
14. SOLID WASTE TOTAL	9,120	9,921.25	10,670	
15. STREETLIGHTS TOTAL	7,550	8,260.78	8,150	
COMMUNITY BUILDING				
Building Repairs & Maintenance	4,000	4,999.77	4,000	
Rubbish Removal & Supplies	2,200	2,483.86	2,200	
Electricity & Fuel Oil	8,800	8,354.62	8,800	
16. COMMUNITY BUILDING TOTAL	15,000	15,838.25	15,000	
TOWN PROPERTY MAINTENANCE				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	15,071	10,281.43	15,071	
Cleaning	6,500	6,375.00	10,000	
Park Electricity	300	346.22	350	
Gasoline	500	57.00	75	
Property Upkeep	10,000	3,906.50	8,000	
Supplies, Equipment & Mileage	1,000	316.27	425	
17. TOWN PROPERTY MAINTENANCE TOTAL	33,371	21,282.42	33,921	
18. TREE WARDEN TOTAL	470	269.13	370	
Cilley Property Expense	50,000	35,814.00	0	
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	13.56	0	
19. MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES TOTAL	50,000	35,827.56	0	
13-19 PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL	115,961.00	91,849.39	68,588.00	

2021 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2020 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2020	Actual FY - 2020	Budget FY - 2021	Notes
COMMITTEES				
Recreation Committee	1,875	926.03	1,875	
COMMITTEES TOTAL	1,875	926.03	1,875	
PUBLIC SAFETY				
20. ANIMAL CONTROL TOTAL	600	621.76	675	
21. HEALTH OFFICER TOTAL	699	538.25	968	
22. EMER SERVS INSURANCE TOTAL	11,741	11,718.00	10,663	
EMER SERVS GENERAL EXPENSES				
Ambulance Contract	22,959	22,959.00	25,000	
Repairs-ES Building	1,000	1,836.19	1,000	
Rubbish Removal & Supplies	1,150	1,439.43	1,000	
Telephone/Internet	1,900	1,754.62	1,800	
Electricity, Fuel Oil, Propane	4,200	3,011.91	4,200	
Dispatch Fees, Radios & Pagers	2,750	2,556.10	3,150	
23. EMER SERVS GENERAL EXP TOTAL	33,959	33,557.25	36,150	
FAST				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	17,225	13,800.77	14,533	
Supplies & Equipment	5,550	1,761.49	5,200	
Training & Mileage	8,000	2,232.02	5,500	
24. FAST EXPENSES TOTAL	30,775	17,794.28	25,233	
FIRE DEPT				
Wages, Stipend & Taxes	12,111	6,174.81	9,420	
Dues	2,000	2,029.00	2,500	
Gasoline & Diesel	1,150	917.70	1,150	
Tanker Loan Payment	20,321	20,320.59	20,321	
Repairs & Maintenance	10,950	14,239.01	12,000	
Supplies	3,200	3,538.19	3,200	
Training & Mileage	5,200	716.63	3,950	
Equipment-General	3,000	846.53	2,500	
25. FIRE DEPT EXPENSES TOTAL	57,932	48,782.46	55,041	
26. FOREST FIRE EXPENSES TOTAL	1,808	2,494.10	1,808	
FIRST CONSTABLE				
Wages, Payroll Taxes, Dues	13,666	13,205.64	13,939	
Supplies & Training	725	501.16	675	
Dispatch Fees, Radios & Pagers, Equip	2,700	2,250.00	2,700	
FIRST CONSTABLE TOTAL	17,091	15,956.80	17,314	
SECOND CONSTABLE				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	2,153	88.49	0	
Training	1,347	420.76	0	
SECOND CONSTABLE TOTAL	3,500	509.25	0	
CRUISER EXPENSES				
Gasoline, Repairs, Maint. & Supplies	2,900	2,737.96	2,900	
Equipment-Cruiser	50	0.00	50	
CRUISER EXPENSES TOTAL	2,950	2,737.96	2,950	
CONSTABLE & CRUISER INSURANCE TOTAL	4,018	4,052.80	3,253	
27. LAW ENFORCEMENT TOTAL	27,559	23,256.81	23,517	
20-27 PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL	165,073	138,762.91	154,055	

2021 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2020 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2020	Actual FY - 2020	Budget FY - 2021	Notes
CEMETERY				
Contracted Work, Riverside Cemetery	900	880.00	900.00	
Mowing	7,938	7,937.40	7,938	
Dues & Supplies	640	472.94	640	
CEMETERY EXPENSES TOTAL	9,478	9,290.34	9,478	
LIBRARY				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	22,168	22,583.00	22,783	
VLCT PACIF-Insurance	1,198	1,092.00	1,182	
Postage & Delivery	700	709.88	0	
Building Rent	5,700	5,700.00	18,000	
Books & Digital	5,000	4,807.85	5,000	
Supplies	2,000	850.22	2,000	
Furnishings & Equipment	200	176.82	0	
Telephone/Internet	1,800	1,854.88	1,800	
Software/Support, Computer Repairs & Fees	900	2,302.07	600	
LIBRARY EXPENSES TOTAL	39,666	40,076.72	51,365	
AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS				
Caledonia Home Health	1,350	1,350.00	1,350	
NEK Learning Services	200	200.00	200	
NEK Human Services	920	920.00	920	
NEK Youth Services	200	200.00	200	
NEK Council on Aging	700	700.00	700	
Rural Community Transportation	800	800.00	800	
Little Rivers Health Care	2,000	2,000.00	2,000	
Community Restorative Justice	250	250.00	250	
Groton Lunches With Friends	2,400	2,400.00	2,400	
Green Up Vermont	100	100.00	100	
Umbrella	650	650.00	650	
AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS TOTAL	9,570	9,570.00	9,570	
RESERVE FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS				
Comm Bldg Improvement Fund	20,000	20,000.00	20,000	
Emer Servs Bldg Improvement Fund	5,000	5,000.00	5,000	
Emer Servs Vehicles Fund	22,545	22,545.00	23,222	
Emer Servs Durable Equip Fund	18,000	18,000.00	18,000	
Constable Durable Equip Fund	4,950	4,950.00	2,500	
Reappraisal & Tax Maps Fund	1,200	1,200.00	1,200	
Recreation Fund	1,000	1,000.00	1,000	
Professional Services Fund	7,000	7,000.00	7,000	
Town Emergency Fund	2,000	2,000.00	2,000	
RESERVE FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS TOTAL	81,695	81,695.00	79,922	
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$ 676,641	\$ 618,916.13	\$ 635,199	

2021 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2020 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2020	Actual FY - 2020	Budget FY - 2021	Notes
HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSES				
HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES				
HWY LABOR				
Wages, OT, Temp. Wages, Vacation & Payroll Taxes	119,996	116,264.81	120,900	
Health Insurance	51,410	49,917.43	56,635	
Retirement	4,504	4,604.69	4,937	
HWY LABOR TOTAL	175,910	170,786.93	182,472	
HWY PACIF, WC INSURANCE TOTAL	19,982	21,712.40	20,414	
HWY CONTRACTED WORK				
Roadside Mowing	6,300	6,000.00	6,300	
Boulder Beach plowing	4,000	3,781.24	4,500	
Misc Contracted work	900	0.00	500	
HWY CONTRACTED WORK TOTAL	11,200	9,781.24	11,300	
HWY INFRASTRUCTURE				
Culverts	4,500	1,360.12	4,500	
Paving	0	455.70	0	
Signs	1,800	0.00	1,800	
HWY INFRASTRUCTURE TOTAL	6,300	1,815.82	6,300	
HWY MATERIALS				
Sand	14,000	14,225.50	15,000	
Salt	10,836	9,983.23	10,836	
Chloride	12,000	10,017.80	12,000	
Gravel	30,000	24,313.94	30,000	
HWY MATERIALS TOTAL	66,836	58,540.47	67,836	
HWY OPERATING EXPENSES				
Gasoline & Diesel	16,500	12,314.45	16,500	
Rental Equipment	500	0.00	500	
Supplies	6,000	5,751.56	6,000	
Training	100	0.00	100	
Radios & Pagers	500	525.60	500	
HWY OPERATING EXP TOTAL	23,600	18,591.61	23,600	
HWY EQUIPMENT REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE TOTAL	25,000	14,139.61	25,000	State Grants helped offset these expenses
HWY GARAGE REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE TOTAL	10,950	14,854.48	11,250	New furnace 2020
SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	3,230	2,045.36	3,230	
Gasoline	250	46.00	250	
Propane	800	695.98	800	
Bldg-Tractor Garage	100	0.00	100	
Repairs-Tractor (2004 John Deere)	400	362.51	400	
SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE TOTAL	4,780	3,149.85	4,780	
HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES TOTAL	344,558	313,372.41	352,952	
HWY RESERVE APPROPRIATION				
Hwy Equipment Reserve	64,189	64,189.00	66,115	
Hwy Infrastructure Reserve	10,000	10,000.00	0	
Hwy Paving Reserve	30,000	30,000.00	50,000	
	0	0.00	0	
HWY RESERVE APPROPRIATION TOTAL	104,189	104,189.00	116,115	
HIGHWAY BUDGET TOTAL	448,747	417,561.41	469,067	
GENERAL FUND AND HIGHWAY BUDGET TOTALS	1,125,388	1,036,477.54	\$ 1,104,266	

2020 Actual Revenues & 2021 Estimated Revenues				
	2020 Anticipated Revenues	2020 Actual Revenues	2021 Estimated Revenues	
TOWN REVENUES				
TAX REVENUES (no education taxes)				
Current Taxes	357,906.00	339,071.50	449,879.00	
DELINQUENT TAX REVENUES				
Delinquent Tax Interest	9,000.00	10,932.94	9,000.00	
Delinquent Tax Penalty Revenue	10,000.00	11,158.72	10,000.00	
TOTAL TOWN TAX REVENUES	376,906.00	361,163.16	468,879.00	
STATE OF VERMONT REVENUES				
Current Use	52,000.00	50,929.00	49,000.00	
PILOT(Payment in lieu of taxes) & Leaseland Revenue	90,001.00	99,890.20	90,000.00	
TOTAL STATE OF VERMONT REVENUES	142,001.00	150,819.20	139,000.00	
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES				
Interest Earned	2,000.00	1,706.48	1,600.00	
Misc Revenue	0.00	3,288.90	0.00	
	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL MISC REVENUES	2,000.00	4,995.38	1,600.00	
TOWN CLERK REVENUES				
Recordings, Vault Revenue	5,500.00	8,441.00	5,500.00	
Marriage & Dog Licenses	2,250.00	2,197.50	2,100.00	
Liquor/Tobacco Licenses	140.00	140.00	140.00	
Copies & Faxes Revenue	2,300.00	1,471.00	1,200.00	
Motor Vehicle Renewals	150.00	63.00	50.00	
TOTAL TOWN CLERK REVENUE	10,340.00	12,312.50	8,990.00	
LISTER REVENUE	800.00	7,632.00	830.00	56783 moved to Reappraisal reserve fund Jan 21
ZONING REVENUE	800.00	840.00	800.00	
COMMUNITY BLDG REVENUE	3,050.00	1,949.00	1,100.00	
FAST REVENUE(from Town of Ryegate)	10,000.00	10,897.85	10,000.00	
CONSTABLE REVENUE	4,000.00	4,972.00	4,000.00	
TOTAL TOWN REVENUES (Not including tax revenue)	191,991.00	216,509.59	185,320.00	
Proposed 2021 Town Budget			675,199.00	
Use of Fund Balance			40,000.00	
2021 Anticipated Revenues			185,320.00	
Difference to be raised by 2021 TOWN Taxes			449,879.00	
HIGHWAY REVENUES				
Hwy Current Tax Revenue	308,558.00	308,558.00	402,067.00	
State Hwy Aid	64,000.00	67,375.39	64,000.00	
Seyon Road Plowing	2,000.00	3,241.53	3,000.00	
Hwy Miscellaneous Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL HIGHWAY REVENUES(Not including tax revenue)	66,000.00	70,616.92	67,000.00	
Proposed 2021 Highway Budget			469,067.00	
Use of HWY Fund Balance			0.00	
2021 Anticipated HWY Revenues			67,000.00	
Difference to be raised by 2021 HWY Taxes			402,067.00	
TOTAL Estimated Tax Revenue needed for 2021			851,946.00	

2020 - RESERVE FUND ACTIVITY & BALANCES			
Town Emergency Fund		Restoration Fund	
Bank balance on 12/31/19	9,717.89	Bank balance on 12/31/19	34,232.15
Revenues:		Revenues:	
Interest received on account	18.99	Interest received on account	65.22
2020 Budget appropriation	2,000.00	Funds received from Recordings	2,874.00
Disbursements:	0.00	Disbursements:	
Bank balance on 12/31/20	11,736.88	Land Record Books	593.56
		Bank balance on 12/31/20	36,577.81
Community Building Improvement Fund		Professional Services Fund	
Bank balance on 12/31/19	72,232.87	Bank balance on 12/31/19	5,614.30
Revenues:		Revenues:	
Interest received on account	137.91	Interest received on account	11.29
2020 Budget appropriation	20,000.00	2020 Budget appropriation	7,000.00
Grant \$ from VT Agency Foundation- Groton Together	500.00	Disbursements:	
Donation (Eff VT 3302.40 & 85.00 Misc)	3,387.40	Town audit- Fothergill Segale & Valley	9,500.00
Grant \$ From Recreational Grant	15,000.00	Bank balance on 12/31/20	3,125.59
Grant \$ from LGER Grant (portion)	19,155.00		
Disbursements:		Highway Equipment Fund	
Energy Smart Gym Insulation	15,000.00	Bank balance on 12/31/19	162,328.01
Balance Insulating Gym	812.00	Revenues:	
Painting of Gym	4,400.00	Interest received on account	284.45
LGGER Grant	500.00	2020 Budget appropriation	64,189.00
Balance of Covid Expenses	43.81	Recycle metal	608.50
Neopco Electronic Sign (portion)	19,155.00		
Bank balance on 12/31/2020	90,502.37	Disbursements:	
		Purchased 2009 Cat Grader	101,000.00
Emergency Service Building Improvement Fund		Bank balance on 12/31/20	126,409.94
Bank balance on 12/31/19	35,297.80		
Revenues:		Highway Paving Fund	
Interest received on account	68.68	Bank balance on 12/31/19	42,488.01
2020 Budget appropriation	5000	Revenues:	
Disbursements:		Interest received on account	63.05
Building Repairs-VT Door Co.	129.50	2020 Budget appropriation	30,000.00
Bank balance on 12/31/2019	40,236.98	Disbursements:	
		Cold patch	982.87
Emergency Service Vehicle Fund		Paving Powder Spring Road	63,512.20
Bank balance on 12/31/19	46,432.06	Bank balance on 12/31/20	8,055.99
Revenues:		Highway Infrastructure Fund	
Interest received on account	91.95	Bank balance on 12/31/19	65,762.26
2020 Budget appropriation	22,545.00	Revenues:	
Disbursements:	0.00	Interest received on account	128.49
Bank balance on 12/31/2020	69069.01	2020 Budget appropriation	10,000.00
		State of VT Supplement \$ (as no Grants were honored)	17,471.51
Emergency Service Durable Equipment Fund		Disbursements:	0.00
Bank balance on 12/31/2019	13,508.74	Bank balance on 12/31/20	93,362.26
Interest received on account	27.92		
2020 Budget appropriation	18,000.00	Sidewalk Fund	
Disbursements:	0.00	Bank balance on 12/31/19	2,482.25
Bank balance on 12/31/2020	31,536.66	Interest received on account	4.82
		Bank balance on 12/31/20	2,487.07
Reappraisal & Tax Mapping Fund		Recreation Committee Fund	
Bank balance on 12/31/19	39,137.64	Bank balance on 12/31/19	13,424.30
Revenues:		Interest received on account	25.53
Interest received on account	75.73	Donations	940.00
2020 Budget appropriation	1,200.00	2020 appropriation	1000.00
Disbursements:	0	Disbursements:	
Bank balance on 12/31/20	40,413.37	Concrete for Dug Outs- Frank Page	1,940.00
		2019 - Real Bounce-Winter Solstice	260.00
Constable Durable Equipment Fund		Bank balance on 12/31/2020	13,189.83
New account in 2020	4,950.00	Total of all Reserve Bank balances as of 12/31/20	571,653.89
Interest received on account	0.13		
Bank balance on 12/31/2020	4,950.13		

**Reserve Fund Articles as voted by year with description of purpose and
balance as of December 31, 2020**

Reappraisal & Tax Mapping Fund

March 4, 2003, Article 7: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Tax Mapping and Reappraisal Fund in the amount of \$25,000.00?

The Tax Mapping and Reappraisal Fund was established on March 4, 2003 in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the purpose of building up a Reserve Fund to pay for future appraisals and updates of the property values listed in the Grand list and update the tax maps on a yearly maintenance schedule of the Town of Groton. **Balance \$40,413.37**

Community Building Improvement Fund

March 1, 2005, Article 8: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Community Building Improvement Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00? (24 V.S.A. §2804)

The Community Building Improvement Fund was established for the purpose of building up a reserve fund to finance future upgrades and improvements to the Community Building. The monies for this fund are to be used only for the improvement and upgrade of the Community Building. **Balance \$90,502.37**

Emergency Services Building Improvement Fund

March 1, 2005, Article 9: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Emergency Services Building Improvement Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00? (24 V.S.A. §2804)

The Emergency Services Building Improvement Fund is to be used for improvements to the Groton Fire Station.

Including but not limited to: Heating plant, Electrical, insulation, Painting, Door Replacement, Generator installation, internal plumbing and other improvements as voted by the Fire Department. The Fire Department presents their recommendations to the Selectboard for final approval.

Balance \$40,236.98

Emergency Services Vehicles Fund

March 1, 2005, Article 10: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Emergency Services Vehicles Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00? (24 V.S.A. §2804)

The Emergency Services Vehicles Fund shall be used for the replacement of Vehicles to include, Rescue Vehicle/Ambulance, Engine, Forest Fire Vehicle other vehicle as voted by the Fire Department. The Fire Department presents their recommendations to the Selectboard for final approval.

Balance \$69,069.01

Restoration and Preservation Reserve Funds

March 7, 2006 (1st Warned as ARTICLE 7): Shall the Town of Groton establish a reserve fund for the restoration and preservation of the Land and Vital records to be funded by the \$1.00 per page recording fee? (Up graded in 2010 see below)

March 2, 2010 (2nd Article on Warning): ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Groton approve any increase of the annual amount reserved for the restoration and preservation of the Land and Vital records to be based upon the recording fee paid per page as determined by the Vermont Legislature?

The voters of the Town of Groton established a Municipal Records Reserve Fund for the restoration and preservation of "town records" in accordance with VSA Title 24, Section 2804 including, but not limited to, land records, vital records and, proper vault storage of town records. This fund is not to be used for anything other than the restoration, preservation, conservation and computerization of records, to be funded by revenue of not less than \$3.00 per page.

Section 1671 (a) (1) and (6) of this section and this reserve fund shall be retroactive to July 1, 2009. The exact amount shall be determined by the local legislative body.

Shall the Town of Groton approve any increase of the annual amount reserved for the restoration and preservation of the Land and Vital Records to be based upon the recording fee paid per page as determined by the Vermont Legislature? **Balance \$36,577.81**

Recreation Reserve Funds

March 7, 2010: ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Groton authorize the Selectboard to appoint a Recreational Committee and establish a reserve fund of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to be used by the Recreational Committee for any projects and/or activities?

The recreation reserve fund was established and covered large, extraordinary expenses. And will cover short falls in committee events when donations for such events lag. **Balance \$13,189.83**

Town Emergency Reserve Funds

March 4, 2014: ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Groton authorize the creation of an Emergency Reserve Fund for the purpose of unforeseen Emergencies?

Town of Groton Emergency Reserve Fund is created for the sole purpose of providing financial stability to the Town in the case of a severe emergency. Money is to be set aside to support serious issues only with a goal to maintain the fund at 10% of the total budget. When looking for examples of where the application of the money would likely be required, the instance of Tropical Storm Irene applies where the Welton Road Bridge was seriously damaged.

Balance \$11,736.88

Sidewalk Funds

March 3, 2015: ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve account to be called “Sidewalk Fund” for the construction and maintenance of sidewalks in the amount of \$15,000.00?

Balance \$ 2,487.07

Professional Services Fund

March 1 2016: ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of reserve account to be called “Professional Services Fund” for the purpose of audit consulting services and to fund the reserve fund with \$4533.00.

Balance \$ 3,125.59

Emergency Service Durable Equipment Fund

March 5, 2019: ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town establish a Reserve Fund to be called the Emergency Services Durable Equipment Fund to be used for the purchase and replacement of durable Fire Department and FAST equipment in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2804?

March 5, 2019: ARTICLE 7: What sum of money, shall the Town approve to raise and appropriate to fund the establishment of the Emergency Services Durable Equipment Reserve Fund? “Not to exceed \$18,000.00”

Balance \$ 31,536.66

Constable Durable Equipment Fund

March 3, 2020: ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town of Groton establish a reserve fund to be called the Constable Durable Equipment Reserve Fund to be used for the purchase and replacement of durable equipment associated with the performance of Constable duties in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 2804?

and appropriate \$4950.00 to fund this Reserve account?

Balance \$ 4,950.13

Highway Equipment Reserve Fund

March 7, 1999: ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters of the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Highway Equipment Fund with the funds from the highway budget, in the amount of \$15,000.00 As budgeted this year, to be used for capital expenses within that department? (24 V.S.A. Sec. 2804)

This fund is to be used for replacement of Highway Department Equipment and unforeseen major capital repairs that could arise. The Highway Department will maintain a replacement schedule and update it annually. At the present time the trucks and grader will be replaced with new, and the loader, backhoe and chipper will be replaced with used.

Funding of this fund is a line item in the highway budget that is increased three percent annually. Other funds would come from the sale of surplus equipment and settlements from insurance claims.

The goal of having this fund is to maintain reliable equipment that will allow the Highway Department to provide a reasonable level of service to the needs of the highways infrastructure while maintaining a stable annual cost. **Balance \$126,409.94**

Highway Paving Reserve Funds

March 4, 2007: ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Groton establish a Paving Reserve Fund in the amount of \$40,306.00 of unspent 2007 Highway fund?

This fund is to be used for paving Class 2 and Class 3 projects that follows the parameters of the VTRANS Town Highway Class 2 Roadway Program.

Projects shall include detailed work for the preservation of any Class 2 town highway for resurfacing and reconstruction based on identified needs. Eligible activities include preliminary engineering, construction, and construction inspection/management.

The goal of having this fund is to maintain Class 2 and Class 3 paved highways while maintaining a stable annual cost. **Balance \$ 8,055.99**

Highway Infrastructures Reserve Funds

March 6, 2012: ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town establish a reserve fund for bridges, culverts and highway infrastructures to initially be funded by a \$2000.00 addition to the 2012 Highway Budget?

This fund is to be used for large highway projects that it would not be feasible to fund in a single year and projects that could take several years to plan and complete.

This fund could also be used to leverage highway grant funds that may become available for smaller projects that maybe unforeseen when setting budgets.

Funding of this fund will be for the annual line item in the highway budget. Additional funding will come from grant funds when in kind work exceeds the actual matching cost of a grant. An example would be in kind work (equipment time and labor) performed by the Highway Department that was reimbursable expenses.

The Highway Department will continue to maintain and update the bridge and culvert inventory at <http://vtculverts.org/> and use the data to aid in replacement schedule. Large structures over 20 feet span are inspected by VTRANS every two years and reported to the Select Board.

The goal of having this fund is to maintain Highway Bridges, Culverts & Infrastructures while maintaining a stable annual cost. **Balance \$ 93,362.26**

Non-Highway Grants Received IN 2020

LGER Grant

The Local Government Expense Reimbursement (LGER) Grant is funded by the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) through the State of Vermont. Eligible expenses included:

General expenses, technology expenses, payroll expenses & miscellaneous expenses

Library Covid-19 Expenses	\$1,067.75
Town/HWY Covid-19 expenses	\$1,664.99
New Town Sign with Electronic Informational Sign	<u>\$25,540.00</u>

Total Expense **\$28,272.74**

Received from State of VT, LGER Grant	\$27,729.43
Received from VT Agency Foundation Grant (Groton Together)	<u>\$500.00</u>

Total Received **\$28,229.43**

Difference paid out of Community Building Reserve Fund	<u>\$43.31</u>
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(DGZ) Grant

Coronavirus Municipal Records Digitization Grants (DGZ) were issued to help provide economic support to town offices to reimburse certain costs associated with making digital copies of land records available online for public access through a secure portal. The funds can be used to cover costs directly associated with digitizing land records.

To be an eligible use under the CRF guidance, this software implementation program had to be procured, implemented, and fully operational on or before November 1, 2020 in order to provide material benefit during the time period ending on December 30, 2020. To qualify for this reimbursement municipalities had to digitize at least five years of land records, dating back to at least November 1, 2015.

Eligible reimbursement requests include the following:

Scanner purchase

Vendor contract fees for digitizing and making available via an online portal all historical, current and backlog of land records

Vendor contract fees to update municipal parcel data

Cott Systems Land Records Management System and Services	\$17,011.40
Public Research Computer	<u>\$859.00</u>

Total Expense **\$17,870.40**

Received from State of Vermont, DGZ Grant	<u>\$17,870.40</u>
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CTCL Covid-19 Elections Grant

These grant funds must be used exclusively for the public purpose of planning and operating a safe and secure election.

Expenses covered: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), signage, traffic control, publish reminder to voters, hazard pay, site cleaning, administrative, equipment, training.

Expenses included: masks, sanitizer stand, sanitizer, tables, chairs, stanchions, air purifiers, emergency cones, outdoor lights, hand truck, hazard pay, signage	\$4,605.85
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Received from CTCL Grant	<u>\$5,000.00</u> *Unspent amount can be used in 2021
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Recreation Facilities Grant (RFG)

These funds must be used by a municipality for a facility that provides, coordinates, or organizes recreational programs for youth and /or adults in the community area.

Insulation of Community Building Gym	\$15,812.00 *
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Received from State of Vermont(RFG)	\$15,000.00
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Difference paid out of Community Building Reserve Fund	\$812.00
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* This project was already approved to be paid in its entirety out of the CB Reserve, so the grant lessened the amount the Reserve needed to pay.

GRAND TOTAL
\$\$ RECEIVED **\$66,099.83**

TOWN OF GROTON
BALANCE SHEET BY FUND-2020

ASSET	General	Highway	Cemetery Restricted	Library Restricted	Reserve Funds Restricted	Grant Fund	Food Shelf Restricted	FAST Restricted	Total
CASH ACCOUNTS									
MB-General Fund	263,623.88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	263,623.88
MB-Customer ACH Deposits	0.36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.36
MB-HRA acct	64.03	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64.03
General Fund CD RES	-	-	-	-	204,938.56	-	-	-	204,938.56
WRSB-Del Tax Acct	245.68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	245.68
Petty Cash	56.38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56.38
MB-Perpetual Care	-	-	90,562.74	-	-	-	-	-	90,562.74
MB-H.Hosmer Trust	-	-	3,294.28	-	-	-	-	-	3,294.28
WRSB-Development Funds	-	-	11,482.36	-	-	-	-	-	11,482.36
WRSB-Cemetery Lot Fund	-	-	6,899.74	-	-	-	-	-	6,899.74
WRSB MJ Ricker Hall Trust	-	-	1,063.83	-	-	-	-	-	1,063.83
TD Roosevelt Carter Trust	-	-	6,199.92	-	-	-	-	-	6,199.92
Library Funds	-	-	-	23,332.58	-	-	-	-	23,332.58
Library Endowment Fund	-	-	-	49,151.03	-	-	-	-	49,151.03
Library Capital Improvement	-	-	-	31,600.78	-	-	-	-	31,600.78
Library ACH Account	-	-	-	9.00	-	-	-	-	9.00
Library American Fund Stock	-	-	-	21,822.80	-	-	-	-	21,822.80
Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-	522,398.59	-	-	-	522,398.59
Grant Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Food Shelf	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,842.83	-	11,842.83
FAST	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	613.89	613.89
Total CASH ACCOUNTS	263,990.33	0	119,502.87	125,916.19	727,337.15	0	11,842.83	613.89	1,249,203.26
Receivables									
Del Tax Interest/Other Re	11,672.68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,672.68
Del Tax Receivable	125,426.29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	125,426.29
Penalty Receivable	8,698.85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,698.85
Accounts Receivable	-	2,367.43	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,367.43
Grant Receivable	0	-	-	-	-	16,680.00	-	-	16,680.00
Gilman Note Receivable	610,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	610,000.00
Total Receivables	755,797.82	2,367.43	0	0	0	16,680.00	0	0	774,845.25
Highway Inventory	-	19,187.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,187.00
Prepaid Expenses	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Due To/From Acct	(98,239.74)	85,540.18	173.02	(4,258.34)	28,036.42	(11,083.45)	(168.09)	0	(0.00)
TOTAL ASSETS	921,548.41	107,094.61	119,675.89	121,657.85	755,373.57	5,596.55	11,674.74	613.89	2,043,235.51

Balance sheet cont.

	General	Highway	Cemetery	Library	Reserve Funds	Grant Fund	Food Shelf	FAST	Total
Liability			Restricted	Restricted	Restricted		Restricted	Restricted	
Dental Insurance Payable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
AFLAC Payable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Health Ins Payable	(2,176.02)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,176.02)
Prepaid Health Ins - HRA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Accounts Payable	14,711.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,711.50
Deferred Grant Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	394.15	-	-	394.15
Prepaid Taxes	1,813.48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,813.48
Deferred Tax Revenue	126,041.86	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	126,041.86
Tax Clearing Account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gilman Housing Grant Liab	610,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	610,000.00
Fees Due the State of Vt	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Total Liability	750,390.82	0	0	0	0	394.15	0	0	750,784.97
Fund Balance	General	Highway	Cemetery	Library	Reserves	Grants	Food Shelf	FAST	
Fund Balance General Fund	(262,296.42)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(262,296.42)
Fund Balance Highway	-	(39,260.59)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(39,260.59)
Fund Balance Cemetery	-	-	754.90	-	-	-	-	-	754.90
Fund Balance Library	-	-	-	6,495.09	-	-	-	-	6,495.09
Fund Balance Reserves	-	-	-	-	(1,219.69)	-	-	-	(1,219.69)
General Fund CD Reserve	-	-	-	-	204,938.56	-	-	-	204,938.56
Community Bldg Improve	-	-	-	-	41,347.87	-	-	-	41,347.87
Emer Servs Bldg Improve	-	-	-	-	40,236.98	-	-	-	40,236.98
Emer Servs Durable Equip	-	-	-	-	31,536.66	-	-	-	31,536.66
Emer Servs Vehicles	-	-	-	-	69,069.01	-	-	-	69,069.01
Reappraisal/ Tax Maps	-	-	-	-	40,413.37	-	-	-	40,413.37
Recreation	-	-	-	-	13,189.83	-	-	-	13,189.83
Restoration/Preservation	-	-	-	-	36,577.81	-	-	-	36,577.81
Town Emergency Fund	-	-	-	-	11,736.88	-	-	-	11,736.88
Hwy Equipment	-	-	-	-	126,409.94	-	-	-	126,409.94
Highway Infrastructure Fu	-	-	-	-	93,362.26	-	-	-	93,362.26
Sidewalk Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-	2,487.07	-	-	-	2,487.07
Highway Paving	-	-	-	-	8,055.99	-	-	-	8,055.99
Prof. Services Res Fund	-	-	-	-	3,125.59	-	-	-	3,125.59
Food Shelf Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,299.87	-	1,299.87
FAST Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	110.00	110.00
Total Prior Years Fund Balance	433,454.01	146,355.20	118,920.99	115,162.76	521,279.70	(1,012.60)	10,374.87	503.89	1,345,038.82
Fund Balance Current Year	(262,296.42)	(39,260.59)	754.90	6,495.09	234,093.87	6,215.00	1,299.87	110.00	(52,588.28)
Total Fund Balance	171,157.59	107,094.61	119,675.89	121,657.85	755,373.57	5,202.40	11,674.74	613.89	1,292,450.54
Total Liability & Fund Balance	921,548.41	107,094.61	119,675.89	121,657.85	755,373.57	5,596.55	11,674.74	613.89	2,043,235.51

Town of Groton Employee Wage Summary Report
01/01/2020-12/31/2020

Employee	Position	Gross	Hourly Rates	Employer	Retirement	Employer
				Share of Payroll Taxes		Cost (excluding Insurance)
Bruleigh Brenda	EMT	3,677.36	15.00	281.33		3,958.69
Bruleigh Charles	EMT/Fire Fighter	2,633.72	15.00/10.18	201.47		2,835.19
Carle, Justin	Fire Fighter	84.00	10.18	6.42		90.42
Colby, Lillian	EMT	150.00	15.00	11.48		161.48
Conaway, Zachary	Select Board Member	1,250.00	Stipend	95.63		1,345.63
Curtis Derek J	EMT	3,237.00	15.00	247.63		3,484.63
Diggins Caroline K	Lister/Ballot Clerk	1,048.35	20.32/11.00	80.20		1,128.55
Doscinski Leonard E	EMT/Fire Fighter	42.00	15.00	3.21		45.21
Downing James A Jr	1 st Constable/ Temp Hwy	13,117.18	21.39/25.00	1,003.51		14,120.69
Fisher, Charles	Forest Fighter	42.00	21.00	3.21		45.21
Fleurie-Wohlleb Jodi A	Librarian	20,978.28	18.00	1,604.72		22,583.00
Gandin Benjamin	Snow removal/Temp Hwy/CB Maintenance	3,375.00	25.00	258.20		3,633.20
Genereaux, Mairead	EMT	90.00	15.00	6.89		96.89
Hart Lisa JL	Treasurer /Collector Taxes/Ballot Clerk	46,386.46	21.39/11.00	3,548.63	1,288.49	51,223.58
Hatch Harold	Road Commissioner	58,975.00	25.00	3,671.06	1,630.33	64,276.39
Johnson Carla R	Ballot Clerk	55.00	11.00	4.21		59.21
Johnson Debra E	Select Board Secretary	2,426.51	80.00 per meeting/16.50	185.62		2,612.13
Johnson, Wade A JR	Fire Fighter	609.14	10.18	46.59		655.73
Johnson Wade A Sr	Select Board Member/Fire Chief/Fire Fighter	3,350.00	SB-Stipend 1250.00 /Fire Chief- 1250.00 Fire Fighter 12.50	256.30		3,606.30
Joy Carol B	Fire Fighter	222.00	15.00	16.99		238.99
Knott Dorothy L	Lister/Asst. Assessor/Fire Fighter/Fast/Ballot Clerk	22,738.61	16.48/20.00/12.50/11.00	1,739.60		24,478.21
Knott Henry C	EMT	2,604.00	15.00	199.21		2,803.21
Knott Wayne C	Fire Fighter	924.25	12.50	70.70		994.95
Lamberton Gary F	IT Person	1,250.00	Stipend 1250.00	95.63		1,345.63
Lapham Frank	Fire Fighter/ Maintenance Person	2,724.25	12.50	208.41		2,932.66
Lourenco Joseph M	Fire Fighter	25.00	12.50	1.91		26.91
Murray Steven	Tree Warden	250.00	Stipend 250.00	19.13		269.13
Nunn Linda L	Town Clerk/Ballot Clerk	13,390.33	21.39/11.00	1,024.38	338.07	14,752.78
Palmer Phillip E	HWY Equipment Operator	47,565.00	21.00	3,638.74	1,314.33	52,518.07
Peters Carrie A	Town Clerk/Assistant Treasurer/Asst Clerk/Ballot (CDT Wages are not paid by Town)	38,638.66	21.39/19.57/19.57/11.00	1,717.70	3,809.53	44,165.89
Peters Torie	Ballot Clerk	99.00	11.00	7.58		106.58
Smith Aaron J	Select Board Member/EMT	2,835.50	Stipend 1250.00/15.00	216.91		3,052.41
Smith Brent D	Temp Hwy	15,275.19	25.00	108.41		15,383.60
Stetson Shaun T	Fire Fighter	1,097.70	15.00	83.97		1,181.67
Webster Daniel	Health Officer/Zoning Administrator	1,580.00	Stipend 500.00/25.00 a permit/ 40.00 a month	120.88		1,700.88
Westinghouse, John	Town Assessor	13,830.00	60.00	1,058.03		38,638.00
Totals- Employees Reported: 39		326,656.49		21,850.61	8,380.75	356,887.85
Total Health Care Costs						74,245.89
Total Cost of Employee's including benefits						431,133.74

Policy for Collection of Delinquent Taxes
Town of Groton, Vermont
Adopted January 2020

Summary

To be fair to all town taxpayers, this collection policy recognizes that individuals may go through periods of financial difficulty. At the same time, the policy asserts that, in general, shifting the burden of one property owner's debt onto other property owners in the town is not appropriate.

It is the responsibility of the taxpayer to contact the Collector of Delinquent Taxes to set up an arrangement to make payments, if needed. A time frame for payment will depend on circumstances and may stretch at most to August 1st of the following year that taxes were due. Scheduled payments must be regularly made and the property cannot go further delinquent. Properties that have been delinquent without receipt of full payment by the Collector and a written agreement specifying regular payments sufficient to clear the back taxes by the August 1st deadline will be processed for tax sale or for other methods of collection. Properties on which a payment schedule is not faithfully fulfilled or that fall further delinquent may be processed for tax sale or other methods of collection. All costs of any method of collection will accrue against the taxpayer and may become a lien on the property.

Overview and Philosophy

It is in the best interest of the Town of Groton and of its residents that property taxes be paid when they are due. Town and school budgets are set in anticipation of the collection of taxes, and taxes not paid by some property owners shift the cost burden onto others. As Collector of Delinquent Taxes, I will work with people in a diplomatic and professional manner to help them become current in their obligation to the town. However, if a taxpayer fails to contact me, or if a taxpayer does not become current within what I as Collector believe to be a reasonable length of time, or if a taxpayer does not deal in good faith, it is my duty to proceed with any and all appropriate collection methods to recover the debt in a timely manner, and I shall do so. The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines so that all delinquent taxpayers will be treated fairly and both the Town and the taxpayer know what to expect. Delinquent taxes represent a lien on the property and remain in effect until the delinquent tax, penalty, and interest have been paid in full.

Notices

Within 20 days after receiving the warrant and list of delinquent property tax owners from the Town Treasurer, the Collector of Delinquent Taxes will mail the initial notice. This initial notice will indicate the amount of delinquent tax, assessed penalty, and accrued interest. The Collector will include with the initial delinquency notice a statement explaining the possibility of tax abatement. Follow-up delinquency notices will be sent monthly until taxes, penalty, and interest have been paid in full. It is the responsibility of the property owner or taxpayer to notify the town in writing of any change of mailing address or contact information.

Penalty

A onetime penalty in an amount set by the voters, (8%), is assessed on the original amount of the tax delinquency.

Interest

On the date that the warrant is issued to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes by the Treasurer and again on the first day of each month after, interest on the delinquent tax balance is assessed at the monthly rate determined by the voters. Voters set the amount of interest at one percent (1.0%) per month or any part of a month for the first 3 months and one and one half percent (1.5%) thereafter.

Payments and Receipts

Full payment of a delinquent account in a lump sum is preferred. Payment may be mailed or hand delivered to the Town Office at 1476 Scott Highway, Groton, Vermont 05046. The Collector will retain a copy of each receipt issued. A payment will be credited as having been received per the legible date stamped or written on the envelope or check by the Town official receiving the payment. Postdated checks will not be accepted. Requests to hold checks for later deposit will not be honored. Cash payments will be accepted. You may also make payment online at www.Officialpayments.com, or by visiting our Town website at www.grotonvt.com and following the link to Official Payments on the right side of the page. Online payments will be credited by the time stamp of the transaction.

Acceptance of Partial Payments

Acceptance of partial payments in no way excuses the taxpayer from liability for the entire balance due, including all interest and penalty and any costs.

Allocation of Partial Payments

Each partial payment will be applied first to the outstanding accrued interest and penalty. Any remainder will be proportionately applied to tax.

Bad Payments

If a payment is returned or refused due to insufficient funds or for any other reason not the fault of the Town or of the Collector, the taxpayer will be charged all associated costs and will lose the privilege of submitting payment by any device except pre-paid cashier's check.

Collection after Extended Delinquency

If delinquent tax bills have not been paid in full on or before August 1st of the following year that the taxes were originally due, the Collector of Delinquent Taxes may begin the following actions to collect the taxes, penalty, interest, costs, and fees:

Tax Sale: The Collector will engage an attorney to conduct a tax sale of the property or of as much of the property as is necessary to pay the tax, interest, penalty, costs, and fees. The taxpayer and mortgage and lien holders will be notified of the tax sale decision, the deadline date by which full payment must be received to avert sale, and the costs to expect once the sale process begins. Absolutely no partial payments will be accepted after issuance of the notice of tax sale. If the deadline for full payment passes and full payment has not been received, a tax sale will be conducted according to procedures specified in 32 VSA § 5252. Costs of preparing and conducting the sale, including legal fees up to a maximum of 15% of the amount of delinquent tax, will be charged to the delinquent taxpayer. In the event that no one purchases the property at tax sale or if in the judgment of the Collector proceeding

with the tax sale is inadvisable, the Collector shall collect the delinquent taxes using any and all means permitted by law, or may place the property on the following year's tax sale list.

Court Action: The Collector may file a complaint with the Caledonia County Small Claims Court or Caledonia Superior Court.

Abatement of Taxes

Each taxpayer has a right to apply for abatement of property taxes based on any of the grounds listed in 24 VSA § 1535. See the attached Notice of Abatement of Taxes. To request a meeting with the Board of Abatement, please contact the town clerk at 584-3276.

Notice of Possibility of Abatement of Taxes

The Board of Abatement of the Town of Groton is authorized under law, 24 V.S.A. sections 1533-1537, to conduct hearings on requests for abatement of real and personal property taxes. Not every taxpayer is eligible for abatement of taxes, but if you believe you meet the criteria listed below, you may want to consider requesting a hearing. The appropriate paperwork is available at the Groton Town Office.

The criteria include:

Taxes of persons who have died insolvent.

Taxes of persons who have moved from the state.

Taxes of persons who are unable to pay their taxes, interest, and collection fees.

Taxes in which there is a manifest error or a mistake of the Listers.

Taxes upon real or personal property lost or destroyed during the tax year.

If you believe you qualify for abatement, you should take immediate action to request a hearing, as filing the application does not stay the collection of your property tax. If you file the paperwork to request a hearing, the Board of Abatement will notify you of the date, time, and place of your hearing and you will be responsible for supplying evidence to support your request. The board is under no obligation to grant any abatement request and may choose to abate all, part, or none of the taxes, interest, and penalties due.

Respectfully,
Carrie Peters
Collector of Delinquent Taxes
Town of Groton
1476 Scott Highway
Groton, Vermont 05046

802-584-3004
Cdt@grotonvt.com

Delinquent Tax Report as of 12/31/2020

Name	Tax Year	Name	Tax Year
ADAMS, MICHAEL	2020	NURSE, STEFAN	2020
BATCHELDER, BARBARA	2020	PALMER, JAYME	2019/2020
BATSAKIS, ANDREW	2020	PHILLIPS, PAMELA	2020
BERRY, STEPHEN	2020	QUINTAINE, MARIE	2019/2020
BOGIE, KELLY	2020	SANVILLE, ARNOLD	2019/2020
BOISVERT, ELLIE	2020	SANVILLE, CHARLOTTE	2018/2019/2020
BOURDEAU, DONALD	2019/2020	SLAYTON, DAVID	2020
BOYCE, DOUGLAS	2019/2020	THOMAS, BRYCE	2020
BOYCE, MARY ELLEN	2020	WILLIAMS, THOMAS	2020
CALVELLO, NICHOLAS	2018/2019/2020	WOOD, ROSE MARIE	2020
CAMP MUFFET LLC	2020	YEAGER, KARL	2019/2020
CAREY, JANNEL	2020		
CORBETT MARY	2020		
CORBETT MARY	2020	Total Principal Outstanding	As of 12/31/2020
CORREIRA DAVID	2020		
CROWN, SHAWN	2020	Tax Year 2015	\$1,606.61
CROWN, SHAWN	2020	Tax Year 2016	\$2,037.46
DARLING, HENRY	2019/2020	Tax Year 2017	\$5,726.69
DARLING, HENRY	2019/2020	Tax Year 2018	\$3,095.11
DAVIS, DONNA	2020	Tax Year 2019	\$32,303.19
DICKEY, CHRISTY	2020	Tax Year 2020	\$80,657.23
EASTMAN, ,MARY	2020		
ELLISON, DAVID	2016-2020	TOTAL	\$125,426.29
FEESER, GRETCHEN	2020		
FULFORD, HEIDI	2020		
GOODRICH, ROBERT	2015 & 2017		
GRANT, JEFFREY	2019/2020	Paid 1/1/21 thru printing	\$19,308.94
HAND, SARKIS	2019/2020		
JOHNS, BRIAN	2020	Batchelder, Barbara	
KENNEDY, MICHAEL	2020	Berry, Stephen	
LASELL, HORACE	2020	Bourdeau, Donald	
LEPENVEN, LARRY	2019/2020	Calvello, Nicholas, 2 years	
LESIEUR, RONALD	2019/2020	Dickey, Christy	
LORD, JOHN	2020	Lepenven, Larry 2019 part 2020	
LUCAS, CONNOR	2020	Nurse, Stefan	
MERCON, OWEN	2020	Sanville both properties all years	
MERRYFIELD, MICHELLE	2020	Kennedy, Michael	
NAUGHTON, BRIAN	2019/2020	Total Principal Outstanding As of printing report	\$106,117.35

Property Transfers January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

SELLER	BUYER	ACRES	ADDRESS
Sullivan, Linda M	Ormiston, Louie G Jr	12	44 Cross Rd
Brueckner, Dawn & William Jr	Fleurie Family Trust	390	4579 Scott Hwy
Page, Keith & Lauren M	McAllister, Daniel J & Susan M	24	802 Levi Pond Rd
Pappas, Peter	Viviano, Michael	2.4	Minard Hill Rd, West
Mcghee, Marla & Timothy	Marks, Sarah & Mcghee Andrea	20.42	1630 Great Rd
Reid, Robert & Eileen	Siegel, Elliot & Stephanie	10.3	549 Little Italy Rd
Citimortgage Inc	Ristau, Erich & Ogordon James	0.66	1518 Scott Hwy
Hood, Mark	Alvarado, Yasmin & Felix, Sashly	14.1	717 Powder Spring Rd
Kreis, Diane	Bessette, Terry	1.49	389 Scott Hwy
Crowell, Michael & Lovering Barbara	Fitzpatrick, Sean & Sarah	2.3	461 Branch Brook Rd
Boyce, Mary Ellen	Emerson Property Management LLC	0.54	42 Power House Rd
Thomas, Paul	Mercon, Owen	2	1756 Annis Rd
Brooks, Richard	Braman JR, Fred L	0.5	1992 Scott Hwy
Ivery, Jennifer	Gallagher, Charles & Anne	0.56	1261 Scott Hwy
Sumner, Stanley & Elaine	Sachs, Gary & Jessica	0.37	2020 Ricker Pond Foot Trail
Puffer, Nathan & Meredith	The Home is Whenever I's With You Living	14.4	294 Lakeside Dr
Hedstrom Paul & Lance	Miller, Victoria	0.18	1222 Scott Hwy
Shallberg, Mark & Lise	Oakes, Elizabeth & Vance, Harley	5.03	6363 Scott Hwy
Schmidt, Dennis	Patchel, Brandon	52.88	Goodfellow Rd
Renfrew, John	Rozmanith, Anthony	1.98	81 Mill St
Laflamme, Kimberly	Noyes, Bret	167	Land on Ruff Hill Rd
Simakaski, Mark & Nichole	Weaver, Erin & Daniel	38	6320 Scott Hwy
Nissley, Mary Ann	Gille, Susanna	29.6	5757 Scott Hwy
Lee, Philip & Gifford	Lee, David	0.39	530 West Shore Dr
Farquharson, Lynn & Murtagh, Lisa	Berube, Robert	0.78	2268 Scott Hwy
Kowal, Kristian & Emily	Berg, Fred & Holmberg, Megan	10.1	129 W. Glauchester Rd
Lepage E J,	Morrow, Allison	1.2	933 Glover Rd
Jacobson, Vicky	Page, Willis & Samantha	12.1	Minard Hill Rd
Rudd Living Trust	Ocampo, James	0.21	544 Lakeside Dr

TOWN PROPERTY VALUES AS OF 12/31/2020

Date Acquired	Description		Value	
	Buildings			
7/3/1996	Boy Scout Camp		\$23,800	
	Community Bldg/vault		\$1,232,491	
	Fire Station		\$342,154	
7/3/1996	Hwy Garage (2)		\$660,044	
	Gazebo		\$14,113	
7/3/1996	Tractor Garage		\$10,819	
11/19/2019	Property 1494 Scott Hwy		\$0	
TOTAL VALUE OF BUILDINGS				\$2,283,421
	Contents			
12/14/1998	Chairs, table, etc. upstairs			
12/14/1998	Furnaces (2)			
12/14/1998	Kitchen contents			
	All Office Equipment			
Contents of Community Bldg.				\$115,000
Contents of Library				\$232,000
Contents of Fire Station				\$198,000
	Equipment			
12/31/2002	1st Constable		\$2,500	
	2012 Chevy Impala Cruiser		\$5,000	
Constable Total				\$7,500
3/30/2004	JD Tractor/Mower/Snowblower		\$5,000	
10/20/2011	Makita String Trimmer		\$225	
	Misc.		\$500	
Property Maintenance Total				\$5,725
	Equipment		\$225,000	
7/4/2005	40' Container for training		\$3,200	
1/25/2013	Repeater		\$10,600	
	2006 Carr 6X12 Utility Trailer		\$1,000	
	1956 Chevy Pump Truck		\$5,300	
10/18/2017	2003 GMC Rescue Vehicle		\$58,000	
12/31/2002	2001 Freightliner Fire Truck		\$39,000	
3/10/2015	2015 Freightliner Fire Truck		\$240,000	
Fire/FAST Dept Total				\$582,100

TOWN PROPERTY VALUES AS OF 12/31/2020 cont.

Date Acquired	Description		Value	
1/15/1972	10-I Beams		\$2,200	
1/15/1990	Brush Mower		\$100	
1/15/1990	Culvert Thawer		\$6,200	
8/25/2020	2009 CAT Grader 140M		\$116,000	
1/15/1994	Storage Trailer		\$350	
	Small Equipment & Tools		\$37,751	
1/15/1995	Stone Rake		\$1,000	
7/22/2015	2015 Western Star Dump Truck		\$134,865	
6/15/1999	Lowboy Trailer		\$100	
11/3/2006	2001 924G Caterpillar Loader		\$34,170	
4/21/2008	2004 Cat 420 Backhoe		\$33,690	
6/9/2017	2018 International Plow/Sand Dump Truck		\$123,000	
4/27/2012	2012 Chevrolet K3500 Pickup Truck		\$18,500	
9/21/2012	2012 Morbark 2012D Chipper		\$10,300	
11/1/2019	2004 20 Ton Equipment Trailer		\$10,000	
7/25/2019	2019 John Deere Excavator		\$75,000	
10/16/2019	2019 V-Box Sander		\$4,365	
7/23/2019	2019 Chloride Spray Tank		\$3,035	
6/5/2019	Ipad		\$500	
7/7/2017	Daktech Lap Top		\$800	
Highway Total				\$611,926
Recreation Equip. Total	Playground, dugouts, backstops			\$24,000
TOTAL VALUE OF EQUIPMENT				\$1,231,251
	Town Land	Acres		
1/25/1997	Boy Scout Camp	17.35	\$28,800	
	RR Bed-Depot Flat	0.42	\$9,000	
	Parking Lakeside Dr.	0.11	\$12,800	
1/25/1997	Village Cemeteries	16.43	\$28,200	
	Town Garage	3.31	\$32,600	
1/25/1997	Puffer Memorial Ball Field	3.8	\$23,700	
	William Scott Cemetery	0.48	\$12,600	
	Old Cemetery-Great Rd.	0.24	\$17,000	
	Old Cemetery-Glover Rd.	0.37	\$14,400	
	Old Cemetery-Dominicus Grey-Glover Rd.	0.11	\$12,800	
	Gravel Pit- Welton Rd.	67	\$71,800	
1/25/1997	Tractor Garage-Mill St.	0.04	\$1,700	
	RR Bed-Park St. to Ricker Pond	25.4	\$17,100	
	Old Stump Dump-Little Italy Rd.	8.5	\$24,400	
2/14/1997	RR Bed-Little Italy Rd. to Ryegate Town Line	9.4	\$7,900	
1/25/1997	Old Dump-Goodfellow Rd.	9.1	\$21,900	
	Community Building Land	0.47	\$18,000	
	Fire Station Land	0.59	\$19,000	
1/25/1997	Veterans Memorial Park	0.73	\$22,600	
	RR Bed-Powder Spring Rd. (near Welch Block)	1.2	\$12,000	
1/25/1997	Frost Memorial Ball Field	1.7	\$20,000	
	1494 Scott Hwy	2.68	\$33,000	
7/3/2003	Future Cemetery- Park St.	6	\$27,000	
LAND TOTAL AS OF 12/31/2020				\$488,300
TOTAL VALUE OF ALL TOWN PROPERTY				\$4,547,972

2020 List of Land in Groton owned by the State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources

Ref ID	Property Description	Acres	Fair Market Value	FY2021 PILOT*
EC1	Groton Lake Dam Site	3.00	\$63,100	\$378.60
FP1	Groton State Forest-Seyon Pond	26.00	\$106,700	\$640.20
FP2	Ricker Pond Campsite & Frontage	39.00	\$175,100	\$1,050.60
FP3	Lake Groton Cottage Lots	2.07	\$3,000	\$18.00
FP4	Stillwater Campground	42.00	\$136,100	\$816.60
FP5	Big Deer Campground	25.00	\$28,600	\$171.60
FP6	Boulder Beach	25.00	\$109,900	\$659.40
FP7	Kettle Pond Campground	20.00	\$86,000	\$516.00
FP8	Natural Woodlands Area	149.00	\$105,300	\$631.80
FP9	Forest Land	11,702.00	\$13,207,200	\$79,243.20
FP10	Ricker Pond Damsite	13.00	\$12,500	\$75.00
FP11	TNC/Moffatt Acquisition	329.00	\$250,000	\$1,500.00
FP12	Lyon Acquisition Seyon Block	42.00	\$29,700	\$178.20
FP13	Page Acquisition	25.70	\$24,300	\$145.80
FW1	Pine Mountain WMA	372.00	\$372,800	\$2,236.80
FW2	Levi Pond WMA	259.20	\$78,800	\$472.80
FW3	St. Hilaire Parcel	100.00	\$80,100	\$480.60

Groton Total	13,173.97	\$14,869,200	\$89,215.20
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***Is payment from the State of VT to the town of Groton in lieu of taxes**

What is Current Use?

In 1978, the Vermont legislature passed a law establishing the Use Value Appraisal of Agricultural, Forest, Conservation and Farm Buildings Property. Today, this program is known as "Current Use".

The purpose of the law was to allow the valuation and taxation of farm and forest land based on its remaining in agricultural or forest use instead of its value in the market place. The primary objectives of the program were to keep Vermont's agricultural and forest land in production, help slow the development of these lands, and achieve greater equity in property taxation on undeveloped land. Benefits for land enrolled in the program were first distributed in tax year 1980.

As of September 2016, there were more than 18,400 parcels of land enrolled totaling more than 2.4 million acres, about one-third of Vermont's total land.

PLACING YOUR PROPERTY INTO CURRENT USE

The purpose of the program is to keep agricultural and forest land in production and to slow development of these lands. Enrolled property must remain in agriculture, forest, or conservation use to be taxed at use value. If the property is developed, a land use change tax will be due. If only a portion of the property is developed, the penalty will apply only to that portion.

2020 USE VALUES

Agricultural Land	\$382/acre
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Forest Land & Conservation Land	\$151/acre
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Forest Land & Conservation Land Greater than one mile from a Class 1, 2, or 3 Road	\$113/acre
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Properties in Current Use Program 2020						
Owner(s) of Property	Total Acres Owned	Acres Enrolled in Program	Total Assessed Property Value	Assessment Amt Exempted from Taxes	Taxable Value	Amount of Tax Exempted
Anagnostakis, Christopher & Sandra	106.00	101.00	\$ 112,800.00	\$ 73,300.00	\$ 39,500.00	\$ 1,552.27
Beck, Darren D.	49.00	49.00	\$ 88,300.00	\$ 80,400.00	\$ 7,900.00	\$ 1,702.63
Blandford-Berlejung, Mary & Paul (homestead)	74.00	59.00	\$ 275,000.00	\$ 63,700.00	\$ 211,300.00	\$ 1,310.25
Berry, Russell & Cecille	219.00	219.00	\$ 287,900.00	\$ 256,100.00	\$ 31,800.00	\$ 5,423.43
Chandler, Harry & Judith (homestead)	269.08	267.08	\$ 462,100.00	\$ 280,700.00	\$ 181,400.00	\$ 5,773.72
Clough, Rick & Kelly	49.00	45.70	\$ 217,800.00	\$ 90,300.00	\$ 127,500.00	\$ 1,912.28
Crum, Nicole	126.76	124.76	\$ 190,100.00	\$ 133,300.00	\$ 56,800.00	\$ 2,822.89
Cutone, Richard J & Victoria (homestead)	131.00	129.00	\$ 431,500.00	\$ 115,400.00	\$ 316,100.00	\$ 2,373.66
Daniels, Lawrence, Sr. & Alice	141.50	131.50	\$ 303,900.00	\$ 131,100.00	\$ 172,800.00	\$ 2,776.30
DeMartino, Paul	93.08	84.34	\$ 155,100.00	\$ 116,200.00	\$ 38,900.00	\$ 2,460.77
Doscinski, Leonard & Patricia (homestead)	104.70	102.70	\$ 457,800.00	\$ 127,700.00	\$ 330,100.00	\$ 2,626.66
Ducharme, Helen	69.69	69.69	\$ 80,700.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 10,700.00	\$ 1,482.39
Eaton, Maureen & Henry (homestead)	57.50	55.50	\$ 397,700.00	\$ 74,200.00	\$ 323,500.00	\$ 1,526.22
Edwards, Leslie (homestead)	41.10	33.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 35,800.00	\$ 189,200.00	\$ 736.37
Emerson Chris W	75.00	71.00	\$ 122,200.00	\$ 91,000.00	\$ 31,200.00	\$ 1,927.11
Engle, Stephen	775.00	773.00	\$ 948,600.00	\$ 566,700.00	\$ 381,900.00	\$ 12,001.01
Engle, Stephen	147.00	147.00	\$ 149,200.00	\$ 126,600.00	\$ 22,600.00	\$ 2,681.01
Fleurie Family Trust	390.00	382.00	\$ 337,700.00	\$ 238,100.00	\$ 99,600.00	\$ 5,042.24
Foster-Jerry Lund Mountain Trust	692.43	688.43	\$ 443,600.00	\$ 285,800.00	\$ 157,800.00	\$ 6,052.39
Frost, Barbara J. & Earl	35.60	30.20	\$ 60,700.00	\$ 32,100.00	\$ 28,600.00	\$ 679.78
Goodine, Allen	95.00	87.00	\$ 160,900.00	\$ 93,100.00	\$ 67,800.00	\$ 1,971.58
Gosselin, Edmund	37.50	33.00	\$ 72,000.00	\$ 51,300.00	\$ 20,700.00	\$ 1,086.38
Greenough, Bradley	124.00	122.00	\$ 250,900.00	\$ 84,900.00	\$ 166,000.00	\$ 1,797.93
Grimes & Nolan Revocable Trust	121.00	107.00	\$ 169,300.00	\$ 129,400.00	\$ 39,900.00	\$ 2,740.30
Hart, Steven & Lisa	55.00	55.00	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 18,300.00	\$ 9,200.00	\$ 387.54
Hersey, Mark	125.00	123.00	\$ 100,700.00	\$ 71,300.00	\$ 29,400.00	\$ 1,509.92
Kersaken Ventures LLC	646.85	633.85	\$ 695,400.00	\$ 299,000.00	\$ 396,400.00	\$ 6,331.92
Klein, Martin	97.40	93.40	\$ 307,500.00	\$ 114,400.00	\$ 193,100.00	\$ 2,422.65
Laflamme, Kimberly	167.00	165.00	\$ 229,600.00	\$ 189,300.00	\$ 40,300.00	\$ 4,008.81
Martell, Robert E. & Lori A.	339.12	334.02	\$ 882,000.00	\$ 188,600.00	\$ 693,400.00	\$ 3,993.98
Moore, Donald F JR	28.40	28.40	\$ 59,100.00	\$ 54,700.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 1,158.38
Meadowsend Timberlands LTD	128.00	128.00	\$ 135,000.00	\$ 115,300.00	\$ 19,700.00	\$ 2,441.71
Morse, Norman (homestead)	144.00	134.50	\$ 396,800.00	\$ 141,700.00	\$ 255,100.00	\$ 2,914.63
Niemaszzyk Walter	378.50	366.17	\$ 492,300.00	\$ 370,200.00	\$ 122,100.00	\$ 7,839.73
Oliver, Logan & Davis, Harley (Homestead)	42.50	40.50	\$ 160,900.00	\$ 58,000.00	\$ 102,900.00	\$ 1,193.00
Oliver Troy A	47.00	45.00	\$ 162,500.00	\$ 42,500.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 900.02
Page, Keith R	39.00	35.00	\$ 87,800.00	\$ 36,500.00	\$ 51,300.00	\$ 772.96
Park Forestry NY LLC	935.60	935.60	\$ 658,600.00	\$ 504,300.00	\$ 154,300.00	\$ 10,679.56
Pigeon Pond LLC (Bailey & Gable)	1,080.00	1,072.00	\$ 2,401,000.00	\$ 918,200.00	\$ 1,482,800.00	\$ 19,444.72
Powers, Craig & Brenda (homestead)	35.70	32.47	\$ 316,000.00	\$ 46,400.00	\$ 269,600.00	\$ 954.40
Puffer, Mathew	222.00	201.00	\$ 473,200.00	\$ 65,600.00	\$ 407,600.00	\$ 1,389.21
Quintin, Steve	75.00	73.00	\$ 146,200.00	\$ 66,000.00	\$ 80,200.00	\$ 1,397.68
Ross, Melanie	178.50	178.50	\$ 194,000.00	\$ 166,600.00	\$ 27,400.00	\$ 3,528.09
Ruggles, Patricia A (homestead)	45.00	43.00	\$ 268,500.00	\$ 59,800.00	\$ 208,700.00	\$ 1,230.03
Simakaski, Mark R. & Wolfgang, Nichole C.	38.00	36.00	\$ 323,800.00	\$ 115,100.00	\$ 208,700.00	\$ 2,367.49
Smith, Brent & Pamela (homestead)	41.00	39.00	\$ 196,800.00	\$ 44,200.00	\$ 152,600.00	\$ 909.15
Smith, Sara (Homestead)	46.00	42.70	\$ 192,400.00	\$ 54,600.00	\$ 137,800.00	\$ 1,123.07
Starr, Timothy	43.00	35.80	\$ 143,500.00	\$ 53,600.00	\$ 89,900.00	\$ 1,135.09
Sweet Tree Holdings 1 ,LLC	760.00	760.00	\$ 770,700.00	\$ 682,400.00	\$ 88,300.00	\$ 14,451.18
Thomas, Bryce	90.00	90.00	\$ 66,300.00	\$ 52,200.00	\$ 14,100.00	\$ 1,105.44
Thomas, F. Bryce (1997 Trust)	163.00	160.50	\$ 269,600.00	\$ 183,000.00	\$ 86,600.00	\$ 3,875.39
Thomas, Paul A	126.00	109.50	\$ 208,900.00	\$ 124,700.00	\$ 84,200.00	\$ 2,640.77
Thomas, Paul A	65.10	63.10	\$ 81,000.00	\$ 56,300.00	\$ 24,700.00	\$ 1,192.27
Timbervest Partners III Vermont LLC	237.00	224.80	\$ 198,100.00	\$ 160,800.00	\$ 37,300.00	\$ 3,405.26
Uttero, Peter J.	235.50	231.50	\$ 302,800.00	\$ 169,500.00	\$ 133,300.00	\$ 3,589.50
Vaughn, Tristan	46.00	44.00	\$ 95,100.00	\$ 60,600.00	\$ 34,500.00	\$ 1,283.33
Ward, Ryan	189.50	180.50	\$ 446,400.00	\$ 193,500.00	\$ 252,900.00	\$ 4,097.75
Waterhouse, Cindy & Lee	113.50	111.50	\$ 350,300.00	\$ 137,400.00	\$ 212,900.00	\$ 2,909.72
Wosko, Walter & Diane	39.00	32.00	\$ 267,600.00	\$ 36,800.00	\$ 230,800.00	\$ 779.31
TOTALS	11,066.11	10,790.21	\$ 18,508,700.00	\$ 8,998,600.00	\$ 9,510,100.00	\$ 189,823.23
Homestead values exempted from land use				\$ 960,500.00		\$ 22,671.15
Non-residential values exempted from land use				\$ 8,038,100.00		\$ 167,152.08
				\$ 8,998,600.00		\$ 189,823.23

SELECT BOARD REPORT

The Groton Select Board had a very unusual year and with unpredictable events that unfolded like we ever had seen in over 100 years. It was a year of Zoom meetings and Groton Resource Committee which the Select Board members along with members of the community met on Zoom meetings to coordinate how to help our community to be fed and to meet their other needs whenever possible.

From the end of March to the first of May, the Select Board members met on Zoom and only people working in the Town Department were those of necessity. The Board would like to thank those that did work through the time when everything was shut down due to COVID-19.

The Select Board goal is to inform the residents and taxpayers about the activities of the Select Board. The following items are some things the Select Board has been doing. These are only the high points of 2020:

Executive Sessions

The Select Board at times must deal with personnel and sensitive issues which have been few this year.

Financial and Budget Updates

This year was our third year in a 4-year contract for the town audit. The audit went well and the Select Board appreciates the great job the Town Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector have been doing in keeping our town budget in line and up-to-date and working with the Select Board with possible grants, contracts, training and policies that the Select Board needs to be informed about.

Town Clerk

The new town clerk, Carrie Peters, had a challenging first year having to deal with Covid and also using the new voting tabulator for our elections. She has also been instrumental in working the food shelf when people had a need. Carrie ran her first Primary and Presidential Election with all the Covid procedures and guidelines in play. This was a huge undertaking and Carrie performed this wonderfully and was well organized.

Special Town Meetings

It's been a quiet year with no special need or issues where it needed specific direction by the town's people to act upon. We had a special town meeting which was postponed due to the amount of interest in the topic and the amount of people planning to attend far surpassed the state guidelines for meetings.

Assessor/Asst. Assessor

We now have an assessor named John Westinghouse along with Asst. Assessor, Dorothy Knott that have had their work cut out for them.

Cilley Property

The building has been demolished and the land area around has been landscaped. Since this project is now completed, we are now looking ahead in dealing with issues of drainage, and septic in place thereof.

Highway Department

The Highway Crew has done a good job and has been busy in getting some of the projects done such as on the Red Brook Rd, Great Rd, Heath Brook Rd, and Cross Rd.

The Powder Spring Road got paved this year.

These projects couldn't have been done on a timely manner if it wasn't for the excavator that was purchased.

Also, the purchase of a new to the town grader was to replace the old grader of 33 years that the Town of Groton had.

The Select Board also wants to thank the Road Crew for getting the work done in a timely fashion and continue to do a good job.

There is so much other work that goes on which the towns' people don't realize. Our Town Constable has been busy patrolling. Fire Department and FAST have been busy in training and serving our town in times of emergency. The Select Board would like to thank all those who serve and sacrifice their time and families to protect our Town. Lastly, we give a special thanks to all our military Veterans who have served and those presently serving in our military.

Respectfully submitted,

Wade Johnson, SR. Chair, Aaron Smith , Zachary Conaway

Groton Highway Report

- 2020 was a challenging year for everyone, Phillip and I have tried our best to stay healthy and still maintain the town's roads. We continued to ditch and replace culverts while doing our best to keep up with the State requirements.
- This last spring we had time and managed to get the donated trailer finished and have used it to move our excavator around.
- The town purchased a used 2009 Cat grader this year to replace our old grader which was 33 years old.
- We worked with other departments on projects, supplying labor and equipment time, saving them money.
- We did not receive any grants this year, so we used what we had for paving money to go as far as we could on Powder spring road. We will apply again this year trying to do some on Minard Hill road.
- Phillip and I try our best to control cost while maintaining a level of service that keeps up with the needed maintenance of the roads.
- I would like to thank the residents of the Town of Groton for all the support in helping us do the best job possible.
- Here are a couple reminders:

23 V.S.A. § 1126a. Depositing snow onto or across highways prohibited

(a) No person, other than an employee in the performance of his or her official duties or other person authorized by the agency of transportation (in the case of state highways) or select board (in the case of town highways), shall plow or otherwise deposit snow onto the traveled way, shoulder or sidewalk of a state highway or a class 1, 2, or 3 town highway.

(b) Nothing in this section should be construed to be in derogation of any municipal ordinance regulating the deposit of snow within the limits of town highways. (Added 1997, No. 150 (Adj. Sess.), § 17.)

- Article 7.1 from the Town of Groton Highway ordinance: Winter Parking- Parking within a town right of way, including turnarounds and /or Cul de sacks, shall be prohibited between November 1 and March 31 of each year except for town owned parking areas where there will be no parking between midnight and 6:00 am. Violators will be towed at the vehicle owners expense.

Town Garage Phone-584-3209

Harold's Pager 290-1355

Harold Hatch (Home)-584 3816 or stop by the garage

Assessor's Office

2020 was a year for changes in the Lister's office.

Kitty Diggins retired in March after many years as a Lister. She spent countless hours updating property cards, doing inspections, property transfers, answering questions for property owners and helping with Reappraisals of all town properties. Thank you, Kitty for your dedication to the Town of Groton.

At Town Meeting in March it was voted to hire an Assessor and Assistant Assessor to replace the three Listers. John Westinghouse was hired by the Selectboard to fill the position of Assessor. Dorothy Knott was appointed as the Assistant Assessor.

With the arrival of Covid 19 John Westinghouse requested to work remotely, from home. The Assessor's Office remained open with limited outside access. Requests for information was provided via emails and phone calls.

Training from the State of Vermont and VLCT was completed via Zoom and webinars.

On-site Property Inspections were extremely limited following the guidance of Property Valuation and Review. Letters and forms were sent to property owners to provide us with updated information and photos of property changes. Thank you to everyone who provided us with information.

ADDRESS CHANGES- Please send and address changes to the Assessor's office. This will help the Town Office to have up to date information when it is time to mail tax bills and other information to you.

INFORMATION REQUESTS- Please fill these out in a timely manner and return to the Assessor's office.

John Westinghouse
Assessor

Dorothy Knott
Assistant Assessor



State of Vermont
Department of Taxes
133 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-1401

Agency of Administration

Phone: (802) 828-5860
Fax: (802) 828-2239

December 23, 2020

Town Clerk
Town of Groton
1476 Scott Highway
Groton, VT 05046

2020 Equalization Study Results

This letter serves as notification of the results of Property Valuation and Review (PVR)'s 2020 equalization study. Every year we are required to certify the equalized education property value (EEPV or EEGL) and coefficient of dispersion (COD) for each Vermont town (32 V.S.A § 5406). This letter also communicates the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) for your town and explains how it will impact your homestead and nonhomestead education tax rates.

Education Grand List (from 411):	\$128,877,705
Equalized Education Grand List (EEGL):	\$127,387,906
Common Level of Appraisal (CLA):	101.17 % or 1.0117
Coefficient of Dispersion (COD):	13.15 %

For a copy of your town final computation sheet and certified sales report, please see:

tax.vermont.gov/municipalities/reports/equalization-study

The **education grand list** listed here is what was reported by your town to the state on the 411 form with your town's cable (if applicable) and tax increment financing (TIF) amounts (if any) included. This number represents the town's total property value that is subject to the education property tax (from the most recent grand list available) and serves as the numerator in the computation of the CLA. Please note: tax revenue from any TIF property value is subject to allocation (32 V.S.A. § 5404a).

The **equalized education grand list (EEGL)** represents PVR's statutorily-mandated estimate of total fair market value of the education grand list in your town and serves as the denominator in the computation of the CLA. To find out more about how the equalization study is conducted, how to read the certified sales report, and additional instructions on how to appeal your results, please see the "Introduction to Vermont's Equalization Study" document at:

tax.vermont.gov/municipalities/reports/equalization-study

The **common level of appraisal (CLA)** is determined by dividing the education grand list by the equalized education grand list (32 V.S.A. § 5401). A number over 100% indicates that property in your town 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 (32 V.S.A § 4041a). The homestead and nonhomestead tax rates in your town will be adjusted by your town's CLA (32 V.S.A § 5402). The nonhomestead rate in your town will be the statewide nonhomestead rate divided by your CLA. The homestead rate will be the town homestead rate (which is determined by the per-pupil spending of any school district(s) to which your town belongs) divided by the CLA. A CLA greater than 100% will result in a downward adjustment of tax rates, and a CLA less than 100% will result in upward adjustment.

To get answers to many common questions about tax rates and how they are determined and to see how the current year property tax rates for your town were calculated, please see the department's education tax resources at:

tax.vermont.gov/education-tax-rates

The **coefficient of dispersion (COD)** is a measure of how fairly distributed the property tax is within your town. It is calculated as the average of the (absolute) difference of each sales ratio (list price divided by sales price) in the study from the median ratio. That result is then divided by the median ratio to get the COD, which is expressed as a percent (32 V.S.A. § 5401). A high COD means that within your town many taxpayers are paying more than their fair share and many are paying less than their fair share. A COD over 20% necessitates a reappraisal (32 V.S.A. § 4041a).

Appeals: A municipality may petition the director of Property Valuation and Review for a redetermination of its EEPV and/or COD (32 V.S.A § 5408). All petitions must be in writing and signed by the chair of the municipality's legislative body. Petitions should contain a plain statement of matters being appealed and a statement of the remedy being sought. **Petitions must be received by PVR by the close of business on the 35th day after mailing of this letter.** Additional instructions on appeals can be found in the "Introduction to Vermont's Equalization Study" document at:

tax.vermont.gov/municipalities/reports/equalization-study

If you have any questions, please contact your **district advisor** or call 802-828-5860.

Sincerely,



Jill Remick, Director
Property Valuation and Review

cc: Chair, Board of Listers
Chair, School Board
Chair, Select Board
Superintendent of Schools

Town Clerk Report

My first year as Town Clerk has certainly been eventful. Just a few weeks in and Covid-19 hit and changed every aspect of the job. The office closed to the public for about 8 weeks. I continued to come in to the office and work with Title Searchers over the phone and by email. I was able to scan any documents that were needed and continue to keep property transfers and deed searches on schedule. The office being closed had one bonus as I was able to clean out and start organizing the vault. This is still an ongoing process.

The Dog licensing deadline was extended and registrations slowly trickled in through the late spring and summer.

Elections! Where to begin! The town used our new Tabulator on Town Meeting day, the August Primary and the November General Election. It worked beautifully. I am so thankful the BCA approved the town having this. There were also many changes to Election rules and statutes due to Covid-19 that took time to understand and implement. I feel all the elections were safe and ran smoothly. Thank you to everyone who helped.

The Food Shelf had many organizations and people donating money and food. We even had a “new” freezer donated to us. This was amazing and we are thankful for all of it. Please reach out to us if you have a need.

Digitizing Land Records Grant was offered in September and the State put a deadline of November 5th on it to get it up and running and back scan 5 years’ worth of records (on top of a crazy General Election). Luckily the company I chose was able to work with this deadline and complete the project. This new system not only allows title searchers to search from their office but it preserves our Land Records off site in case of a natural disaster.

That was some of the highlights of 2020 and I am really enjoying my job and thankful to all of you. Here’s to a wonderful 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Peters

Independent Audit Report

Fothergill Segale & Valley, the Town of Groton's independent auditors, performed the Town Audit and provided a report on October 15 2020 to the Select Board for year ending 2019.

The Town Audit Report and financial statements are available at the town office for review. Please contact the office if you're interested in a copy.

The 2019 Audit can be found on Groton Town website under Town Treasurer.

<http://www.grotonvt.com/Town%20Offices/Treasurer.htm>

Thank you

Lisa JL Hart
Town Treasurer

1st Constable Report

In 2020, I provided the following Law Enforcement services as Groton's First Constable:

Patrol	502 hours
Training	42.50 hours
Tickets	76.00 hours
Miscellaneous	22.25 hours
Warnings	91.00 hours
VIN Checks	41.00 hours
Total	874.50 hours

As of, December 31 2020, the Town of Groton has received **\$ 4972.00** in civil fines from tickets being issued.

I wish to thank the Town of Groton for their continued support and welcome any comments or suggestions to improving my services to the public.

Respectfully submitted

James A Downing
1st Constable



GROTON FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Growth, creativity, community, change and hope all come to mind as we see 2020 out and welcome in the New Year! While the Library went into 2020 with many hopes and dreams ready to be fulfilled, we came out not filling all those dreams we had hoped, but fulfilling many others! **Growth!**

Over much of the past year our doors have been closed for in person services due to COVID. The need to close to keep the community safe opened our eyes to serving patrons from the porch of the Library! We quickly got busy to turn the porch into an inviting place for book pickups, materials to be displayed, kits to be distributed and at times, a place for people to poke their heads in and say hi!! **Creativity!**

In years past we have worked hard to upgrade the Libraries internet services. 2020 made all the hard work pay off. Many school children, college students, remote workers and those looking to connect with family and friends spent time outside of the library accessing our internet services. We collaborated with Rural Edge to add a second Hot Spot in the Community housed at the Old General Store to add even broader internet services. We closed this year by applying for a grant in hopes of offering shaded seating outside of the Library, and possible mobiles devices for checkout. We are immensely proud of our reliable, free, 24/7 internet access! **Community!**

If trying to define what “a library” was before COVID wasn’t hard enough, finding out what “a library” was during COVID at times felt like a big task. The Groton Free Public Library this year represented: books, photo copying, online audio and eBooks, kits, puzzles, piles of free items, story hour in a bag, help with forms, zoom meetings, distributing meals from the food pantry, regular check ins with many community members, distribution of online health and safety information and often a willingness to listen.

Lastly behind the scenes Library trustees have worked hard to have the Library’s elevator repaired which has been out of service for several years. While the repairs were minimal the need to ensure our Libraries accessibility to all in the Community was and is particularly important! Much work was also done to finalize a renewed lease with Rural Edge; establishing defined rental agreements and a new monthly rental fee which better reflects the market value of the property. **Change!**

Funding for our Library comes from you the taxpayers, the support of our annual appeal, donations, grants, and volunteers from our community. We are thankful for all these avenues of funding as we continue to grow and *offer more to our patrons and community!* **Hope!**

To access the books and materials we have available at the Groton Free Public Library, contact us by phone at 802-584-3358 or email us at grotonlibraryvt@gmail.com. Curbside services are always available for safe, contactless pickup and drop-offs.

Kindly
Jodi A. Fleurie-Wohlleb
Librarian

Library Trustees: Alissa Smith, Wade Johnson Jr., Torie Peters, Deborah Jurist & Peggy Burgin

2020 Library Budget vs. 2020 Actual Spent			
Expenses paid from Town General Fund			
	2020 Budget	Actual	2021 Budget
Librarian wages	20,592	20,978.28	21,164
Payroll taxes	1,576	1,604.72	1,619
VLCT PACIF-Insurance	1,198	1,092.00	1182
Postage & delivery	700	709.88	0
Building rent	5,700	5,700.00	18,000
Supplies-Library	1,000	181.32	2,000
Books & periodicals-	5,000	4,807.85	5,000
Office supplies	1,000	668.90	0
Telephone/internet	1,800	1,854.88	1,800
Software/support	500	152.07	500
Computer Repairs & Legal Fees	300	0	0
Legal Fee's	100	2150	100
Furnishings & Equipment	200	176.82	0
TOTAL	\$39,666	\$40,076.72	51,365.00
Library Budget vs. Expenses			
Expenses paid by Library Fund	2020 Budget	Actual	2021 Budget
Transfers Out	0	0	0
Programs Expense	2,000	1,405.32	2000
Postage	0	0.00	500
Building Operations	0	870	0
Books & Periodicals	500	195.83	1000
Training & Mileage	250	0	250
Technology Services/Soft	0	0	0
Computer Maintenance	0	0	300
Computers	0	0	0
Investment Loss	0	0	0
Furnishings	300	559.49	500
Misc - Expense		250	2200
TOTAL	\$3,050.00	\$3,280.64	6750
Library Fund Revenue			
Funds are entered into Library Fund	Actual	Library Fund Balances as of 12/31/2020	
Books & Copy revenue	0	Library Fund	23,332.58
Dividends American Funds	696.85	Endowment	49,151.03
Donations/Annual Appeal	8,440.00	Capital Improvement	31,600.78
Fundraising revenue		ACH Account	9.00
Grant revenue		American Fund Stock	21,822.80
Interest income	351.61		
Program revenue		Total	\$125,916.19
Gains - Investments			
Transfers In			
PayPal Revenue/Donations			
TOTAL	\$9,488.46		

Library funds are not Town funds, they are controlled by the Library Trustees.

Groton Free Public Library Operating Fund

March 7, 2006, Article 8: Shall the Town of Groton approve the existing accounts and the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Groton Free Public Library fund to be funded by grants, gifts, donations, fund raising, existing library investments and other non-taxation sources said fund to be used for library improvements, managed by the library Board of Trustees and dispensed by the Town Treasurer?

Operating expense account funded by annual appeal donations, memorial funds, interest from Endowment and dividends from American Funds.

Balance \$23,332.58

Endowment Fund

Endowment funds are composed of monies that have been gifted to the Library in the form of bequests or donations. Endowment monies are not meant to be used to fund routine operational activities or salaries. Endowment funds are to be used at the discretion of the Groton Library Board of Trustees. Any requests for release of endowment monies must be voted on and approved by the Library Board of Trustees. The Library Board is responsible for overseeing the use/investment of all endowment funds. The Library Board alone holds the power to direct investments and distribute money/assets for the Library.

(On 7/13/2015, the Library Trustee Board voted to remove all financial limitations on endowment requests)

Balance \$49,151.03

Capital Fund Certificate of Deposit

Anonymous gift restricted to capital improvements or non-budgeted items at the discretion of the Library Trustees.

Balance \$31,600.78

American Funds

Investment of funds realized from sale of book in 1991. Dividends are deposited in Community Bank Fund for use toward the Library portion of the monthly operating expense of the building.

Balance \$21,822.80

Library Pay Pal Fund

Fund Account was established to receive money electronically for Annual Appeal Donations.

Balance \$9.00

GROTON CEMETERY RULES

TRAFFIC REGULATION

In order to protect the roadways and monuments, all Groton Cemeteries will be closed to vehicular traffic from Nov. 1 to May 1, unless otherwise authorized by the Cemetery Commissioners.

FLOWERS AND FLAGS

All flowers, natural and artificial, should be removed from the cemeteries by Oct. 1. The flags will remain on the graves until Veteran's Day in November. Any flowers, plants and flags left in the cemetery may be removed by the maintenance workers.

FOOTINGS

In order to facilitate mowing and for the long-term stability of the stones, all the monuments will be set on a cement foundation with footings which extend four inches outward from the monument.

SETTING OF CORNER STONES AND GRASS MARKERS

A Cemetery Official will have the final say as to the location of any upright stone or grass marker should there be a question as to whether a marker has been placed correctly on any given lot. The cemetery Commissioners are responsible for setting the cornerstones.

PLANTINGS

Planting should be of the low maintenance type that will not grow to a size which will impinge on the surrounding lots. They must be clearly marked in order to protect them. They must be planted between the monuments and not in front or behind the headstones. Please understand that it is extremely difficult to be aware of all the plantings in cemeteries as large as the ones Groton has.

The town cannot be held responsible for plantings set in front or behind monuments as these areas are maintained with a lawn mower. However, the spaces between the monuments are maintained with string trimmers. It is much easier to spot and avoid a planting in these areas than in front and behind the headstones.

BURIALS

The cemetery will be closed for burials from the first snowfall until the ground is fully thawed in the spring, unless specifically authorized by the Cemetery Commission.

Burial vaults will be of concrete.

PURCHASING LOTS IN A GROTON CEMETERY

Lots are for sale containing as few as 1 burial plot and up to 12 plots. Lots sold at resident prices will have the resident's name only listed as owner on the deed. Non-residents cannot be listed as co-owners on lots purchased at residential prices. The initial of the owner's last name will be engraved on the cornerstones. There is a price list available through the town clerk. Cremation urns can be buried in any plot.

SPECIFYING THE INDIVIDUALS TO BE BURIED IN A LOT

At the time of purchase the deed holder can fill out a form that will specify the individuals who can be buried in a specific lot. This document can be notarized and filed with the deed for the current recording fee.

Should a deed holder wish to specify who may be buried on their lot, this form can also be filled out, notarized and filed with the deed for the recording fee.

Should a deed holder wish to sell a lot or portion of a lot, they must first sell it back to the town at the same price that it was originally purchased for. Then the town will sell the lot to the new owner based on current pricing. Corner stone for this new lot may not be required if the Commissioners approve.

Please be aware that the only way to securely guarantee who shall be buried in any given lot is for that person to own it. In cases where there might be a family dispute, we suggest that the parties take all steps possible to make clear who shall be allowed to use a lot.

CREMATION BURIALS

The internment of cremation urns is not restricted to special cremation plots. Urns can be buried on gravesites already inhabited or on sites that have been purchased but not used. In order to do this the Sexton must be informed and arrangements made for the digging and interning the urn so that the exact location of the urn can be recorded and the plot can be officially prepared. There is an added cost for digging the internment hole.

All Groton Cemetery guidelines for placement of markers and cornerstones will apply to lots being used for cremation internments.

PERPETUAL CARE

Perpetual Care fees cover emergency repair and general upkeep of the cemetery. If you are interested in purchasing a lot in the Groton cemetery, please contact the Town Clerk.

CEMETERY LOT PRICES and FEES for 2020

SIZE	# of traditional burial sites	# of cremation sites	LOT PRICE	PERPETUAL CARE	FEES	SETTING OF CORNER STONES	TOTAL FOR RESIDENTS	TOTAL FOR NON-RESIDENTS
12'X4'	1	4	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$115.00	\$60.00	\$475.00	\$1,875.00
12'X8	2	8	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$115.00	\$60.00	\$575.00	\$3,375.00
12'X12'	3	12	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$115.00	\$60.00	\$775.00	\$4,975.00
12'X16'	4	16	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$115.00	\$60.00	\$975.00	\$6,575.00
12'X20'	5	20	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$115.00	\$60.00	\$1,175.00	\$8,175.00

FEE EXPLANATION: RECORDING COST: \$30.00 AND CORNER POSTS: \$85.00

Lots must be paid in full at the time of purchase

The cost for grave preparation and cremation urn preparation is set by the contractor at the time of service.

2020 Cemetery Budget vs. 2020 Actual Spent

Expenses paid from Town General Fund

	2020 Budget	Actual	2021 Budget
Contracted Work	700.00	700.00	700.00
Riverside Cemetery	200.00	180.00	200.00
Mowing	7938.00	7937.40	7938.00
Dues & Meetings	25.00	0	25.00
Repairs & Maintenance	0	0	0
Supplies	615.00	472.94	615.00
TOTAL	9,478.00	9290.34	9478.00

Revenues paid To Cemetery Accounts

Cemetery Lot Sales	400.00
Corner stone revenue	85.00
Recording fee income	30.00
Corner stone setting fees income	60.00
Development Funds (non-resident lot sale)	0.00
Perpetual Care income	500.00
Interest Revenue	48.90

Total Revenue**1123.90****Expenditures paid From Cemetery Accounts**

Deposited to Development Funds	0
Deposited to Perpetual Care Fund	400.00
Recording fees (Groton Town Clerk)	30.00
Corner stones expense	0
Restoration of Old Stones	0
Misc Exp-Town bought back a plot	339.00

769.00**Cemetery Funds Balances 12/31/19****Balances**

TD Bank-Roosevelt Carter Trust	6,199.92
WGSB H. Hosmer	3,294.28
WRSB Development Funds	11,482.36
WRSB Cemetery Lot Expenses	6899.74
WRSB Mary Jane Ricker Hall Trust	1,063.83
MB Perpetual Care	90,562.74

TOTAL**119,502.87**

Groton Volunteer Fire Department Report

Introduction

This year has been a very different year with an enemy that we could not see or deal with like fire. It was a life changing time for all of us here on the Fire Department. We had to use more care and precaution on every call that we went out on whether Fire or FAST and we had to cancel our meetings and training due to Covid-19 and had to resort to doing Zoom meetings if possible. In June/July, we started to gradually having our Fire Department meetings and gradually planning our training schedule. Our success is due to a dedicated group of fire fighters and their commitment and sacrifice in training and going to fire calls in all hours of the night and day as well as in all types of weather. I want to take this time to say thanks to all our Fire Department members for the work they have done.

If you are interested to see what we do, you are invited to see your tax dollars at work. Our monthly activities are as follows:

- 1st Tuesday – Business Meeting
- 2nd Tuesday – Work Detail
- 3rd Tuesday – Drill
- 4th Tuesday – Officer Meeting
- 5th Tuesday – when months have a fifth Tuesday, we either have special speakers or extra drills.

Business Meeting

We go over a lot of business in our Fire Department. We go over the training schedule, past months fire/FAST calls, maintenance on vehicles, and concerns with fire fighters, recruitment and retention issues, and discuss finances with the Fire Dept. budget and also moneys that are used by the Corporation for some of our fire gear and donations which we would like to share what our department went over and above what is asked:

Purchases:

NVFC memberships \$360

FWMSF Raffle tickets \$200 (any \$ won goes back into fund)

Donations/In Memory of:

Gordon Perkins/Greet Mtn Conservation Camp Foundation Fund \$100

Bob David/Ryegate Small Animal Hospital \$100

Widows sons Vet Ride 2020 (to veterans at VA Hospital) \$100

John Darling \$100

Donation to the Library for Christmas Bags \$100

Work Detail

On this Tuesday, we maintain and operate the equipment and keep everything up to date. This also includes inspection of vital life-saving equipment such as SCBA's.

Drills

A time to focus are drills on areas to protect our community such as:

Motor Vehicle Accidents	Chimney Fires
CO Activation/Smoke	Structure Fires
Cold Water Rescue	Snow Machine Accidents
Search and Rescue for those lost in woods	Hazmat

We also have training courses which we obtain without cost to the town from the Vermont Fire Academy:

Level 1 & 2	Hazmat
PADO (Pumper Apparatus Driver Operations)	Other Training
CPR	Flagger Training

Currently, we have 3 of our Fire Fighters taking a Level 1 for Fire Fighter certification.

Officer Meeting

Currently, we have a time where the chief and officers go over ideas concerns and challenges of the Department which also, we prepare for agenda items of the monthly business meeting.

Other Activities

Coin Drops
Dick Page Ride-In (Snowmobile) with chicken barbecue
Muster Games in Peacham and Woodsville

Fire Calls for the Year

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Conclusion

As you can see, putting out fires is not all we do. We are a close fire department family and we care the community we serve. If you would like to be part of the team, come in and join us. WE are looking for a few good men and women.

We have 911 signs which you can purchase and if you need CO and Smoke Detectors for your home, please contact us which we install and give for free.

Respectfully submitted,

Wade A Johnson, SR.

GVFD Chief

Forest Fire Warden Report

This year has been a busy one with several illegal brush fires two of which was in the State Forest. This year has been one of the busiest years for forest fires in many years.

The requirements to obtain a burn permit are as follows: you need to obtain a burn permit by calling the forest fire warden within 12-24 hours of burning grass or brush. The only time that you are not required to get a burn permit is when there is significant amount of snow in the area in which you are burning. It is always best to contact me with any questions or doubts in burning. When there is a ban on burning, it will be announced on WYKR and on the Groton website.

I must also remind people that in order to burn woodpiles such as debris from buildings, other than brush, you must obtain a different permit from the Environmental Air Pollution Office. Their address and phone number is as follows: Air Pollution Control Division, Department of Environmental Conservation, Building 3 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-0402, Telephone # 802-241-3840.

If you want a permit during the week, you need to contact me that night before so you can get your permit. This has been one of the problems that I have had because I do work during the day from Monday thru Friday. You can contact me during the week after 5 PM at 584-3628.

Due to the large area of Groton which is covered by forest, it is difficult to survey the area from time to time and because of that, there have been a lot of illegal burns which go unnoticed which could be a potential hazard to others and their homes if the fire warden is not aware of them. If caught without a permit, you could be issued a fine plus cost of equipment and personnel that come to the scene.

The concern now since the stump dump has been closed is what do we do about our leaves and brush? First of all, you can burn your own brush as long as you obtain a burn permit but as far as leaves go, the law prohibits the burning of leaves. If you have a concern about what to do with your leaves, give me a call.

There is also a growing issue on trash burning. There is a state law now which has been in effect since 2005 making it illegal in the State of Vermont to burn trash. The Town of Groton has now passed a Trash Burning Ordinance. You can obtain a copy of this at the Town Clerk's office and if you have any questions, you can contact Jim Downing, the Town Constable.

Respectfully submitted,
Wade Johnson, SR. Forest Fire Warden
Justin Carle, Forest Fire Warden Deputy

Groton Ryegate FAST Account

This account is not funded by taxpayer dollars. These funds are from fundraising efforts and donations but the account is maintained by the Town Treasurer and listed under the Town's Federal ID number.

FAST Squad Account

Bank account balance on 12/31/19	503.89	
Interest received	0.00	
<hr/>		
Donations	100.00	
Bank service fee refunded	10.00	
Expenses	0.00	
Fees	0.00	0.00
Bank account balance on 12/31/20	613.89	
<hr/>		

The Buckaroos of 302

The Buckaroos of 302 continue to be active as we had nearly 700 memberships last winter. Currently, as of January, we stand at 350 memberships as we look to match or hopefully improve upon last year's membership. Our major project this year was re-decking a bridge over Sucker Brook in the Groton State Forest by CA18. We tried a new deck design by using 2x6 pressure treated boards place on their edge with spacers in between. The hope that this new design will last approximately 2-3 times longer than the decks we have used in the past. Plenty of people continue to volunteer in the fall to help with trail work. Volunteer crews worked on clearing trails from Lanesboro/New Discovery to Peacham /Cabot this fall. Brush was cleared on sections of the Railroad Bed that run through the town and the State put new material down on the sections that run through the Groton State Forest. We'd like to thank our volunteers for all that they do and the hours that they put in every fall to keep our 60 miles of trails in top shape. We're hoping that the season picks up as warm weather/rain in December has put a damper on the start of the season.

Current list of officers: President - Taylor Lamberton; Vice President - Kevin McDonnell; Secretary - Willis Page; Treasurer & Trail master - Gary Lamberton; Media Coordinator - Suzanne Pare

Planning Commission Report

The Planning Commission began the year finalizing the Village Center Designation. We were approved March 23, 2020. Then Covid-19 put a damper on our next project, The Zoning By-Laws. We put everything on hold and are hoping that we can get back on track in 2021. For more information on Village Center Designation please check out the sites below:

http://www.nvda.net/files/200323_Groton-VCD-Boundary-Map.pdf

https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/January2021_HTCAApplicationandGuidelines.pdf

<https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/CD/CPR/CPR-VC-Designation-Benefits.pdf>

Respectfully Submitted,
Carrie Peters, Brent Smith, Emily Pratt, Steve Hart, Michael Nahmias & Ruth Meter

Zoning Report for the year 2020

In the year 2020, there were a total of twenty five Zoning Permits issued. Of these twenty five permits issued, more than a third of the permits, nine of the permits, were either started or finished prior to a Zoning Permit being issued. Starting in the calendar year of 2021, if you start a project without the permit being issued, you may be subject to a fine that is one hundred dollars a day, a cease and desist order being issued until the proper permits are received and the project being reported to the Agency of Natural Resources. The project will be suspended until ALL the proper permits are granted and in place.

It is important to receive the proper permit and have it on file for several reasons. One of the reasons is if you are going to sell your home and have made changes without a permit, when the Title Search is done, you may not be able to sell your property until the proper paperwork is granted.

At that point you are subject to monetary penalties that may be large in nature. Reasons to obtain a permit include changing the existing footprint of the building, making sure you are not too close to boundary lines, complying with State of Vermont regulations concerning Zoning, changing the use of an existing structure and proper setbacks from the access roads.

The State of Vermont is proposing new laws regarding zoning that may come into effect starting in January, 2021. Violations to these new laws carry penalties that may be assessed by the State and/or the Town.

Any structure larger than one hundred square feet, or changes the footprint of the existing structure or changes the use of the existing structure, needs to be permitted. Anyone applying for a Zoning Permit at one of our local Lakes or Ponds may have to also file a Shoreline Protection Act Permit before applying for a Town of Groton Zoning Permit. The guidelines for a Shoreline Protection Act Permit can be received by contacting your local Agency of Natural Resources Office for each County in Vermont. Also, if you are building a new building or changing your waste water discharge, you will need a State of Vermont Waste Water Discharge Permit. These can be obtained from the Agency of Natural Resources in the St. Johnsbury, Vt. Office.

If you are applying for a Building Permit, you may not START Construction until AFTER you have received the Orange Permit Card that has to be posted at the construction site until the project is finished. The Zoning Permit is valid for two years from the date it is sent to the property owner.

The permit process includes an on-site visit at which time pictures will be taken of the proposed project site and if approved, then a fifteen day waiting period is in place where the permit may be viewed at the Groton Town Offices. If there are no objections to the permit, the permit will be granted after the fifteen day waiting period. Normally, once you submit a permit, I will visually inspect the site within twenty four hours. After the project is complete, more photos may be taken of the site.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning a permit prior to you starting the project. I do not always have an immediate answer but I can usually get you an answer within twenty four hours for any of your Zoning Permit questions. If I cannot find the answer, I will give you information to the right Vermont Agency that can assist you. You can contact me at: (802) 584-4108, (802) 274-7565 or at: danjacs@charter.net. You can also access Zoning Regulations and Building Permits at: www.grotonvt.com.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Town of Groton as your Zoning Administrator.

Dan Webster/Town of Groton Zoning Administrator

Recreation Committee Report 2020

Even with the onset of Covid, the Groton Recreation Committee was a positive influence on our community in 2020!

If you are interested in helping to develop recreational activities in town, or have any recreational ideas, please contact Lisa Hart at LJLHART@yahoo.com.

Village Banners - It would be wonderful if any committee or individual or group of people are interested in sponsoring seasonal banners, please contact us ... the approximate cost for 1 banner is approximately \$100.00.

Recreation Activities and Community Events in 2020

January-March - Seventh season of Ladies' Beginner Floor Hockey

Approximately 10 women played throughout the season, which was unfortunately cut short due to Covid.

June 11, 14, July 26, August 9 – Family Trout Fishing

In conjunction with the Rec Committee, Mike & Jennie Gaiss invited Groton residents who would like to take their kids (or grandkids) fishing to do so at their private pond (stocked with rainbow trout).

Wednesdays July 22nd– September 2nd– Groton Community Bike Ride

We organized weekly meetups each Wednesday at 5:30pm to explore a different segment of the Cross Vermont Trail (CVT). Our “relaxed” pace provided riders of all ages and skill levels the opportunity to get out as a community and enjoy the beauty of the CVT together.

September 26th– Fall Foliage Bike Ride

We coordinated with the Cross Vermont Trail Association to ensure the 23rd Annual Fall Foliage Ride continued through the pandemic. Starting and ending at Upper Valley Grill, this year’s route was a round trip ride to the 4 corners at Lanesboro. Over 40 riders from across the state participated.

October 24th - The Annual Halloween Party

This event (reformatted for Covid) was a great success! This event was run by Jazzy Children’s Fund and held outdoors at the Groton Village gazebo. Children and families came dressed up in their favorite costume and enjoyed pumpkins, a scavenger hunt, and Halloween gift bags.

December - Five Wednesday evenings of yoga

Hosted by instructor and studio owner, Kelsey Root-Winchester, this is yoga for all levels. Approximately 31 people attended the online "Zoom" classes.

PROJECTS

Puffer Field dugouts

You may have noticed the beautiful dugouts sitting at Puffer Field, west of the village. Many businesses and individuals helped to make this happen. First and foremost, THANK YOU to Coventry Log homes for donating the dugouts. WOW.

Other costs were offset by many businesses and individuals:

- The Recreation Committee hosted a dinner for Washington Electric Coop's annual meeting.
- Donations were made from Upper Valley Grill and Modern Woodman.
- Town Hwy used excavator to prep for the cement pad
- Frank Page poured the cement Foundation
- Bo Wilson & Crew donated their time putting these two dugouts together.
- Carrie Peters coordinated this project.

Thank each and everyone of you for your time and contributions!

Play Ground Clean up

You may have also noticed a cleaner, safer playground behind Veteran's park on Main Street. We can thank the Town Hwy department and Ben Gandin for cleaning up all the brush, taking down several trees and seeding the area that leads down to the playground. Thanks to Steve Hart, we have a new basketball backboard and a repaired toy duck. Wood chips were also spread around the playground area by Steve Hart , Ben Gandin, and Aaron Smith.

Thank each and everyone of you for making a safe place where kids can enjoy exercise outdoors!

Rec Committee Members:

Anne Hatch, Lisa Hart, Janet Page, Michael Gaiss and Jennie Gaiss.

The Groton Food Shelf

The Groton Food Shelf would like to thank the following people and organizations for their generous donations of food and/or money. This was a very trying year and these donations went above and beyond. We are truly lucky to live in such a giving community. We gave out 20 Thanksgiving Baskets and 20 Christmas baskets plus gift cards to Ocean State Job Lots for parents to choose gifts for their children.

Upper Valley Grill	Gail & Roy Davis
Chub & Brenda Bruleigh	Steve & Barb Elliott
Taylor Lamberton	Paul Clark
Jim Currier	Jill Skochdopole
Les & Bonnie Edwards	Dotty Perkins
Pamela Achilles	John Cesari
Ryegate Food Drive	Joanne Watkins
Molly Fisher	Tom Huyler
Jamie Brown	Cottage Hospital Ladies
Paula Hernandez	Renee Westwood
Diane Kreiss	Paula Achilles
Trendy Threads	Avis Royston
Ryegate Presbyterian Women	Judy Thrasher in memory of Norman & Marion Murray
Groton Baptist Church	Groton Volunteer Fire Dept in memory of John Darling
Groton's Gorgeous Gals	Doug & Nancy Murray
Kirsten Murch	The Growing Peace Project
Upper Valley Everyone Eats	Willing Hands
OSIP Adult Day Services	Green Mtn Farm Direct
Janai Planck	

If we missed you we apologize and please know your donation was greatly appreciated.
Carrie Peters & Lisa Hart

If you are in need please call 584-3276, Mon-Thurs. or email townclerk@grotonvt.com to set up a time to pick up food.

<u>Food Shelf 2020 Beginning Balance:</u>	\$10,374.87
Donations:	\$6,693.00
Interest Earned:	\$4.22
Expenses:	\$5397.85
(Food, gift cards, personal care items, donations)	
Ending Balance:	\$11,674.74

Groton Social Resource Committee Report for the Year 2020

The Groton Social Resource Committee was formed by the Selectboard in March 2020 to help ensure residents were provided with the information, resources, and assistance they needed during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Committee members included Brenda Bruleigh, Zac Conaway, Derek Curtis, Mike Gaiss (chair), Wade Johnson, Deborah Jurist, and Aaron Smith. In addition, the group worked closely with Lisa Hart, Carrie Peters, Jodi Fleurie-Wohlleb throughout the process.

Some of the initiatives that were created and launched for the community during this period include:

- Groton COVID-19 Resource List. Provided guidance on where to access information on the pandemic, what resources were available (and how to access them), and ways for community members to help respond to the evolving pandemic situation. Copies were also mailed to residents upon request.
- Bi-Weekly Community Video Conference Updates via Zoom (April-May). Guest speakers included Maria Ryan (Cottage Hospital), Meg Burmeister (NEK Council on Aging), Frank Tilghman (Wells River Savings Bank), Chip Conquest (VT State Rep), Dr. Steve Genereaux (Little Rivers Health Care).
- Dedicated Website. The Groton Together website (www.grotontogether.com) was launched to consolidate information, resources, mutual aid, events, news, etc., and make available in one location.
- Community Communications. Two USPS mailings (letter and a postcard) were sent to all residents outlining available resources and how to request information and/or assistance. An email newsletter was also launched (Groton Together Update) to highlight new info, resources, and events.
- Mask Making. Our Groton group made and distributed over 700 masks, most of which were made available at the Community Building for anyone in need. The group also supplied Cottage Hospital and Little Rivers Health Care when protective masks were in short supply. Mask extenders were also made available and the group provided kid-sized masks to Town Librarian, Jodi Fleurie-Wohlleb, for making kits available to kids for personalizing their own masks.

The Vermont Agency Foundation recognized these efforts with a “Dramatic Impact & Enduring Legacy Grant” for impacting the lives of others during COVID-19. The \$500 grant went towards offsetting the cost of the new digital sign at the Town Office.

We were fortunate to collaborate with many other towns across Vermont to share ideas, best practices (e.g., the framework for our Groton COVID-19 Resource List), resources (e.g., how to acquire a new Wi-Fi Hotspot for the Community Building) during this period. Our appreciation is extended to these organizations for hosting bi-weekly calls and offering their ongoing time and support:

- NEK Collaborative (led by Katherine Sims)
- Upper Valley Community Organizers (organized by Monique Priestley)
- Vermont Council on Rural Development (led by Jon Copans)

Our sincere thanks go out to all involved in this effort, from those who sewed masks, donated materials, picked up groceries and prescriptions for those that couldn't, volunteered to assist others, and contributed in a myriad of other countless ways. It was a true community-wide effort.

Thank you!

2020 Town Report for Community Club

The Groton Community Club was started 65 years ago by local volunteers to raise funds to assist with the cost of the hot lunch program for Groton school kids. This tradition of focus on students continues to this day with the granting of scholarships to all Groton graduates that are furthering their education. There also is funding provided to the Groton Library and for the beautiful flowers through the downtown.

Our fundraiser is the “World Famous Chicken Pie Supper” where close to 900 people are treated to a wonderful meal on the first Saturday of October and which is supported by a tremendous number of volunteers! Close to a half ton of potatoes & squash (with the squash made with Josephine French’s “secret receipt”), 75 dozen rolls, six gallons of pickles, over 100 chickens, and 140 pies are prepared and served.

This year there was an amazing display of wonderful good will of a lot of people concerned that we could not host the supper due to the virus. To ensure that we could continue the tradition of scholarships to the students, the people sent us cash donations that in total will enable the continuing of student support. Soooooooooo, even though in the 65th year there was no supper for the first time ever, the 2021 students will be continuing to receive their support. What a uplifting and positive display of the kindness of our patrons, friends, and neighbors!!!!

We end this report on a more sober note. An original sponsor of the supper and for many decades deeply involved in the supper went to be with the Lord this year. We want to recognize his many contributions and pay our respect to Deane Page and his family for his loyal support. We are receiving donations in Deane’s memory and will be deciding this summer how to best recognize Deane.

A very large thank you to everyone!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Peter Lyon
President

Diane Kreis
Secretary

Groton Lunches w/ Friends LLC.

PO Box 109

Groton VT 05046

Groton Lunches w/ Friends, LLC is a senior meal site affiliated with the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging. Over the course of 2019 our Organization offered the following to our Community:

We served 1400 hot meals to participants at our weekly meal site and delivered 360 meals to Meals on Wheels clients. Groton residents volunteered more than 4600 hours helping with this effort over the course of 2019.

In April of 2020, the Council on Aging required us to stop serving meals at our meal site and switch to curb-side pick-up and home delivered meals only, due to COVID-19 concerns. Since then we have delivered 1047 meals to Groton residents and have had 245 meals picked up curbside.

Thank you,

Board: Jodi Fleurie-Wohlleb, Kathleen Lamberton, Bill Paton & Stanley Pierce

Groton Historical Society Report

Knowing a little American and world history in the year 2020 was a great advantage. It helped to understand and respect the huge events our ancestors struggled through and to give us courage and perspective as we faced the new challenges of 2020.

Our brave little Groton Historical Society soldiered on this year as COVID restricted many of our plans. We tip-toed, individually, in and out of the Peter Paul House, tidying up, photographing clothing, and Lise Shallberg organized the file cabinets!

Willard Benzie made an index for all the newsletters, so now the precious editions of the last decades can be searched for specific subjects.

Our plans to feature Groton Pond history and its importance to the town has been postponed until 2021. We are working on the reprint of the 1970 booklet "Camping at the Pond" written by Marion Lindsay Proudfoot, with permission from her son. We will also have an updated map of the properties around the lake. According to the Groton Pond Website the last directory was done in 1986.

We were so sad to lose our dear "Groton Historian" Deane Page. Deane's work with the young GHS, when the Peter Paul House was acquired and restored, was integral to the success of the whole project. Both Deane and Bing's love, sweat and effort are in the painted and wall papered walls, stripped paint and refinished stairs, the electrical wiring, the kitchen stove, the cast iron sink in the kitchen and even the upholstered chairs in the west parlor. Bing always encourages and compliments every effort and she means every word she says.

The year the GHS put on a sugar on snow party Deane sugared off the maple syrup on our Glenwood cookstove in the kitchen of the Peter Paul House. We all had a chance to watch and learn from an expert.

Deane we are deeply grateful we had the opportunity to learn so much from you. You will be sorely missed, indeed.

Huge thanks go out to everyone who pitched in with donations for the painting and repair of the Peter Paul House. The north and east sides are completed, and we have engaged Matt Nunn again to do the south and west sides in 2021. We are inching our way to the goal of \$6,000, and are especially grateful for the contributions made in Deane's honor.

For the second time the beautiful artwork on the cover of the town report was painted, in watercolors, by Nichole Wolfgang. Our deepest thanks go to her. Both images have been turned into jigsaw puzzles and are available for sale from Lise Shallberg (802) 584-3283.

Here's hoping we can see all our friends and members at the Peter Paul House in 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Jurist - President

Community Building Use Policy

The Community Building plays an important role in our community and we hope to promote its use while continuing to meet the growing cost of maintenance. We ask that those using the facility contribute a portion of the money required to cover the cost of cleaning, utilities and heating.

Taxpayer money provides for the bulk of this financial burden but a portion of the increased maintenance cost is due to the increased use and needs to be supplemented by user fees. Increased activity has also required that our scheduling policy be updated to allow for more residents and diverse activities to be accommodated.

The Community Building Gymnasium and Kitchen will be available for public use providing there is no conflict with Town-sponsored activities. Town usage and use by town residents shall take precedence over non-resident, non-profit, or private use.

Space will be scheduled in hourly segments with a fee of \$8.00 per hour for residents & \$10.00 per hour for Non-residents for up to 50 people. There will be a \$50.00 Cleaning and damage deposit at the time the Reservations are made and paid in advance. It will be returned after the space has been determined to be clean and damage free, within 7 days after space use.

Larger Events, over 50 people will be reserved in advance and be approved by the Select Board, or by the person being appointed by the Selectboard to approve the application. All day events will cost \$100.00 a day plus the \$50.00 deposit fee. Non-profit, public, town events may have the fee waived if agreed upon by the Select Board.

The Community Building Sign-Up Sheet and Release of Responsibility Form will be available at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours. It is the responsibility of the individuals or groups using the Community Building to clean the rented space and to remove their trash after each use. The key must be returned promptly after the function. Keys shall not be duplicated.

If the applicant will need to have a custodian, it is the applicant's responsibility to contact the town's custodian to schedule their services and make arrangements for payment of their services.

Misuse of any of the Groton Community Building facilities and premises and/or failure to comply with the above policy, or any of the rules will result in immediate revocation of permission to use any of the facilities in the future.

NEK Community Broadband

NEK Broadband Communications Union District Annual Report to Member Towns

Activities through December 7, 2020

NEK Broadband Communications Union District (NEK CUD/ CUD) was formed through affirmative Town Meeting votes on March 3, 2020 by 27 NEK towns: Albany, Barnet, Barton, Brighton, Burke, Concord, Coventry, Craftsbury, Danville, East Haven, Glover, Greensboro, Groton, Hardwick, Kirby, Lowell, Lyndon, Newark, Peacham, Ryegate, Sheffield, St. Johnsbury, Stannard, Sutton, Waterford, Westfield and Wheelock. Within two weeks, Vermont and much of the country, and world, entered a state of emergency related to the novel coronavirus.

The safety measures instituted to protect public health exacerbated and laid bare existing deficiencies in our region's broadband infrastructure. Since then, additional attention and funding has been made available to begin to tackle the problem. In addition, all our meetings have been conducted via the online video conferencing application Zoom, following emergency open meeting rules provided by the Vermont Secretary of State.

On April 30, 2020, NEK CUD held its organizational meeting with Governing Board members and alternates appointed by each member town. We adopted bylaws and established an Executive Committee and elected seven members to serve. The CUD was officially recognized by the Vermont Secretary of State on May 6, 2020. By our June meeting, we established a regular meeting time, the second Thursday of each month between 5:30 and 7 p.m. as well as a website where we post agendas and minutes: nekbroadband.org

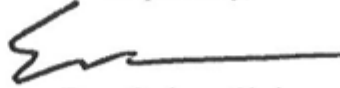
Highlights of the past year include:

- (May) Created standing Finance and Technology Committees with appointed members. These two committees are open to both Governing Board members and members of the public.
- (June) Adopted a Statement of Mission, Service Goals, Operating Principles and Immediate Priorities. Approved a Hybrid Public-Private Operator as a preferred operating model, which means the CUD would not be an Internet Service Provider (ISP), but would strive to own assets that would be leased to one or more private operators.
- (July) Recommended Tilson Technology Management, Inc. as the communications consultant to conduct our feasibility study and business plan. Partnered with Tilson Technology Management, Inc., VELCO (Vermont Electric Power Company), Green Mountain Power and the Vermont Public Power Supply Authority (VPPSA) to prepare for the FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) reverse auction. Joined an Interlocal Agreement with other Vermont Communication Union Districts to explore collaboration.
- (August) Approved a 2020 Budget which included contract positions: a part-time Project Manager, Bookkeeper/Clerk and Administrator/Treasurer. Hired Christine Hallquist of Hyde Park as part-time Project Manager for the months of August and September.
- (September) Approved COVID-Response Connected Community Resilience Program grant-funded broadband project with Kingdom Fiber, which will fund the customer portion of fiber connections for up to 100 underserved addresses in Albany, Craftsbury, Greensboro, Hardwick and Irasburg by the end of the year. Hired Jami Jones of Hardwick as part-time Bookkeeper/Clerk.
- (October) Hired Christine Hallquist as Administrator/Treasurer. Adopted draft 2021 budget and annual report. Approved applying for a second COVID-Response Connected Community broadband project with Tilson Technology Management, Inc. in Concord, VT. This project is conditional upon Tilson moving forward with their Lunenburg, VT project and funding may be reallocated to other projects elsewhere in the CUD.
- (November) Tilson completed the feasibility study highlighting 8 strategic projects that would cash flow positive in three years. Study also presented multiple sources for financing the initial projects including Vermont Economic Development Authority (VEDA) loans, grants and private equity.

- (December) FCC announced RDOF awards for Vermont. Significant awards were given to 3 ISP's who will be required to provide service speeds of at least 100mbps.

In 2020 thus far, membership has grown to 31 towns. Wolcott and Irasburg joined on May 29. Westmore joined on July 9. Brownington joined on November 12, 2020. Walden joined December 10th.

Respectfully,



Evan Carlson, Chair

NEK Community Broadband							
Community Union District							
2021 Budget							
	Organizational	Notes					
Income							
2020 Transfer	68,700						
Additional Operational Fundraising	25,000						
TOTAL	93,700						
Expenses							
<i>Personnel</i>							
Administrator/ Treasurer	\$7,000	Contribution to NVDA contract	Jan-July				
Administrator/ Treasurer	\$22,500	CUD position - 25 hrs/week	August-December				
Bookkeeper/ Clerk	\$9,600	CUD position - 10 hrs/week					
Grantwriting/ Communications	\$4,000						
Legal	\$15,000						
<i>Project</i>	\$30,000	Remaining Kingdom Fiber Connections					
<i>Operational</i>	\$1,250						
<i>Board Expenses</i>	\$1,000						
TOTAL	\$90,350						
Projected Capital Investment							
VEDA matching funds	\$400,000	VT matching funds grant					
VEDA loan	\$4,000,000	Maximum amount					
	\$460,000	VT Connected Community Resilience Program Grant					
	\$500,000	Minimum target for additional grant-funded project					
	\$5,360,000						
<i>Footnotes</i>							
(a) NEK Broadband anticipates engaging in construction of portions of its fiber network in 2021.							
How much we will be able to fund will be based on the federal and state grants available, as well							
as our ability to secure low-interest loans. At minimum, we expect to apply for a loan program available							
for broadband development through the Vermont Economic Development Authority. Success will be							
dependent on favorable results from our CUD feasibility study due in mid-November.							

Executive Committee Report

The NEKWMD finished 2020 by processing less recycling compared to 2019 – 2,211 tons in 2020 compared to 2,615 tons in 2019. Significant drops in mixed paper and plastic were responsible for most of the decline. A few items, including food scraps, tires, and cardboard saw increases in tonnage. E-Waste, glass, and battery tonnages were approximately the same as 2019. Recycling markets remained stable but low throughout most of 2020.

The District ended 2020 with a deficit of \$8,338.22. Revenues in 2020 were 5% above projections. While budgeted expenses were 6% above projections. The COVID19 pandemic did disrupt our work schedule for several weeks in the spring, but it does not appear to have impacted the District significantly over the course of the entire year. Legal fees and truck repairs were the primary drivers of the deficit in 2020. The pandemic will impact our budget process for 2021. The 2021 budget will be approved by the NEKWMD Board of Supervisors and not a direct vote by District members. This is a temporary one-year change directly related to changes in Town Meeting Day.

There were no additions or subtractions to the District membership in 2020. We continue to serve the largest geographical area and largest number of towns (49) in the State. Our population served is 3rd in the state behind only Chittenden Solid Waste District and the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District.

The NEKWMD is entering 2021 with a proposed budget of \$809,527 – an increase of 1.85% compared to 2020. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, the District's 2021 budget will be acted upon by the District Board of Supervisors at their regularly scheduled meeting on March 9, 2021. The District sought and received a one-time legislative remedy in order to act on the budget internally. There will be 2 additional public hearings to receive input on the 2021 proposed budget. These meetings will be held via ZOOM on February 18 and 25, 2021 at 6pm.

The NEKWMD was staffed by nine full-time and three part-time employees in 2020. Each of the member Towns is entitled to representation by at least one Supervisor. The Board of Supervisors is the principal authority over the NEKWMD and the primary means of contact with the member towns. The Board of Supervisors meets monthly with the District's Executive Director to set the direction of NEKWMD policy.




Since the surcharge on trash is based on the amount of waste produced, members have a clear opportunity to control their waste management costs. Costs can decrease as waste generation rates decrease and recycling rates increase.

We would like to express our appreciation to our able staff for their continuing commitment to our mission. The 47,600 residents of 49 Towns throughout the Northeast Kingdom can be assured that the NEKWMD will continue to address their waste management concerns in a timely and environmentally sound fashion.

NEKWMD Executive Committee

Groton & Ryegate Recycling and Waste Disposal Guide

269 School St., East Ryegate. Fridays, 3:00pm - 6:00pm & Saturdays, 8:00am – 12:00pm

<div>  SORT ITEMS  </div>	
<p><u>MIXED PAPER</u></p> <p>Newspapers, catalogs, telephone books, glossy inserts, paperback books, colored & white paper, wrapping paper and junk mail. Any color or type of paper except:</p> <p><i>NO brown Kraft bags, boxboard, coffee cups, ice cream cartons, or metallic wrapping paper.</i></p>	<p><u>CORRUGATED CARDBOARD, BOXBOARD, & BROWN KRAFT BAGS</u></p> <p>All Cardboard and Boxboard food packaging. Remove excess tape. Staples are OK.</p> <p><i>NO wax-coated cardboard, cardboard soiled with food waste, coffee cups, ice cream cartons, or Styrofoam.</i></p> <p>*BOXES MUST BE FLATTENED*</p>
<p><u>TIN CANS</u></p> <p>Labels are OK. Flattening not required. Separate from aluminum cans. Tin is magnetic.</p> <p>*MUST BE RINSED*</p>	<p><u>ALUMINUM CANS, FOIL AND FOOD TRAYS</u></p> <p>Labels OK. Flattening not required.</p> <p><i>Snack bags and candy wrappers are trash.</i></p> <p>*MUST BE RINSED*</p>
<p><u>GLASS BOTTLES & JARS</u></p> <p>*Rinse, Remove Lids (recycle with tin)*</p> <p><i>NO porcelain, Pyrex, windows, crystal, light bulbs, lids, metal or wood.</i></p>	<p><u>PLASTIC BAGS</u></p> <p>Any plastic bag or packaging labelled #2, #4, or #5. Any color accepted. Includes bubble wrap.</p>
<p><u>PLASTIC CONTAINERS #1 – #4 & #5 Food Containers</u></p> <p><u>Max size 2 Gallons / NO BLACK PLASTIC / *MUST BE RINSED*</u></p> <p>Includes food containers, cleaner containers. #5 accepted <i>if it's a food container.</i></p> <p><i>DISPOSE OF THESE PLASTIC ITEMS IN THE TRASH: Any black plastic, Screw-top caps, automotive fluid bottles, pesticide bottles, vinyl siding, toys, CD cases, VHS tapes, Styrofoam, syringes, or medical devices.</i></p>	
<div>  <p>NO...</p> <p><u>DIRTY OR UNRINSED ITEMS</u></p> <p><u>Black Plastic containers</u></p> <p><u>Plastic Containers larger than 2 Gallons</u></p> </div>	

ADDITIONAL ACCEPTED MATERIALS:

FOOD SCRAPS: All food scraps, including meat, bones, dairy. Remove PLU stickers. No plastics, metals, paper.

HOUSEHOLD TRASH: Trash disposal available at transfer station, \$3.00/15 gallon bag, \$4.00/30 gallon bag, \$5.00/contractor bag. Other fees apply for Bulky Wastes. Fees subject to change, contact the Town Office for most current prices. Residents may contract with private haulers for curbside collection services, find our Licensed Hauler List at <http://www.nekwmd.org/pdf/haulerlist.pdf>

SPECIAL WASTES: Oil, oil filters, automotive batteries, all household batteries (primary & rechargeable), metal aerosol cans, hard-cover books, agricultural bale wrap, scrap metal, fluorescent bulbs and electronics (televisions, computers, phones, radios, gaming consoles).

STUMP DUMP: Clean, unpainted, untreated wood and yard debris only.

SWAP SHOP: Pick-up or drop-off any small, clean household item in good working condition.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE – May through the end of September **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** in Lyndonville, & special Saturday events (no appt necessary) throughout the District. June – September. Call for details.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS – CONTACT THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AT (802) 626-3532 or (800) 734-4602. www.nekwmd.org, e-mail outreach@nekwmd.org

Updated 1/2021



List of Common Items **NOT ACCEPTED** for Recycling

Please dispose of the following items in the trash unless otherwise stated.
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT SAFELY AND PROPERLY DISPOSING OF A
MATERIAL– CONTACT THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM
WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

(802) 626-3532 or (800) 734-4602. www.nekwmd.org, e-mail outreach@nekwmd.org

Unacceptable Plastics Include:

Any **black** plastic containers

Screw-top Caps

Motor oil, gas containers

Pesticide containers

Styrofoam of any kind

Planting pots and trays

Plastic furniture

Plastic Toys

Coffee Makers

Coat hangers

Vinyl Siding

Maple Tubing

CDs, DVDs, VHS, and cases

Water line pipes and plastic tubing of any size

Hard, rigid plastic (if it shatters, it's not accepted)

Unacceptable Plastic Bags and Films

Any films with food residue

Unacceptable Aluminum

Chip Bags, Snack Wrappers, Pop tart Wrappers

Aluminum Flashing (recycle with scrap metal)

Coffee Bags

Unacceptable Tin

Recycle these with Scrap Metal

Frying Pans

Large Pieces of Metal

Nails, Screws, Fasteners

Any tin that is a non-food container

Unacceptable Cardboard

Pringles containers

Milk and Juice Cartons of any kind

Ice cream and waxy or plastic frozen food boxes

Cardboard with metallic interior

Single-use coffee cups

Soiled Cardboard

Waxy Cardboard

Unacceptable Paper

Kraft brown paper bags (recycle with cardboard)

White or Brown Boxboard (recycle with cardboard)

Shiny, glossy, or metallic papers

Paper plates, cups, bowls

Single-use cups

Napkins, paper towels, tissue paper

Unacceptable Glass

Crystal

Incandescent light bulbs

Automotive lights

Pyrex

Porcelain

Unacceptable Food Scraps

PLU Stickers (sticks on fruits, vegetables)

“Biodegradable” bags, cutlery, bowls, plates

Food utensils

Plates, bowls, cups

Plastic bags

Styrofoam

Keurig cups

2021 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
SATURDAY, MAY 8	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Ryegate Transfer Station
SATURDAY, JUNE 5	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Derby Recycling Center
SATURDAY, JUNE 12	8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Brunswick Town Office
SATURDAY, JUNE 19	8:00 a.m. – 12:00p.m.	Newport Center Town Garage
SATURDAY, JULY 10	8:00 a.m. – 12:00p.m.	Brighton Recycling Center
SATURDAY, JULY 24	8:00 a.m. – 11:00a.m.	Greensboro Recycling Center
SATURDAY, AUGUST 14	8:00 a.m. – 12:00p.m.	Lunenburg Transfer Station
SATURDAY, AUGUST 28	8:00 a.m. – 12:00p.m.	Marshfield Town Office
SATURDAY, SEPT. 25	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Lyndon Recycling Center

****HHW Collections are free and open to residents of all DISTRICT TOWNS****

The NEKWMD reserves the right to terminate any collection event if storage capacity is reached.

Please limit HHW disposal at listed events to 30 gallons.

HHW Collection events are limited to District Households.

If you have more than 30 gallons, or need to dispose of business' HHW, please call our office for an appointment at our Lyndonville facility May 4 – Oct. 2, 2020.

Not going to be able to make any of these dates? NOT A PROBLEM! The NEKWMD will be accepting these materials by appointment at our Lyndonville facility from *May 4, 2021 to October 5, 2021*. Due to regulatory handling requirements, hazardous wastes will not be accepted without an appointment. Scheduling ahead ensures that a qualified individual will be on-site ready to accept your hazardous waste.

What are *Household Hazardous Products*? They are consumer products that contain ingredients that **may be**:

Toxic- poisonous if eaten, breathed, or absorbed through the skin

Corrosive- can burn or destroy living tissue if spilled on skin

Reactive- creates fumes, heat, or explosion hazards if mixed with certain materials such as water

Explosive- can explode with exposure to heat or pressure

Flammable/Ignitable- can easily be set on fire

To determine if a product in your home is hazardous, check the label for the following words:

Danger indicates that the substance is extremely flammable, corrosive, or toxic.

Poison means that the substance is highly toxic.

Caution/Warning is put on all other hazardous substances that are a somewhat lesser hazard, but are still dangerous if the directions are not followed closely.

Conditionally Exempt Generator businesses can also use the Lyndonville collections for the actual cost of the disposal of their materials. Please call ahead for pricing and an appointment.

CONTACT THE NEKWMD IF YOU HAVE ITEMS YOU CANNOT IDENTIFY

802-626-3532 or 800-734-4602 or www.nekwmd.org

The NEKWMD hazardous waste collection program is made possible in part by a grant from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. This year's grant totaled \$74,074.31

Acceptable HHW Materials

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- AEROSOLS
- AIR FRESHENERS
- AMMONIA
- ARTS AND CRAFTS SUPPLIES
- BLEACH
- CLEANERS (INCLUDES: DRAIN, OVEN, FLOOR, WINDOW, TOILET, RUG, ETC.)
- DISINFECTANTS
- METAL & FURNITURE POLISH
- MOTHBALLS
- MERCURY THERMOMETERS
- NAIL POLISH & REMOVER
- NI-CD, LITHIUM, MI-MH, AND BUTTON CELL BATTERIES
- SPOT & STAIN REMOVERS
- ALKALINE BATTERIES *

GARDEN SUPPLIES

- CREOSOTE
- DIOXINS
- FERTILIZERS
- FLEA KILLERS
- FUNGICIDES
- HERBICIDES
- INSECT SPRAYS
- MURIATIC ACID
- NO-PEST STRIPS
- PESTICIDES
- RODENT KILLERS

GARAGE

- ANTIFREEZE
- BRAKE FLUID *
- CORROSIVES

- CAR WAXES AND CLEANERS

GARAGE (CONTINUED)

- ENGINE DEGREASERS
- FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS *
- GASOLINE/DRY GAS
- KEROSENE
- LEAD-ACID CAR BATTERIES *
- LIGHTER FLUID
- OIL-BASED PAINT
- LATEX-BASED PAINT
- PAINT THINNER
- PROPANE CYLINDERS
- SEALANTS
- STAINS/STRIPPERS
- SWIMMING POOL CHEMICALS
- TRANSMISSION FLUID *
- WOOD PRESERVATIVES
- USED MOTOR OIL AND FILTERS *

* ALSO ACCEPTED AT OIL AND BATTERY STATIONS YEAR ROUND

PLEASE DO NOT BRING:

- ASBESTOS
- EXPLOSIVES, INCLUDING GUN POWDER, AMMUNITION
- FLARES
- INFECTIOUS WASTE
- PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION
- RADIOACTIVE WASTE, INCLUDING SMOKE DETECTORS
- UNKNOWN GAS CYLINDERS
- EMPTY CONTAINERS

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802-626-3532 or 800-734-4602 or www.nekwmd.org**

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HOMESTEAD DECLARATION

Overview

By Vermont law, property owners whose homes meet the *definition of a Vermont homestead must file* a Homestead Declaration annually by the April filing deadline. If eligible, it is important that you file so that you are correctly assessed the homestead tax rate on your property. Here is the information you as the property owner need to know about the Vermont Homestead Declaration.

In Vermont, all property is subject to education property tax to pay for the state's schools. For this purpose, property is categorized as either nonhomestead or homestead. A homestead is the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by the resident as the person's *domicile*.

All property is considered nonhomestead (formerly "nonresidential"), unless it is declared as a homestead. The education property tax rate levied on nonhomestead property differs from the rate levied on homestead property. It is your responsibility as the property owner to claim the property as a homestead if you meet, or expect to meet, the following requirements:

- You are a Vermont resident
- You own and occupy a homestead as your domicile as of April 1, **2020**

Please note: If you meet these requirements, except that your homestead is leased to a tenant on April 1, **2020**, **you** may still claim it as a homestead if it is not leased for more than 182 days in the **2020** calendar year.

Nonhomestead Property

Property is considered nonhomestead if one of the following applies:

- Your property is leased for more than 182 days out of the calendar year.
- The property is used exclusively for a commercial, including rental, purpose.
- The property is used for a second home, camp, vacation, or summer cottage.

How to File

Online

Taxpayers may file returns using myVTax, a free, secure, online filing site.

Paper Returns

If you cannot file and pay through myVTax, you may still use the paper forms. The Homestead Declaration is filed using Form HS-122, the Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit.

<https://tax.vermont.gov/sites/tax/files/documents/HS-122.pdf>

Veterans Exemption

The Local Agreement/Veterans Exemption reduces a Veterans property value by \$40,000. The State of VT pays the taxes on \$10,000 and the town covers the remaining taxes on \$30,000.

This was approved by the Town in 2009.

To be eligible for exemption, Veterans must meet one of the three criteria listed below

- Receive Disability compensation for a service-connected disability rated 50% or higher by the US Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Receive Improved Pension (also called Non –Service Connected Disability Pension) from the US Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Receive a permanent medical retirement from the military.

To be eligible for the exemption, Survivors must be the un –remarried spouse or a minor child of a veteran who met the eligibility criteria above at the time of their death.

Form can be found at the Town Clerks office or go to www.veterans.vt.gov for more information.

VOTERS ONLINE REGISTRATION

Beginning January 1, 2017, eligible persons may register to vote on any day up to and including the day of the election.

Registration is available during all normal business hours of your town or city clerk's office on day's preceding the election and during polling hours on Election Day. [17 V.S.A. § 2144](#)

The Elections Division will forward applications (and early or absentee ballot requests) to the appropriate town or city clerk for action, but we recommend submitting applications directly to your town or city clerk.

We encourage voters to log into their My Voter Page: <https://mvp.sec.state.vt.us/> By using the

My Voter Page, a registered voter can:

- Check registration status
- View information on upcoming elections
- Access voter specific elections information, including directions to a polling place and polling hours
- View a sample ballot
- Request and track an absentee ballot

Online registration can be found at <https://olvr.sec.state.vt.us/>

More information can be found at <https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/registration/>

VT Department of Health

Changes to birth and death certificates in Vermont as of July 2019

Effective July 1, 2019 changes to the Vermont statutes will enhance the safety and security of birth and death certificates. These changes protect against misuse of these legal documents and reduce the potential for identity theft. Additionally, the changes streamline the statewide system for creating, storing and tracking birth and death certificates.

What You Need to Know

- Only family members, legal guardians, certain court-appointed parties or their legal representatives can apply for a certified copy of a birth or death certificate. For death certificates, a funeral home or crematorium may apply for a certified copy.
- Applicants must show valid identification when applying for a certified copy of a birth or death certificate.
- Certified copies of birth and death certificates can be ordered from any town in Vermont.
- No changes to ordering system for copies of marriage, civil union, divorce or dissolution certificates, but minor changes to what you need to do to obtain a marriage license.

Where you can apply for certified copies of birth and death certificates:

- Any Vermont Town or City Clerk's office
- Online at secure.vermont.gov/VSARA/vitalrecords
- Vermont State Archives and Records Administration (VSARA)
- Vermont Health Department's Vital Records Office

Some vital record information is available online. If you are doing genealogy or family research, visit the Secretary of State's Vital Records page.

2020 VITAL RECORDS

BIRTHS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Father's Name</u>	<u>Mother's Name</u>
Evelyn Marie Lackey	Clinton Lackey	Shannah Bulger
Mackenzie Daniel Pennypacker	Robert Pennypacker	Shelby Pennypacker
Colton Andrew Lucas		Casey Franks
Aliys Jay Ainsworth		Gabrielle Ainsworth
Lyle Deane Page	Willis Page	Samantha Page
Bailey Marie Woodworth	Devyn Woodworth	Amanda Woodworth
Antonia Mary Regis	Mark Regis	Ashley Regis

CIVIL MARRIAGES

<u>Applicant A</u>	<u>Applicant B</u>	<u>Date</u>
Lawrence Tolimieri	Sharon Brand	July 11, 2020
Sara McKenna	Jeremy Provost	August 1, 2020
Dorothy Gallagher	Eugene Darling	September 19, 2020
Georgia Hadley	Louie Ormiston	October 10, 2020
Yasmin Alvarado	Sashly Felix	October 10, 2020

DEATHS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
Pearl Duprey	90 Years
Rodney Rood	70 Years
Harold Eastman	80 Years
Stacey Driscoll	51 Years
Mari Schaarschmidt	76 Years
Paul Tinkham	92 Years
Virginia Randall	75 Years
Victoria Beamis	77 Years
Eloise Pratt	92 Years
James Dudley	78 Years
Deane Page	90 Years
Nancy Chapin	79 Years

RABIES CLINIC

Date: March 17, 2021

Time: 5:00-6:00 PM

Place: Groton Town Garage

This year's clinic will be done outside due to Covid-19.

Please pre-register with owner and dog information at

802-222-4635 or email info@oxbowvetclinic.com

This will speed up the process.

Please wear a mask.

The Town Clerk will be in her office at the Groton Community Building for licensing of your animals.

April 1, 2021 all dogs must be licensed!

\$10.00 fine per dog if late.

Rabies Clinic being done by

Oxbow Veterinary Hospital

Dog License Fees

Intact Male or Female Dogs - \$14.00 by April 1st

Altered Male or Female Dogs - \$10.00 by April 1st

After April 1st additional fees will be added

VERMONT STATE LAW

In accordance with VSA 20 (3581) all Dogs shall be licensed by April 1st of each year.

Or

You will be in violation of this Vermont Statute and of The Town Ordinance.

Pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 3621, the Groton Selectboard will issue a warrant to impound or find homes or destroy all unlicensed dogs and wolf hybrids in the town. Pursuant to the warrant and 20 V.S.A. § 3624, the Constable and Animal Control Officer are required by law within 90 days to destroy all such unlicensed dogs and wolf hybrids within the town.

WE DO NOT WANT TO TAKE YOUR ANIMALS, BUT STATE LAW REQUIRES US TO IMPOUND UNLICENSED DOGS!

A person who fails to license a dog or wolf-hybrid in the required manner shall be fined up to \$500.00.

You will need to show a recent rabies certificate and a spayed or neutered certificate if your dog(s) has been altered.

If you no longer have this animal please contact the Groton Town Clerk to let her know.

*Groton Town Clerk's hours - Monday through Thursday 8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Contact the Town Clerk (584-3276) to register your Dog(s).*