

TOWN *of* STOCKBRIDGE ANNUAL REPORT

For Year Ending December 31, 2023

AUDITORS' REPORT

Pursuant to Section 1681/83, Title 24 V.S.A., we have verified the foregoing state cash balances, inspected bank statements, examined the accounts of Town Officers, and to the best of our knowledge the financial statements and report of receipts and disbursements present the financial condition of the town on December 31, 2023 and they are an accurate record of the funds in the year ended.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Lyman
Julie Groppe
Sylvan Groth

Cover picture credit
Greg Crawford

Table of Contents

Report	Page Number
Auditor's Report	1
Warning - Annual Town Meeting	4
Voter Information	9
Volunteer Form	10
Who's Who in Local Government	5
Town Officers - Elected	7
Town Officers - Appointed	8
Cash Receipts and Disbursements	17
General Fund Proposed 2024 Budget	18
General Fund Comparative Balance Sheet	23
Listing of Investment Accounts	24
Annual Town Meeting Minutes	12
2023 Town Salaries	26
Statement of Taxes Raised	25
Summary of Delinquent Taxes	27
Trustees of Public Funds	42
Planning Commission Report	47
Lister's Report	38
Zoning Administrator's Report	48
Road Commissioner's Report	34
Fire Chief's Report	37
Property & Equipment Inventory	35
Long Term Debt	35
Highway Grants	36
Equipment Hourly Usage	36
Materials Usage	36
Selectboard Report	32
Stockbridge Cemetery Commissioner's Report	41
Property Tax Transfers	29
Belcher Library Annual Report	40
Stockbridge Gaysville Historical Society Report	56
American Red Cross	49

Table of Contents

Report	Page Number
Bethel Area Food Shelf	50
Central Vermont Council on Aging	51
Clara Martin Center	52
Vermont Department of Health	65
Green Up Vermont	55
One Planet After School Program	57
Park House	58
Quin-Town Center for Senior Citizens	59
Safeline, Inc	60
Vermont League of Cities & Towns	66
Stockbridge Community Meals to Go	53
Summer Music for Kids	61
Tri-Valley Transit	62
Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission	63
Vermont Center for Independent Living	64
Vermont Spay and Neuter Incentive Program	67
White River Partnership	68
White River Solid Waste Alliance	70
White River Valley Ambulance	71
Windsor County Mentors	74
Windsor County News	73
Vital Record	77
Town Clerk's Report	33
Town Almanac	79
White River Valley Supervisory Union - Superintendent Report	75

Warning – ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE

March 5, 2024

Legal voters of the Town of Stockbridge, County of Windsor, State of Vermont, are hereby NOTIFIED and WARNED to MEET **at the Union Meeting House** located on Stockbridge Common on **Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 9:00 am**, to transact the following matters:

Article 1: To elect the following officers for the terms indicated and to fill other offices vacant.

1. Moderator for 1-year term.
2. Selectperson for 3-year term.
3. Lister for 3-year term.
4. Agent to Defend and Prosecute suits for a 1-year term.
5. Grand Juror for a 1-year term.
6. Collector of Delinquent Taxes for 3-year term.
7. Trustee of Public Funds for a 3-year term.
8. Cemetery Commissioner for a 3-year term.
9. Memorial Day Chair for a 1-year term.

Article 2: To hear the auditors' report and to take any necessary action thereon.

Article 3: Will the Town vote to pay real estate taxes in two equal installments due on August 15 and November 15?

Article 4: Will the Town vote to elect a Collector of Taxes or to authorize the Town Treasurer to collect current taxes?

Article 5: Will the Town vote to change the Delinquent Tax collect term from 1 year to 3 years?

Article 6: Will the Town vote to accept the proposed budget? Recommended \$1,096,651

Article 7: Will the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?

Article 8: Will the Town Vote to Contract with the Windsor Count Sheriff for a 1 year contract fro 12 hours per week at \$38,000 To do any other necessary and proper business brought before said annual town meeting.

STOCKBRIDGE SELECTBOARD

Michael Ketchum - Chair

Zachary Cavacas

Mark Begin

Who's Who in Local Government

Local Office Descriptions

Auditor (elected) –Review and audit all town accounts and prepare the annual town report. Should be very detail oriented. Good writing skills are a plus.

Cemetery Commissioner (elected) –Responsible for the care and management of the town's cemeteries. If no cemetery commissioners are elected, the selectboard fulfills this role.

Collector of Current Taxes (elected) – Collects the taxes for the town. In many towns this function is performed by the treasurer or town manager. Should be detail oriented and good with numbers.

Collector of Delinquent Taxes (elected) – Collects delinquent taxes along with penalties and fees. Responsibilities include sending monthly delinquent tax notices and placing liens on properties as needed. Bringing taxpayers who don't comply to small claims court and working with the town attorney on tax sales. Must be computer literate and willing to learn NEMRC (New England Municipal Resource Program). Able to work independently and closely with the town clerk. Good communication skills are important and knowledge of available assistance programs.

Constable (elected) –In some towns the constable is the town's local law enforcement officer, with all powers of search, seizure, and arrest within the town. In other towns, the constable only has the power to serve civil process, assist the health officer in the discharge of his or her duties, destroy unlicensed dogs, kill injured deer, remove disorderly people from town meeting, and, if the first constable, to collect taxes, if no tax collector is elected. Should be good at de-escalating and resolving conflicts.

Emergency Management Director (appointed) –Responsible for the organization, administration, and operation of the local committee that is formed for emergency management in the town or city. The emergency management director is under the direct control of the selectboard but may coordinate his or her emergency management efforts with neighboring towns and cities, and with the state emergency management division and the federal government.

Fence Viewers – (appointed) –Three viewers are appointed by the Selectboard each year. When called upon, they examine fences and other boundaries within the town.

Grand Juror (elected) –Helps to prosecute criminal offenses that occur in the town by giving information to state and local law enforcement. (Generally, not a very active position.)

Health Officer (appointed) –Appointed by the Commissioner of Health to a three-year term after recommendation of the town selectboard. Enforces the rules and regulations for prevention and abatement of public health hazards.

Inspector of Lumber (appointed) –Appointed, upon request, to examine, measure, and classify the quality of lumber, shingles, and wood sold within the town.

Justices of the Peace (elected) –Although elected by a town, justices of the peace are county officers. The duties of justices of the peace can include: Elections, Marriages, Oaths and Notary.

Listers (elected) –Appraise property within the town for the purpose of property tax assessment. Should be able to be polite, yet firm and not be oversensitive to criticism.

Moderator (elected) –Runs the annual and special town/school meeting. Should have a good sense of humor, be good at group process, and have experience following Roberts Rules of Order.

Planning Commission (appointed) – Appointed unless town votes to elect. Duties include preparing a municipal plan; making recommendations on matters of land development, conservation, and preservation; and participating in a regional planning program. Makes site plan and subdivision permit decisions unless there is a development review board in town. Should have a good working knowledge of all aspects of the town and be able to listen to many sides of an issue.

Regional Planning Commission Representative (appointed) – Helps develop the regional plan and assess municipal land use plans.

Road Commissioner (elected or appointed) –Can be elected or appointed. Has no independent authority but can assist the Selectboard in overseeing town highways at the request of the board. Should have experience with town highways and be a good communicator.

Selectboard Members (elected) –General supervision and control over town; enacts ordinances, regulations, and policies for town; oversees town property and personnel; prepares, presents, and manages budget, and oversees roads, including laying out, discontinuing, and reclassifying roads. Sits as local board of health and liquor control commission. Should know the town well, be able to understand all sides of complex issues, and have a very thick skin.

Town Agent (elected) –The town agent used to prosecute and defend suits. The Selectboard now has that authority. Thus, the town agent’s duty consists merely of assisting when litigation is in progress, at the request of the Selectboard. Generally, not a very active position.

Town Clerk (elected) – Records, preserves, and certifies the public records of the town. Issues dog, marriage licenses. Runs the local elections, serves as clerk of the board of civil authority, and hears tax abatement requests and tax appeals. Should have the patience of a saint and be a good ambassador for the town.

Town Forest Fire Warden (appointed) –Appointed by the fire commissioner with the approval of the selectboard. Prevents forest fires in the town by enforcing the laws designed to prevent forest fires.

Town Treasurer (elected) –Keeps the towns and school’s accounts, invests money (with the approval of the legislative body), keeps a record of the taxes voted, and pays orders drawn on him or her. Should be very precise, detail oriented and good at math.

Town Tree Warden (appointed) –Plans and implements a shade tree preservation program for the purpose of shading and beautifying public places. Removes diseased, dying, or dead trees; which create a hazard to public safety or threaten the effectiveness of disease or insect control programs.

Trustee of Public Funds (elected) –Stockbridge is blessed with six endowments. The trusts were created to benefit residents in need, support our schools, provide educational opportunities for our students, and for library materials. Trustees are also responsible for administering the Cemetery Trust Fund. They have a dual responsibility to prudently manage these funds while proactively supporting each fund’s purpose. Candidates should be interested in both roles.

2023 Town Officials – Elected

Role	Name	Term Through
Moderator	Kent Butterfield	2024
Selectboard	Zachary Cavacas Michael Ketchum Mark Begin	2024 2025 2026
Listers	Richard Furman Beth Dawley Janet Whitaker	2024 2025 2026
Auditors	Pam Lyman Julie Groppe Sylvan Groth	2025 2025 2026
Agent to Defend & Prosecute Suits	Joanne Green Mills	2024
Town Grand Juror	Louis Chap	2024
First Constable	Vacant	2023
Second Constable	Vacant	2023
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Susan Pelletier	2024
Trustees of Public Funds	Deborah Aldrich Karen Ruben Kim Marsh	2024 2024 2026
Cemetery Commissioners	Richard Lunna Mette Rea Joanne Green Mills	2024 2025 2026
Rochester-Stockbridge Unified School Directors	Bill Edgerton/Vice Chair Robert Meagher Amy Wildt/Chair Patrick Hudson/Clerk Justine Calnan-Cavacas Jessica Arsenault -Appt until 5/2023	2023-Stockbridge 2023-Rochester 2024-Stockbridge 2024-Rochester 2025-Stockbridge 2025-Rochester
Justices of the Peace	Suzanne Butterfield Kathie Burns Patrick Giordano Ryan Knox Kelly McDermott-Burns	2025 2025 2025 2025 2025
Memorial Day Chair	Suzanne Butterfield	2024

2023 Town Officials – Appointed

Role	Name	Term Through
Town Clerk	Jill Gifford	2024
Town Treasurer	Jill Gifford	2024
Asst Town Clerk	Elizabeth Dietz	2024
Agent to Convey Real Estate	Lee Ann Isaacson	2024
Tree Warden	Zachary Cavacas	2024
Inspector of Lumber	William Lynam	2024
Health Officer	Michael Ketchum	2025
Emergency Management Coordinator	Zachary Cavacas	2024
Fire Chief	James Munyon	2024
Fire Warden	Dave Brown	2026
Animal Control Officer	Zach Cavacas	2024
Planning Commission	Vacant Kevin Travis/Chair Jon Benson Louis Chap Vacant Patricia Hardyman	2024 2026 2024 2024 2024 2025
Zoning Administrator Acting Zoning Administrator	Lee Ann Isaacson Kevin Travis	2024 2024
Regional Planning Representative Alternate Representative	Kevin Travis Vacant	2024 2024
Board of Adjustment	Louis Chap Jon Benson Zachary Cavacas Tom Weymouth Jim Burns	2023 2024 2024 2025 2026
Board of Civil Authority	Town Clerk Justices of the Peace Selectboard	
Green Up Coordinator	Janet Whitaker	2024
Ambulance Representative Representative to Tri Valley Transit EC Fiber Representative EC Fiber Alternative Representative	Beth Dawley Lou Chap Joshua Trudeau Zach Cavacas	2024 2024 2024 2024

VOTER INFORMATION

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

CHECKLIST POSTED at Clerks Office, Stockbridge Post Office, and Gaysville Post Office by February 4, 2024. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE: There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the town clerk's office or going online to <https://mvp.vermont.gov>

ON ELECTION DAY:

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

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

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

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

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

If you have any questions or need assistance while voting, ask your town clerk or any election official for help.

NO PERSON SHALL:

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

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

WAYS OF VOTING EARLY: Not available for the annual town or school meeting.

WARNING POSTED ON: February 2, 2024 (No later than 30 days before election.)

Town of Stockbridge **Volunteer Form**

Stockbridge is full of citizens who care about their town and have skills, talents and interests that our Town needs to move ahead. Without the active participation of our residents, Stockbridge will not continue to be that special place we all enjoy and want to protect and enhance.

This Volunteer Form is for all people interested in helping the Town of Stockbridge. By filling out this form you let us know what areas you might be interested in serving. You're not making any commitment. The Town Clerk will keep your Volunteer Form on file for future reference.

Directions: Thank you for your interest in serving Stockbridge! Simply follow these steps:

1. Check off which position you may want to serve on or join. You may select more than one. If you choose more than one, tell us your top preference.
2. Fill in the personal information so we can contact you when there is a vacancy or need.
3. Return this form to the Town Office via mail @ Town of Stockbridge, P.O. Box 39, Stockbridge, VT 05772, or by emailing to townofstockbridgevt@gmail.com

Town Volunteer Positions/Organizations (Check all that you might be interested in):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agent to defend/ Prosecute Suits (elect) | <input type="checkbox"/> Listers (elected) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agent to Convey Real Estate(appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Day Chair (elected) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ambulance Representative (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring (Windsor County Partners) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auditors (elected) | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderator (elected) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Commissioner (elected) | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commissioner (appointed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collector of Current Taxes (elected) | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Planning Representative (appt) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collector of Delinquent Taxes (elected) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stagecoach Representative (appointed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Commissioner (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> School Directors (elected) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Constable (elected) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stockbridge Central School Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E.C. Fiber Representative (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stockbridge Central School Coach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Management Coord. (appt) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stockbridge Central School P.T.O. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Committee member (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stockbridge Central School Tutor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fence Viewers (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Selectboard member (elected) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Volunteer (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Town Clerk (elected) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Warden (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Town Clerk (appointed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Juror (elected) | <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer (elected) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green Up Day Coordinator (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Warden (appointed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green Up Day Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Trustee of Public Funds (elected) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Officer (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Consulting (for Town Web Page) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Society member | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Administrator (appointed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inspector of Lumber (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Board of Adjustment (apt) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Justices of the Peace (elected) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library Trustee | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If you checked off more than one volunteer position, which one is your top choice?

1. _____

Would you be interested in helping on a special project, like the future use of the Campground?

Yes

No

If you're interested in helping on a special project, please tell us what kind of project you would be interested in working on. (example: Town Website Development)

Name: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Address (or P.O. Box): _____

Town: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Home Phone Number: _____ **Cell Phone Number:** _____

Best time to contact you: _____

Relevant background/experience/education/interest areas: _____

Date: _____

Stockbridge Town Meeting

March 7, 2023, 9:00am

Lee Ann Isaacson called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Lee Ann introduced Kirk White, Stockbridge's State Representative

1. Rep. White reported that Workforce development is main issue that is being worked on at the state house. The state of Vermont continues to struggle with the number of people who are qualified to do the jobs needed. The legislature is continuing to work to incentivize people to come to live and work in our state. Key items being worked on are Housing shortages and lack of childcare. Another area of concern is community capacity. This leads to difficulty for towns to find volunteers and other elected or appointed positions. Rep White is also part of the Commerce and Economic Development committees. They are currently working on Insurance regulations and new ways to support communities and small businesses. He asks any small business to reach out to him directly to share support needs.
2. Lori Scott read the Warning.

Article 1

1. **Moderator for 1 year term** – Lee Ann asked for nominations. Kent Butterfield was nominated by Lou Chap was seconded from the floor. Craig Cota motioned to close nominations and was seconded from the floor. Lee Ann called for a voice vote. Kent was elected Moderator.
2. **Town Clerk for 3-year term** – Moderator asked for nominations. No nominations were made. Discussion ensued regarding Article 9 asking for a vote to change the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer from elected offices to appointed offices. It was clarified to the attendees that elected positions must be filled by a town resident and registered voter. Moving to an appointed position would allow the town to advertise the position to interested parties not living in Stockbridge. The change would allow the Selectboard to hire a Clerk as an employee. Janet Whitaker motioned to table Article 1: item 2 and item 3 until the vote on Article 9. Willis Whitaker seconded. Voice vote and the motion was approved. Failure to Elect.
3. **Treasurer for 3-year term** – Tabled as described in Article 1 Item 2.
4. **Selectperson for 3-year term** – Pam Lyman nominated Mark Begin. The nomination was seconded. Craig Cota motioned to close nominations and was seconded from the floor. Voice vote was held and Mark Begin was elected as Selectperson. The moderator instructed the clerk to cast one vote for Mark Begin.
5. **Lister for 3-year term** – Kathie Burns nominated Janet Whitaker and Willis Whitaker seconded. Craig Cota called to close nominations and Carl Groppe seconded. Voice vote was held and Janet Whitaker was elected. The moderator instructed the clerk to cast one vote for Janet Whitaker.
6. **Auditor for 2-year term, Auditor for a 3-year term**– Steve Farrington nominated Julie Groppe and Janet Whitaker seconded. There were no further nominations. Sylvan Groth offered to run for the Auditor for 3-year term. Wayne Gifford called to close nominations and was seconded from the floor. Voice vote was held, and Julie Groppe was elected as Auditor for a 2-year term and Sylvan Groth was elected as Auditor for a 3-year term. Moderator instructed the clerk to cast one vote for Julie Groppe and 1 vote for Sylvan Groth.

7. **Agent to Defend and Prosecute Suits for 1 year term** – Carl Groppe nominated Joanne Mills and Lee Ann Isaacson seconded. Steve Farrington called to close nominations and Craig Cota seconded. Voice vote was held, and Joanne Mills was elected. Moderator instructed the clerk to cast one vote for Joanne Mills.
8. **Grand Juror for 1 year term** – Carl Groppe nominated Lou Chap and was seconded from the floor. Willis Whitaker called to close nominations and Steve Farrington seconded. Voice vote was held, and Lou Chap was elected. The Moderator Instructed the clerk to cast one vote for Lou Chap.
9. **First Constable for 1 year term** - Moderator asked for nominations. No nominations were made. Lee Ann explained that there are new state requirements for law enforcement training for town constables who would perform local law enforcement (Town Ordinance enforcement and Animal Control). Suzanne Butterfield indicated that back when Kent Butterfield was the First Constable, the town provided a firearm. Donna Bryan suggested looking at the town's insurance to determine law enforcement coverage. Matthew Johnson asked if the costs to train up and provide equipment to a constable were more costly than contracting with the County Sheriffs Department. Katelynne McKinstry shared that the town could write a contract with an elected constable to recoup any training costs if the person was to leave within a timeframe. The selectboard clarified that the constables and the county sheriff are two separate items. Sandy Hack asked if the town is required by law to have a constable. Janet Whitaker motioned to close discussion and Steve Farrington seconded. Failure to Elect.
10. **Second Constable for 1 year term** - Same result as First Constable. Failure to Elect.
11. **Collector of Delinquent Taxes for 1 year term** – Kathie Burns nominated Susan Pelletier and Carl Groppe seconded. Willis Whitaker called to close nominations and Carl Groppe seconded. Moderator recognized a question from the floor regarding how the Delinquent Tax Collector was paid. The clerk confirmed that the collector was paid the 8% penalty once the debt was collected. Voice vote was held, and Susan Pelletier was elected. The moderator instructed the clerk to cast one vote for Susan Pelletier.
12. **Trustee of Public Funds for 3 year term** – Joanne Mills nominated Kim Marsh and was seconded from the floor. Janie Feinberg nominated Bill Edgerton and was seconded from the floor. Julie Groppe called to close nominations and was seconded from the floor. Kim Marsh introduced herself. She has been a property owner in Stockbridge for 20 years and a full time resident for 4 years. She is retired and volunteers locally. In her corporate life, she managed very large budgets and groups of people. Bill Edgerton shared that he is the current chair of the trustees and outlined recent successes of the group including the Stockbridge High School Graduate program and the Stockbridge Scholarship program. He has served on the committee for 9 years and the committee manages 6 endowments which generate the funding for the programs. Janet Whitaker motioned for a paper ballot and was seconded by the floor. A paper ballot was completed and 69 votes were cast. Kim Marsh received 36 votes and Bill Edgerton received 33 votes. Kim Marsh was elected. The moderator instructed the clerk to cast one vote for Kim Marsh.
13. **Cemetery Commissioner for 3 year term** – Melissa Kinney nominated Joanne Mills and was seconded by the floor. Mette Rea nominated Daniel Kealey and was seconded by the floor. Julie Groppe called to close nominations and was seconded from the floor. Joanne shared that she is very passionate about the cemetery and 5 generations of her family are buried here. She has worked with the commission to refine the current policy and wants to continue work to

improve all the cemeteries in Stockbridge. Mette Rea spoke about Daniel Kealey. He is retired and has been volunteering on the commission over the past year. He would like to continue his involvement with the commission. A show of hands vote was held, and Joanne Mills received 55 votes. Daniel Kealey received 3 votes. Joanne Mills was elected. The moderator instructed the clerk to cast 1 vote for Joanne Mills.

14. **Memorial Day Chair for 1 year term** – Kathie Burns nominated Suzanne Butterfield. Todd Trzaskos motioned to close nominations and Willis Whitaker seconded. A voice vote was held and Suzanne Butterfield was elected. Moderator instructed the clerk to cast one vote for Suzanne Butterfield.

Article 2: To hear the auditor's report and take all necessary actions thereon. Kathy Burns read the Auditor's Report. Julie Groppe moved to accept and Steve Farrington seconded. Approved

Article 3: Will the Town vote to pay real estate taxes in two equal installments due on August 15 and November 15? Craig Cota motioned to approve and Steve Farrington seconded. Approved

Article 4: Will the Town vote to elect a collector of taxes or to authorize the town Treasurer to collect card taxes? Kathie Burns motioned to have the Town Treasurer collect the current taxes. Approved.

Article 5: Will the Town vote to accept the proposed budget? Recommended \$1,039,827. Carl Groppe asked the Selectboard to provide an overview of the changes in the budget. Lee Ann shared that the \$109,000 increase from the 2022 budget is made up of Salary & Fringe Increases, \$26000, Various Highway expense increases (Tires for grader, Fuel and oils, Vehicle maintenance, Engineering Blackmer slide area), \$59,000, Town Clerk Training \$4,000, and General Expenses (Legal Fees, Reappraisal fund, Audit, Liability & WC insurance, Ambulance), \$20,000. Derwin Brown suggested that the budget be tabled until the new board can review. Willis Whitaker asked the board to describe future plans for any large expenditures or equipment. The board shared they are working on a capital planning effort. Several people asked about the 3rd person on the road crew and if it was still needed. Todd Trzaskos reminded the town that two years ago the 3rd person salary was voted into the budget. Kevin Travis asked if the board supports this budget. The board shared that they had worked very hard on the budget making many cuts before this version put before the town. Joanne Mills asked to add money to the budget to support the Bethel Food Shelf. The food shelf is supporting Stockbridge families. The Trustees of Public Funds reported they manage requests for appropriations and all the food shelf needs to do is submit a request to them for funding. Lee Ann Isaacson shared that the board and department leads worked very hard to stay within budget for 2022 expenses and were very careful to propose only what is needed for 2023. Steve Farrington motioned to close discussion and was seconded from the floor. Willis Whitaker called to vote on the article as written and seconded from the floor. Approved.

Article 6: Will the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of taxes? Julie Groppe motioned to move the article and Carl Groppe seconded. Willis Whitaker asked if this new article or the same as in previous years. Clerk confirmed it is the same. Julie called to close discussion and Carl Groppe seconded. Approved

Article 7: Will the Town vote to roll the unspent portion of 2022 Audit expense (\$4,000) and the 2022 Building Maintenance expense (\$4,400) in the amount of \$8,400 into the 2023 budget? Julie Groppe called to move the article and Carl Groppe seconded. Approved

Article 8—Will the Town vote to contract in the amount of \$30,000 with the Windsor County Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement services? Kathie Burns motioned to move the article and Sylvan Groth seconded. LT Ladd Wilbur from the Sheriff's office attended for questions. Patricia Hardyman asked if Lt Wilbur could describe the services to be provided and how that differed from the services provided by the Vermont State Police (VSP). Lt. Wilbur described the program is trying to build a regionally managed local law enforcement program to support towns that do not have a police department. Joanne Mills asked how townspeople would call for service. For emergencies call 911 and the VSP would call the sheriff to get the closest officer to the site. Mette Rea asked how townspeople could access services for non-emergencies. For non-emergencies call the Sheriff's department directly. Charles Jones asked if the cost could be decreased for areas in town that have lower law enforcement needs. Scott Moore asked if there was a threshold that once reached would incur more cost. No this is covered by the regional nature of the coverage. Bruce Griffith wanted to go on the record that he is against any increase in law enforcement. Kevin Travis asked if there was a specific problem that the board is trying to solve with this service. Donna Bryan shared that Insurance claims are increasing at a very high rate for theft and damage of property in Stockbridge and surrounding towns. Several community members shared personal stories about irate contractors they were fearful of, strangers in their driveways in the middle of the night, possible drug activities on back roads, graffiti, and more. Sylvan Groth asked for a description of how this service would benefit the community. The Sheriff's department is trying to become part of the community, get to know the residents and become known by them, and partner with the town to solve problems and manage issues. Todd Trzaskos commented that this would provide a comprehensive law enforcement system. Steve Farrington shared that in addition to building proactive law enforcement, it would add stability. Someone from the floor added that \$30,000 would add another 3% to the budget that had just been approved. For additional context, Sharon Pavlik shared that if you divided \$30,000 by the total number of residences in town it would be \$57/per. Frank Rea shared that homes are being turned into short term rentals bringing many people into the area. Motion was made to close discussion and vote. Show of hands vote was held with 28 in favor and 28 against. The moderator cast the deciding vote against. The article was denied.

Article 9: Will the town vote to change the offices of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer from elected to appointed offices? Carl Groppe called to move the article and was seconded from the floor. Clarification provided: By making these roles appointed rather than elected the selectboard can hire a qualified candidate who does not need to be a resident and registered voter in the town. In small towns like Stockbridge with only 718 residents at the 2020 census, it is difficult to find the skill set within the town. Willis Whitaker called to close discussion and was seconded from the floor. Approved

Article 10: To do any other necessary and proper business brought before said annual town meeting.

Deborah Aldrich attended to ask for support for the Stockbridge Community Free Meals to go new Prepared Meals CSA. She shared that the program has increased 33% from 2022 to 2023. The program not only supports food insecurity, it also supports local growers and local food preparers.

Steve Farrington shared current School Choice legislation bills S.66 and H.258. Both are looking at funding and would eliminate funding for many independent schools that Stockbridge students currently are able to attend.

Kathie Burns asked why the level of the Red Cross appropriation is only at \$250 for 2022. She asked if it should be more. The trustees clarified that each organization puts in a request for funding.

Beth Dawley thanked Lori Scott for her work as the Town Clerk & Treasurer for the last 4 years

Deborah Aldrich thanked Lee Ann Isaacson for her work on the Selectboard for the last 6 years and the last 3 years as Chair.

Bill Edgerton reminded everyone to thank the road crew for all of their hard work maintaining the town roads.

Todd Trzaskos commented that although the Covid-19 pandemic changed how we had to do things, it showed us that an informational meeting and then an Australian ballot election dramatically increased voter participation in the Town Meeting process. In 2021 voter turnout was 225 and in 2022 it was 186. He would like the town to consider moving to this process in the future.

Lou Chap would like to see a better communication plan to ensure everyone has town important information.

Julie Groppe motioned to adjourn, and Steve Farrington seconded.

Town Meeting was adjourned at 12:36pm.

Lori Scott, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Cash Receipts and Disbursements for Year ended 12/31/2023

Cash Balance 1/1/2023		\$ 632,952.97
Receipts:		
Taxes	Current Taxes	2,475,747.28
	Delinquent taxes	241,143.96
State Payments		
	Highway Aid	117,903.22
	Current Use	56,019.00
	Reappraisal	7,609.50
	Highway Grants	21,500.00
	Traffic Fines	0.00
	Fish & Wildlife Lands	22,468.76
	State Education Payment	13,019.00
Licenses & Permits		
	Building Permit fees	1,771.00
	Road Use Permits	295.00
	Dog Licenses	1,046.00
	Marriage Licenses	160.00
	Liquor License	0.00
Fees	Town Clerk Fees	10,942.66
	Restoration Fees	4,570.00
	New Boston Road Maint.	1,500.00
	Delinquent Tax Collector fees	19,219.84
Interest	Interest on checking	3,662.99
	Interest on delinq. Taxes	11,418.27
Other	Transfer from Fire Equipment Fund	145,734.48
	Insurance Reimbursement for building damage	26,823.95
	Transfer from Flood Loan	1,221,904.90
	Transfer from Stanley Tool Acct.	2,000.00
	Trustees of Public Funds	124,592.56
	History Book Sales	132.00
	Tax Anticipation Note	150,000.00
	Forest Service	2,805.00
	Grants Receivable	48,257.80
	NSF Checks	3,756.46
	Misc.	3,651.48
		<u>4,739,655.11</u>
Total Cash Available:		5,372,608.08
Less Checks Written		<u>4,507,899.66</u>
Ending Cash Balance 12/31/2023		<u><u>\$ 864,708.42</u></u>

**Town of Stockbridge
Proposed 2024 Budget**

	Jan 1 -Dec 31, 2023	2023 Budget	2024 Proposed Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Use of Fund Balance	0.00	8,400.00	
Restoration Fees	4,590.00	0.00	
Building permit fees	1,414.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Current taxes	854,163.87	858,692.00	898,551.00
Current Use Reimbursement	56,019.00	46,500.00	56,000.00
Dog licenses	560.00	400.00	500.00
Educ. tax payment to Town	0.00	3,600.00	4,000.00
Fish & Wildlife Land PILT	22,468.76	22,200.00	22,200.00
Grant Income			
2023 Mount Hunger Grant BR 1027	20,000.00	0.00	
Reappraisal Fund	7,609.50	0.00	
Insurance Reimbursement	26,823.95	0.00	
ARPA Grant	9,741.00	0.00	
VLCT Safety Grant	1,500.00	0.00	
Total Grant Income	65,674.45	0.00	0.00
Highway Revenue	117,903.22	80,000.00	87,000.00
History book sales	132.00	0.00	-
Interest on checking	3,662.99	220.00	400.00
interest on delinquent taxes	11,354.69	10,000.00	10,000.00
Liquor licenses	0.00	215.00	-
Marriage license fees	-35.00	0.00	-
Miscellaneous Revenue	3,617.95	500.00	500.00
New Boston Rd. Maint.	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Stanley Tool Revenue	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Town Clerk fees	11,459.77	10,000.00	10,000.00
VSA Forest Service	2,805.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Total Income	1,159,290.70	1,048,227.00	1,096,651.00
Gross Profit	1,159,290.70	1,048,227.00	1,096,651.00
Expense			
General Budget			
Selectboard Office			
Selectboard Administrative Asst	6,573.85	4,680.00	12,000.00
Abated Taxes	1.61	0.00	-
Audit	12,200.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Legal Fees	8,081.52	8,000.00	8,000.00
Legal Notices	973.45	1,200.00	1,200.00
Selectboard Salary	4,200.00	4,200.00	4,200.00
Total Selectboard Office	32,030.43	28,080.00	35,400.00
Town Clerk/Treas. Office			
Health Insurance	6,413.66	15,000.00	16,900.00
Computer Expenses	8,225.48	6,500.00	6,500.00
Town Website	519.00	750.00	750.00
Town Clerk Training	8,462.48	5,000.00	5,000.00

**Town of Stockbridge
Proposed 2023 Budget**

	Jan 1 -Dec 31, 2023	2023 Budget	2024 Proposed Budget
Accounting Supplies	2,013.59	2,895.00	5,500.00
Asst. Town Clerk	9,404.00	8,300.00	8,300.00
Bond Payment	10,000.00	10,000.00	-
Building Maintenance	3,148.52	13,900.00	8,000.00
Elections	189.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Electricity	1,673.20	2,280.00	1,800.00
Interest on Bond payment	96.00	250.00	-
Land Records	6,065.87	4,650.00	4,650.00
LP Gas	1,173.89	2,300.00	2,300.00
Mowing	400.00	400.00	400.00
Office Supplies	1,214.91	1,430.00	1,430.00
Postage	2,240.14	1,500.00	2,000.00
Retirement expense	4,401.56	2,950.00	3,000.00
Telephone	562.88	600.00	600.00
Town Clerk Salary	22,543.72	22,256.00	23,000.00
Town Office rubbish removal	452.50	350.00	375.00
Treasurer Salary	21,172.78	22,256.00	23,000.00
Operations			1,300.00
Town Clerk/Treas. Office - Other	9.23	0.00	-
Total Town Clerk/Treas. Office	110,382.41	124,567.00	115,805.00
Auditors Office			
Auditors Salaries	360.00	540.00	540.00
Town Report	4,249.15	4,750.00	4,750.00
Total Auditors Office	4,609.15	5,290.00	5,290.00
Listers Office			
Lister expenses	345.85	1,800.00	1,800.00
Listers Salaries	5,562.00	7,650.00	7,650.00
Reappraisal Fund	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Total Listers Office	5,907.85	14,450.00	14,450.00
Zoning/Planning Office			
Planning Commission - Chair	0.00	500.00	500.00
Health Officer	500.00	500.00	500.00
Planning Commission	2,310.35	1,500.00	1,500.00
Regional Planning Commission	1,170.00	1,170.00	1,170.00
Zoning Administrator	1,440.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Zoning Expense	8.00	100.00	100.00
Total Zoning/Planning Office	5,428.35	5,270.00	5,270.00
Fire Dept./First Response			
Equipment/Supplies	11,582.67	25,000.00	25,000.00
Fire Dept. Equip Fund	30,000.00	30,000.00	10,000.00
Fire Dept. Salaries	10,940.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
Fire Dept. Telephone	370.44	450.00	450.00
Repairs	3,413.72	4,500.00	4,500.00
Total Fire Dept./First Response	56,306.83	71,950.00	51,950.00

Town of Stockbridge Proposed 2023 Budget

	Jan 1 -Dec 31, 2023	2023 Budget	2024 Proposed Budget
Rubbish Removal			
A.B.L.E. Waste Contract	7,440.00	7,440.00	7,440.00
Annual Alliance Fee	9,480.87	9,480.00	9,480.00
Total Rubbish Removal	16,920.87	16,920.00	16,920.00
Law Enforcement			
Animal Control	0.00	100.00	100.00
Constables	0.00	500.00	500.00
Total Law Enforcement	0.00	600.00	600.00
General Operations			
Ambulance	51,695.92	51,696.00	56,722.00
Cemetery	17,064.50	17,000.00	17,000.00
County Tax	9,229.58	8,100.00	8,000.00
Disability insurance	1,126.69	1,320.00	1,320.00
FICA	21,041.83	20,000.00	20,640.00
Liability Insurance	15,410.00	14,307.00	15,410.00
Memorial Day	775.87	600.00	775.00
Misc. Town Expense	537.79	2,000.00	1,500.00
Mow Common	400.00	400.00	400.00
Street Lights	2,078.05	2,500.00	2,500.00
Construction Loan Interest (flood)			50,000.00
Tax Antic. Note Interest	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
VLCT Dues	2,043.00	2,043.00	2,045.00
Total General Operations	121,403.23	122,966.00	179,312.00
Total General Budget	352,989.12	390,093.00	424,997.00
Highway Budget			
Mileage	306.91	1,500.00	1,500.00
Highway - Personnel			
Highway Overtime	30,471.73	22,000.00	22,000.00
Health Insurance	19,151.84	28,750.00	32,200.00
Highway Payroll	133,767.25	154,000.00	159,000.00
Retirement Expense	11,546.61	11,500.00	11,500.00
Unemployment Insurance	310.00	600.00	600.00
Uniforms	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Workers Comp.	15,717.00	13,164.00	13,164.00
Total Highway - Personnel	211,964.43	231,514.00	239,964.00
Equip. Operations			
Cutting Edges	4,539.21	3,500.00	3,500.00
Diesel	33,919.63	37,500.00	34,000.00
Equipment	1,871.13	11,200.00	2,000.00
Equipment Fund	75,000.00	75,000.00	95,000.00
Roadside Mowing	19,154.00	18,500.00	21,500.00
Gasoline	438.44	450.00	450.00
Propane	268.29	0.00	250.00
Repairs & Maintenance			

**Town of Stockbridge
Proposed 2023 Budget**

	Jan 1 -Dec 31, 2023	2023 Budget	2024 Proposed Budget
Chloride Sprayer repair	2,398.71	0.00	-
RM Leaf Blower	20.81	0.00	-
RM 2020 International	14,052.65	0.00	-
Repairs & Maintenance - Other	1,016.25	15,000.00	20,000.00
RM 2016 Kenworth	15,785.20	0.00	-
RM 2017 Ford	3,086.44	0.00	-
RM Grader	2,274.85	0.00	-
RM Loader	769.38	0.00	-
Total Repairs & Maintenance	39,404.29	15,000.00	20,000.00
Small Equipment Repairs	78.58	500.00	500.00
Tires and Chains	17,697.40	17,300.00	6,000.00
Tools	4,396.87	4,000.00	4,000.00
Total Equip. Operations	196,767.84	182,950.00	187,200.00
Highway Materials			
Erosion	324.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Hydroseed	824.89	1,200.00	1,200.00
Bridges	0.00	500.00	500.00
Chloride	10,974.00	8,500.00	10,000.00
Culverts	122.63	12,000.00	12,000.00
Gravel	28,663.75	55,000.00	55,000.00
Guard Rails	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Retreatment (Paving)	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
Salt	13,122.44	13,980.00	14,100.00
Sandpile	47,139.83	45,000.00	45,000.00
Signs	1,527.72	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total Highway Materials	127,699.26	172,180.00	173,800.00
Town Garage			
Oils	534.46	2,000.00	2,000.00
D.E.F	701.25	1,000.00	1,000.00
Garage Maintenance	2,865.85	2,000.00	2,000.00
Heating Oil	4,571.15	6,500.00	5,200.00
Rubbish Removal	416.00	450.00	450.00
Shop Supplies	4,618.09	3,000.00	3,500.00
Town garage electricity	2,260.82	2,200.00	2,200.00
Town garage telephone	1,244.70	1,300.00	1,300.00
Total Town Garage	17,212.32	18,450.00	17,650.00
Construction			
Engineering Consulting	0.00	8,500.00	8,500.00
VT DEC Annual Fee	1,765.00	2,040.00	2,040.00
Construction - Other	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00
Total Construction	36,765.00	45,540.00	45,540.00
Purchased Labor	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Total Highway Budget	590,715.76	658,134.00	671,654.00

**Town of Stockbridge
Proposed 2023 Budget**

	Jan 1 -Dec 31, 2023	2023 Budget	2024 Proposed Budget
Grants			
Grant July 2023 Admin	2,040.05		
Grant July 23 Blackmer	21,087.34	0.00	
Grant July 23 Common Rd	830.00	0.00	
Grant July 23 Laury Rd	906.50	0.00	
Grant July 23 Stony Brook	635,701.07	0.00	
Grant July 23 Abbot Road	60,323.40	0.00	
Grant July 23 Music Mtn. Rd	4,042.60	0.00	
Grant July 23 Taggart Hill Rd	5,887.63	0.00	
Grant July 23 Davis Hill Rd	140,062.01	0.00	
Grant July 23 Ranney Rd	110,373.47	0.00	
Grant July 23 River RD	5,503.50	0.00	
Grant July 23 Flood Misc Fees	4,363.48	0.00	
Grant July 23 Lilliesville	756.00	0.00	
Grant July 23 Pratt Rd	504.00	0.00	
Grant July 23 Childrens Camp	756.00	0.00	
Grant July 23 Dalton Brook	53,945.28	0.00	
Grant July 23 Whitcomb Hill	5,141.25	0.00	
Grant July 23 Driscoll Rd	50,147.36	0.00	
Grant July 23 Lyon Hill	1,764.00	0.00	
Grant July 23 Fletcher	101,845.43	0.00	
Grant July 23 Blanchard	504.00	0.00	
2023 Mount Hunger BR1027	20,000.00	0.00	
VLCT Safety Grant	2,749.95	0.00	
Town Office Repair - Septic	28,860.44	0.00	
ARPA Grant	9,741.00	0.00	
Total Grants	1,267,835.76	0.00	0.00
Payroll Expenses	0.00	0.00	
Total Expense	2,211,540.64	1,048,227.00	1,096,651.00
Net Ordinary Income	-1,052,249.94	0.00	0.00
Net Income	-1,052,249.94	0.00	0.00

General Fund Comparative Balance Sheet
Town of Stockbridge
As of December 31, 2023

	<u>Dec 31, 23</u>	<u>Dec 31, 22</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
Mascoma Savings ARPA	158,272.05	172,937.88	-14,665.83	-8.48%
Mascoma Savings Checking	706,436.37	460,015.09	246,421.28	53.57%
Petty Cash	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Checking/Savings	<u>864,733.42</u>	<u>632,977.97</u>	<u>231,755.45</u>	<u>36.61%</u>
Accounts Receivable				
Accounts Receivable	88,252.57	78,733.95	9,518.62	12.09%
Accounts Receivable - Grants	0.00	48,257.80	-48,257.80	-100.0%
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>88,252.57</u>	<u>126,991.75</u>	<u>-38,739.18</u>	<u>-30.51%</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>952,985.99</u>	<u>759,969.72</u>	<u>193,016.27</u>	<u>25.4%</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>952,985.99</u>	<u>759,969.72</u>	<u>193,016.27</u>	<u>25.4%</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
Accounts Payable	201,705.19	292,250.07	-90,544.88	-30.98%
Total Accounts Payable	<u>201,705.19</u>	<u>292,250.07</u>	<u>-90,544.88</u>	<u>-30.98%</u>
Other Current Liabilities				
July 2023 Flood Loan	1,203,900.00	0.00	1,203,900.00	100.0%
Deferred ARPA Revenue	163,246.71	172,987.71	-9,741.00	-5.63%
Deferred Property Tax Revenue	62,172.22	62,172.22	0.00	0.0%
Penalties Collected	0.00	425.42	-425.42	-100.0%
A/P Tax Antic. Note	150,000.00	0.00	150,000.00	100.0%
Payroll Liabilities	143.52	8,993.10	-8,849.58	-98.4%
Trustees of Public Funds				
Hollister Fletcher Fund	8,565.36	7,638.27	927.09	12.14%
Whitcomb School Fund	1,975.94	1,975.94	0.00	0.0%
Witcomb Welfare Fund	241.00	241.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Trustees of Public Funds	<u>10,782.30</u>	<u>9,855.21</u>	<u>927.09</u>	<u>9.41%</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>1,590,244.75</u>	<u>254,433.66</u>	<u>1,335,811.09</u>	<u>525.01%</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,791,949.94</u>	<u>546,683.73</u>	<u>1,245,266.21</u>	<u>227.79%</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>1,791,949.94</u>	<u>546,683.73</u>	<u>1,245,266.21</u>	<u>227.79%</u>
Equity				
Opening Bal Equity	213,285.99	203,593.16	9,692.83	4.76%
Retained Earnings			0.00	0.0%
Net Income	-1,052,249.94	9,692.83	-1,061,942.77	-10,955.96%
Total Equity	<u>-838,963.95</u>	<u>213,285.99</u>	<u>-1,052,249.94</u>	<u>-493.35%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>952,985.99</u>	<u>759,969.72</u>	<u>193,016.27</u>	<u>25.4%</u>

Listing of Investment Accounts 12/31/2023

Citizens Bank

Fire Dept. Equipment Fund

Beginning Balance	133,551.20
Transfer to General Fund	(145,734.48)
Transfer from Highway Equipment Fund	187,127.00
Interest Earned	103.94
Ending Balance	<u><u>175,047.66</u></u>

Highway Dept. Equip Fund

Beginning Balance	285,733.23
Transfer From General Fund	105,000.00
Transfer To Fire Dept Equipment Fund	(187,127.00)
Interest Earned	237.14
Ending Balance	<u><u>203,843.37</u></u>

Construction/Paving Fund

Beginning Balance	40,233.56
Transfer From General Fund	-
Transfer To General Fund	-
Interest earned	40.27
Ending balance	<u><u>40,273.83</u></u>

Reappraisal Fund

Beginning Balance	93,263.70
Transfer From General Fund	-
Interest Earned	93.31
Ending Balance	<u><u>93,357.01</u></u>

Lister Training Account

Beginning Balance	602.54
Interest Earned	0.60
Ending Balance	<u><u>603.14</u></u>

Tax Trust CD

Beginning Balance	30,223.27
Interest Earned	30.26
Ending Balance	<u><u>30,253.53</u></u>

Planning Commission Savings

Beginning Balance	2,880.02
Interest Earned	2.86
Ending Balance	<u><u>2,882.88</u></u>

Fire Dept./First Response Savings Account

Beginning Balance	31,267.20
Donation:	
Bill and Marilyn Edgerton	100.00
Pam Brocklehurst	200.00
Becky Morse	1,000.00
Patricia Harrington	1,000.00
In Memory of Millie Hunt	-
David and Cathy Brown	25.00
Ted Green Ford	100.00
Harvey's Plumbing & Excavation	200.00
Leroy & Ellen Prior	50.00
Hattie Gifford	50.00
Interest Earned	32.08
Ending Balance	<u><u>34,024.28</u></u>

History Book Fund

Beginning Balance	3,344.29
Interest Earned	3.32
Ending Balance	<u><u>3,347.61</u></u>

Land Record Restoration Fund

Beginning Balance	2,682.74
Interest Earned	2.70
Ending Balance	<u><u>2,685.44</u></u>

Bar Harbor Bank

Stanley Tool CD

Beginning Balance	15,510.25
Transfer to General Fund	(2,000.00)
Interest Earned	31.09
Ending Balance	<u><u>13,541.34</u></u>

Mascoma Bank

Herbert Brown Cemetery Savings

Beginning Balance	3,254.88
Transfer From Cemetery Checking	-
Transfer From Cemetery Checking	3.28
Ending Balance	<u><u>3,258.16</u></u>

Statement of 2023 Taxes Raised

	Tax Rate	Grand List	Taxes
Non-Homestead Education	1.8307	713,522.00	1,306,299.70
Homestead Education	1.7340	450,239.00	780,714.42
Local Agreement	0.0022	1,163,791.00	2,560.53
Highway	0.4633	1,163,791.00	539,184.44
Town	0.2746	1,163,791.00	319,576.78
Late Filing Penalty - HS122			357.27
Total Taxes Raised			2,948,693.14
Taxes Accounted for as follows			
Current Taxes Collected			2,475,747.28
State Education Payments			198,645.09
Municipal Portion of Tax Credit			13,019.00
Corrections and Adjustments			7,144.26
Turned over to Delinquent Tax Collector			254,137.51
			2,948,693.14

2023 Town Salaries

Selectman	Michael Ketchum	\$1,400.00
	Zachary Cavacas	\$1,400.00
	Mark Begin	\$1,400.00
Town Clerk	Lori Scott	\$12,963.00
	Jill Gifford	\$15,689.00
Treasurer	Lori Scott	\$12,963.00
	Jill Gifford	\$15,689.00
Highway Dept.	Lucas Gibson	\$60,218.84
	Kevin Bagley	\$80,747.00
	Chris Bettis	\$16,595.00
Selectboard Admin	Jill Gifford	\$6,574.00
Health Officer	Mike Ketchum	\$500.00
Asst. Town Clerk	Elizabeth Deitz	\$7,904.00
Listers	Beth Dawley	\$3,384.00
	Richard Furman	\$2,187.00
	Janet Whitaker	\$180.00
Delinq. Tax Collector	Susan Pelletier	\$19,615.00
Auditors	Pamela Lyman	\$180.00
	Kathie Burns	\$180.00
Poll Workers	Beth Dawley	\$189.00
Fire Dept/First Response	David Brown	\$1,240.00
	Daniel Novotny	\$1,380.00
	Jim Munyon	\$3,160.00
	Caleb Hawley	\$40.00
	Coral Hawley	\$160.00
	Corey Novotny	\$1,040.00
	Eric Brown	\$140.00
	Joseph Nolet	\$900.00
	Joshua Kennedy	\$440.00
	Martin Hunt	\$80.00
	Matthew Johnson	\$1,626.00
	Nathaniel Kennedy	\$1,060.00
	Zachary Cavacas	\$160.00
Zoning Administrator	Lee Ann Isaacson	\$1,440.00
Flood Admin	Allyssa Levy	\$134.00
	Lori Scott	\$1,906.00

Delinquent Tax Report - 2023

It is the duty of the collector of delinquent taxes to notify taxpayers when their taxes are overdue or to take formal collection actions when necessary. It is the obligation of the collector of delinquent taxes to keep records of all delinquent accounts, and to provide an accounting of these records to the locally elected auditors for inclusion in the annual report of the town. When necessary, the collector of delinquent taxes may lien properties, go to small claims court and conduct tax sales of property.

In 2023 we had one tax sale. Despite our best efforts and our town attorney's efforts we were unable to locate 4 Hawk property land owners to move forward with additional tax sales.

Vermont Housing Assistance Program (VHAP) may be available to help. <https://vermonthap.vhfa.org/>
Please contact them or the delinquent tax collector if we can help in any way.

Susan Pelletier
Delinquent Tax Collector

SUMMARY OF DELINQUENT TAXES AS OF 12/31/2023

YEAR	Balance 12/31/2022	Balance 12/31/2023	Collected
2012	43.16	43.16	0.00
2013	841.83	841.83	0.00
2014	909.92	867.40	42.52
2015	887.97	846.48	41.49
2016	42.25	0.00	42.25
2017	290.94	250.81	40.13
2018	842.58	534.32	308.16
2019	1,540.78	567.72	973.06
2020	1,999.00	1,113.78	885.22
2021	4,558.58	1,137.43	3,421.15
2022	74,787.64	7,836.40	66,951.24
2023 Turnover	254,137.51	<u>85,698.77</u>	<u>168,438.74</u>
Balance due for 2012-2023 delinquent taxes		99,738.10	241,143.96
			Total taxes collected
Paid in full and partial payment by 1/31/2024		<u>23,830.24</u>	
Total delinquent taxes due		75,907.86	

DELINQUENT TAX LIST 2023		
Name	Date	Amount
ABSC REALTY LLC	2017-23	1,756.90
ANDREWS, RODNEY	2012-15	2,598.87
ARCHER, WILLIAM	2023	3,277.77
AZV INVESTMENTS	2023	1863.25**
BACHMAN, MARYBETH	2023	2,708.33
BARNETT, MICHELLE	2023	677.67
BARROWS, ELIZABETH	2023	555.29
BERTARELLI, WILLIAM	2023	755.82
BILODEAU, JOSHUA	2023	511.59
BRIDGEWATER, LISA	2022	92.75
BRONSON, RITCHIE	2023	163.8
BROWN, LORENZO	2023	383
CHAP, KEVIN	2022-23	3628.52**
COMMIFORD, W	2022-23	3599.76**
DAY, RANDEE	2023	349.63
DUBREUIL, DEAN	2023	2,839.04
EIGENBROD, WILFRED	2023	4394.78*
FACCIOLI, GUGLIEMO	2020-23	1,484.39
FIELDING, ROBERT	2023	246.43
FISHER, MICHAEL	2023	1162.00*
FUSTER, JOSEPH A	2023	2,725.05
GAGE, JAMES	2023	3899.81*
GAYSVILLE STORE	2023	1,403.65
GERMON, TATE	2023	273.79*
JAGODA, LINDA	2023	20.44*
JESKEY, AARON	2023	203.09
JUNKHAN, GEORGE	2023	3460.29*
KELLY, JOHN	2023	2,570.80
KORNBERG, OREN	2019-23	1,242.63
LA CASITA	2023	22.74
LANGLOIS, ALLEN	2022-23	2,277.20
LUF, JOSHUA	2023	709.54
MARTELL, TODD	2023	167.81
MCCULLOUGH, KIRK	2022	266.91
MT. HUNGER CONS.	2023	123.4
MURPHY, DAVID	2023	4,510.28
MUELLER, JOHN	2018-23	1,715.56
PTASZYNSKI, JOHN	2023	814.17
PUZA, MICHAEL	2023	1,849.00
ROTH, SHAUN	2023	999.27
SABLE MTN. CORP	2022-23	8,312.56
SCOVILLE, THOMAS	2023	3096.02**
SHERIDAN, PHILLIP	2023	1316.47*
SHOU, ZHANG	2023	220.60*
STEDINA, MATT	2023	21.44
STRONG BRIDGE LLC	2023	282.8
SULLIVAN, KIMBERLY	2023	3995.14**
TEIXIERA, FRANK	2022-23	4107.01**
THOMPSON, JOHN	2022-23	1,258.81
TWEED RIVER REALTY	2023	645.27
VULTURE MTN LLC	2023	10,823.07
WARDELL, JOHN	2023	2174.97*
WHALEN, EDWARD	2022	99.9
YEFFET, DOMINIC	2023	425.46
ZINGG, MARSHALL	2023	653.56
Total Amount Due		62,525.25

** Partial Payment, * Paid in full

2023 Property Tax Transfers

Seller	Buyer	Description	Sales Price	Assessed Value
Cambra	Cambra	.86ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$245,400
Cambra	Cambra	66.19ac	N/A	\$57,800
Moran	Ideal Mgmt Group	1ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$130,600
Whitney	Hein	1.6ac	\$130,000	\$31,500
Ponte	Ponte	46.38ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$273,600
Grappo	Grappo	3ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$236,000
Rhodes	Strong Bridge LLC	301ac	\$451,000	\$175,500
Volante	Hohoco LLC	2.5ac & Dwelling	\$222,500	\$96,800
Pratt	Pratt	18.65ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$207,100
Pratt	Scott	.70 ac	\$5,000	N/A
Pratt	Scott	.05ac	N/A	N/A
Estate of Robert P. Flannigan	Flannigan	.33ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$114,600
Estate of Udel Klein	Klein	98ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$220,200
Murphy	Bruzik	2.31ac & Dwelling	\$155,500	\$152,600
Brown	Brown	2.20ac	N/A	\$88,200
Brown	Brown	1.80ac	N/A	\$88,200
Brown	Brown	1.20ac	N/A	\$88,200
Groppe	Groppe Family Trust of 202	1.75ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$274,400
Goat	Vermont Land Trust	180ac	N/A	\$518,700
Freund	Freund	3.0ac	N/A	\$231,900
Gage	Lunna	2.76ac	\$5,000	\$286,600
Herrick	Frank	18ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$165,000
Goat	Preservation Trust of VT	N/A	N/A	\$518,700
Begin	Begin	13.5ac	N/A	\$41,300
Klein	Klein	98ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$220,200
Estate of Robert P. Flannigan	Flannigan	.33ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$114,600
Merdak	Hourihan	1ac & Dwelling	\$522,000	\$321,900
Brown	Brown	2.20ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$164,900
Brown	Brown	3.30ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$177,000
Brown	Brown	2.80ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$136,000

2023 Property Tax Transfers

Seller	Buyer	Description	Sales Price	Assessed Value
Ayer	Ayer & Kerr	21.70ac	N/A	\$17,400
White	Stone	1.09ac	N/A	\$23,300
White	Stone	348.70ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$376,900
Estate of Robyn C. Wright	Third Branch Inv. Co. LLC	10.50ac	N/A	\$22,200
Carlo	Johnson	.36ac & Dwelling	\$169,000	\$114,100
Veilleux	Veilleux	1.10ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$118,600
Brown	Brown	Condo	\$10,000	\$130,200
Town of Stockbridge	Bartolone	1.20ac	\$2,788	\$11,800
Bartolone	Noyan-Paddyfoote	1.20ac	\$19,000	\$11,800
Harrington	Harrington & White	16.00ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$338,400
Pelletier	Patton JR	4.9ac & Dwelling	\$625,000	N/A
Pearson	Thayer	40.75ac	\$120,000	\$65,900
Parke	Stony Brook RD LLC	3.50ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$194,500
AZV Investments LLC	Montero	1.80ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$145,000
Pimentel	Lunna	16.20ac & Dwelling	\$575,000	\$325,800
Lunna	Lunna	16.20ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$325,800
Bitters Tranquillity Trust	Evans	39.00ac	\$150,000	\$64,400
Flannigan	Flannigan	.03ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$114,600
Flannigan	Flannigan	.03ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$114,600
Mercier	Thompson	1.10ac & Dwelling	\$275,000	\$158,300
Lambert	Connizzo	29.00ac	\$69,900	\$21,800
Evans	Popeye's Wildlife LLC	39.00ac	N/A	\$64,400
Sigourney	Sigourney	21.00ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$328,300
Hart	Hart	2.16ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$117,600
Hart	Hart	2.16ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$117,600
Colton	Colton	.48ac	N/A	\$20,600
Wong	Zingg	4.2ac & Dwelling	\$195,000	\$107,100
Burke	Burke	15.35ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$233,800
Wilmington Trust,NA	Spartan Property Manager	Dwelling	N/A	\$289,400
Spartan Property Manager	Santos	1.04ac & Dwelling	\$162,900	\$289,400

2023 Property Tax Transfers

Seller	Buyer	Description	Sales Price	Assessed Value
Bender	Simon	1.34ac & Dwelling	\$635,000	\$316,200
Martell	Martell-Patch	2.17ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$112,900
Dyro	Third Branch Inv. Co. LLC	70.4ac	\$250,000	\$220,100
Brown	Terenzio	1ac & Dwelling	\$305,000	\$158,500
Whitney	Kaufman	2.03ac	N/A	\$22,800
Guimareas	Signorelli & Claustro	10.20ac	\$59,999	\$27,600
Mockus	Mockus	29.00ac	N/A	\$255,900
Langan	Harvey	10.50ac	\$95,000	\$38,900
Simon	Simon	1.34ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$316,200
Estate of Samuel Danisher	Demarrais	31.00ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$64,700
Bean's Moble Homes Inc.	Yvon	Moble Home	\$124,719	N/A
Flannigan	Flannigan	.33ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$114,600
Kelley	Anderson	1.58ac	\$36,000	\$34,700
Nardini	McCarthy	.85ac & Dwelling	\$272,500	\$100,400
Dooley	Hunt	8.10ac	\$45,000	\$40,200
Fuster	Mears	17.25ac	N/A	\$18,200
Rhoades	Rhoades Family Trust	105ac	N/A	\$61,000
Rhoades	Rhoades Family Trust	142.90ac	N/A	\$96,500
Eagle Square Farm LLC	Mendell	6.16ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$187,900
Furman	Furman	3.00ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$174,000
Newton	Third Branch Inv. Co. LLC	Easement	\$500	N/A
Jacobs	467 Timber Hawk LLC	1.20ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$213,200
Jacobs	467 Timber Hawk LLC	1.10ac	N/A	\$11,400

Stockbridge Selectboard Annual Report 2023

We would like to start by thanking Lori Scott for her dedicated service for the past few years. We wish Lori well in her retirement! We would also like to welcome Jill Gifford and to recognize her fantastic start and thank her for putting up with the Selectboard.

A special meeting was held in June for a vote on funding the New Fire Truck. The people voted to transfer \$183,127 from the Highway Equipment fund to the Fire Department Equipment Fund.

We had an interesting spring and summer with all the rain. We met several times for road updates, bid openings and special meetings. There are still some projects that need to be completed. Jill, Kevin and Lori have been meeting regularly with FEMA, and hopefully reimbursements will be coming soon.

In 2023 the board discontinued two roads and reclassified one. Luce Road and Cobble House Road were discontinued and Ryer Road was reclassified from class 3 to class 4.

The replacement of the Gaysville bridge is still in motion. The board received the Scope from Vtrans and designs are in the works. Construction should begin in 2026-2027.

The board voted to create a new turnaround on Lucerne Drive. Even with all the flood work to do, the road crew was able to complete the work before snow flew!

The board continued work on the capital plan and with the assistance of Two River Ottauquechee Regional Commission, the plan should be in place by Town Meeting.

The board approved the funding of Generators for the Meeting House and the Town Office, Air Packs for the Fire Department, and a new computer for the Road Foreman, using ARPA funds.

Select Board member, Zach Cavacas will not be running for Select Board this Year. The position is open to any townsperson interested. Please contact the Town with any question as to what is involved, and one of the board members would be happy to meet with you.

Mike Ketchum- Chair

Zach Cavacas

Mark Begin

Town Clerk's Report

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023

Town Website: We continue to improve the Town Website to facilitate communication. Updates and corrections are a continuous project. Your suggestions for improvement are welcome! Please look at the website when you have a moment. <https://stockbridgevt.gov> .

- **Land Records:**
 - Lister cards and online records continue to be a success. Anyone can access documents at any time. For a small fee, documents can be purchased online. Lister cards are downloadable or printable at no charge.
- **Office Network:** We continue to work with Panurgy, now Epoch IT, for our IT needs. The changing over of licenses and access from Lori to myself was a smooth transition. Panurgy helped with the setting up of the new desktop computer for the Road Forman and will be assisting me with additional hard drive and storage.
- **Septic System Backup:** The replacement of the pumpstation did not take place this year, due to other projects, like the flooding in July taking priority. We will continue to pursue the replacement for 2024.
- **Other:** We have implemented Direct Deposit for payroll and Stipends.

The office hours have been extended to include Mondays by appointment.

We have moved our accounting software from QuickBooks's to the NEMRC system. NEMRC, (New England Municipal Resource Center), has wonderful "local" support/customer service. Many of the town offices throughout Vermont have not only their tax admin and land records with NEMRC, but their accounting as well.

We have purchased a generator for the Town Office utilizing ARPA funds and we have applied to MERP Energy Resilience Assessment for heat pumps.

PLANNED WORK IN 2023

- Continued improvements of the town website to enhance communications.
- Continued expansion of the town contact list and better ways to push information out to our property owners and residents. (Email, regular mail, newsletter, website, newspaper)
- Work with the e-911 board to review town road addressing.

I am grateful to the Selectboard and everyone in town for the warm welcome and support since my appointment, in April, as Town Clerk, Treasurer and Selectboard Admin. I have a lot to learn and look forward to serving Stockbridge. Lori continues to consult with me regularly, and she is my administrative assistant to FEMA.

Elizabeth continued as the Assistant Town Clerk. Her primary responsibility is recording documents (land records, vital records, liens, etc.) and additionally she maintains the index system card structure. I look forward to continuing to work with Elizabeth and relying on her to cover any sick or vacation time.

Respectfully Submitted, Jill Gifford

2023 Stockbridge Road Commissioners Report

We had snow and a lot of soft ground to start the year off (mud under the snow) which made plowing very slow and frustrating.

Mount Hunger Road. We received a grant from the state of VT and did some much-needed ditch, culvert, and road improvements to the upper section of the road that we completed in the early summer. We are still working on getting the intersection with VT 107 and MNT Hunger changed to make a huge safety improvement and give more site distance while entering and exiting the road.

July Flood. We have been working on flood damage all this past summer and fall (road crew and contractors). We still have more to do and some major projects that are waiting on engineering, and for FEMA to commit to repairing some of the larger slides and bridges/culverts. I want to thank Jill and Lori for working with me on the FEMA “paperwork” which can be frustrating at times.

Regular Road Maintenance. Due to the flood, we had several projects/grants that did not get done this past year, but we were able to get some time extensions on the grants. We also had a lot of regular work that had to get put off, mostly culverts, ditching and graveling due to the flood but hopefully we can get caught up this upcoming year on most of it, but we do have a fair amount of flood work left to do as well.

New road crew member. Chris Bettis started in August and is learning and picking up the job well and I am glad to have him on board.

Luke Gibson. I want to give a big thank you to Luke. He is a real pleasure to work with and really steps up when things are not the greatest (bad weather flooding).

Contractors. I want to say thank you to all the contractors that did work for us this past year.

Road Issues. Please call if you find something urgent or send a text or email if it's something more minor.
Kevin Bagley Stockbridge Road Commissioner and Foreman

Cell 431-8446 email roads@stockbridgevt.gov

Stockbridge Property and Equipment Inventory 2023

	Value
Garage/Fire Station	
Building Value w/ .57 acres	549,600
Contents	20,000
Salt Shed	7,974
Town Office	
Building Value w/ 1 acre	207,000
Contents	20,000
Land	
1.3 acres Stockbridge Com.	26,500
2.1 acres Route 107	30,000
1 acre Whitcomb Hill Road	23,800
Timberhawk Lots	6,697
Chalet Village – 11 lots	
4.7 acres River Road	
1.75 acres Route 100	
21 acres Bridge Street	
19.5 acres Fletcher Brook	
156 Tweed Lane	
118 Tweed Lane	
8.3 acres Route 107	

Stockbridge Equipment

Description	Year Make	Cost	Trade	Purchase Date
Fire Truck	1987 Ford	88,500.00	-	9/18/1987
Cloride Spreader	2005 Titan	6,189.93	-	3/31/2005
Grader	2006 John Deere	216,500.00	30,000.00	7/28/2006
Mini Pumper	2008 Ford	141,500.00	-	7/23/2007
Tandem	2016 Kenworth	179,904.00	-	7/31/2015
Pumper/Tanker	2016 Kenworth	200,000.00	-	9/16/2015
Truck /w plow	2017 Ford	103,926.00	39,000.00	11/3/2017
Hydro Seeder	2017 Epic	5,928.00	-	11/27/2017
Debris Blower	2019 Cyclone	7,600.00	-	10/7/2019
Truck - Dump	2020 International	178,803.00	45,000.00	10/18/2019
Backhoe/Loader	2020 Caterpillar	140,000.00	50,000.00	9/30/2020

Town of Stockbridge - Long-Term Debt as of 12/31/2023

	Date Loan Incurred	Original Amount Borrowed	Balance on 12/31/2022	Principal Payments	Interest Payments	Balance on 12/31/2023
Town Office	2003	210,000.00	20,000.00	10,000.00	188.00	0.00
		210,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	96.00	0.00

2023 Grants

Grant	Total Cost	Paid from 2023 Budget	Grant Received	Grant Receivable
<u>Highway</u>				
Mount Hunger BR1027	40,798.17	20,798.17	20,000.00	-
VLCT Pacif Safety	2,749.95	1,249.95	1,500.00	-
Total Highway	43,548.12	22,048.12	21,500.00	-
<u>General</u>				
ARPA Funding	9,591.00	-	9,591.00	
Total	53,139.12	22,048.12	31,091.00	-

Selectboard Approved 2023 ARPA Expenditures.

\$4000 Deposit Town Office Generator

\$4000 Deposit Meeting House Generator

\$1591 Road Foreman Computer

Highway Equipment Hourly

Usage

	2017 Ford	2016 Kenworth	2020 Inter.	Hydro Seeder	Grader	2020 Loader	Rock Rake	Cloride Spreader	Chainsaw	Leaf Blower	Back Patch Blower
2023 Q1	191.5	291	158.5	-	26	105	-	-	14.5	-	-
2023 Q2	158.2	191.5	57.5	4.5	160.5	109	-	24	13	-	-
2023 Q3	247.5	195.5	98.5	-	95	305	-	31	18.5	56	-
2023 Q4	308.5	180	194	-	77.5	155.5	16	7	12	72.5	-
2023 Total	905.7	858	508.5	4.5	359	674.5	16	62	58	128.5	-

Highway Material Usage

	Sand yds	Salt yds	Gravel yds	Cloride gal	Ditch Stone yds	Rip Rap yds	Hydroseed loads	Ditch Stone yds	Cold Pack bags
2023 Q1	1,447	92	84	1	-	-	-	-	-
2023 Q2	35	8	1,078	3,050	-	121	3	-	-
2023 Q3	-	-	910	3,453	-	132	-	-	-
2023 Q4	330	25	1,516	1,083	-	54	-	11	12
2023 Total	1,812	124	3,588	7,587	-	307	3	11	12

Fire Chief Report – Year Ending 2023

The Stockbridge Fire Department and First Response were dispatched to a total of 62 calls this past year. Fire department personnel participated in Spring training through the Twin State Regional Fire School and Southern VT Regional Fire School. Training courses that were attended included: Introduction to the Fire Service, Personal Protective Equipment & Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Electric Vehicle Awareness Operations, and Bringing Calm to the Chaos-Managing the Mayday. We also participated in DHART training through White River Valley Ambulance services.

Some upgrades to equipment and purchases this year include -

- A 14-inch battery powered rescue saw capable of cutting up to 5 in. depths through a large variety of tough materials.
- Two AEDs (automated external defibrillators) for the tanker truck and the town office.
- A multi-gas meter for detecting different types of gases.
- A flag pole for the fire station with US flag and VT state flag.
- Equipment through the wildland fire protective gear and equipment 50/50 purchasing program in conjunction with the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Forestry Division.
- Four SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) airpacks for upgrading on the new truck.

Engine 1 truck replacement is underway and we are expecting delivery by early 2024.

I would like to thank my fire crew for being dedicated to the fire department over the course of this past year, taking time out of their own busy schedules to respond to emergencies. Anyone interested in joining the fire department should contact Jim Munyon, 802-747-8828 or Dan Novotny, 802-746-8450. Fire meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at the fire station. Requests for burning permits must be directed to the Fire Warden, Dave Brown at 802-353-9392.

Jim Munyon

Fire Chief

Lister Report – 2023

HOMESTEAD DECLARATION

What is a Homestead Declaration? In Vermont, all property is subject to an education property tax to pay for the state's schools. For this purpose, property is categorized as either non-homestead or homestead. A homestead is the principal dwelling and parcel of land up to two acres surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by the resident as the person's domicile.

What is not a Homestead? Property is considered nonresidential and therefore not a homestead 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 do I file a Homestead Declaration? The Homestead Declaration is filed using *Form HS-122, the Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment Claim* or save time by filing your Homestead Declaration online. Many people file their Homestead Declaration at the same time they file their Vermont income tax returns. However, if you apply to extend the time to file your income tax return, the declaration must still be filed by the April filing deadline. Even if a person is not required to file a Vermont Income Tax Return, the declaration must be filed by the deadline.

Filing Deadlines – You must file a Homestead Declaration annually by the April deadline. If you file after April 15, you will be assessed one of the following penalties.

Up to a 3% penalty if the non-homestead rate is higher than the homestead education property rate

Up to 8% if the non-homestead rate is lower than the homestead education property tax.

If you file your declaration after the October filing deadline your property will be classified as nonresidential. You then must pay the higher of the two rates, a penalty, and any additional tax and interest due.

Filing your Homestead Declaration can save you money on your education taxes. Likewise, NOT filing it can cost you money. There is a lot more information about this on-line and can be accessed by looking up Vermont Homestead Declaration.

As can be seen in the Property Transfer Report here in the town report, our sales have been very active this year. This is a statewide trend. At the writing of this report we have not received notification of our Common Level of Appraisal and Coefficient of Dispersion. We have contracted with New England Municipal Resource Center for the reappraisal. We will notify town tax payers when we have the full details. Please contact town office with an email address, to help keep you updated. Please remember that taxes are paid on the Grand List value of a property NOT the price it was purchased for.

We continue to visit properties to update property features in an effort to keep the Grand List current. This is done in the spring and change of appraisal notices are sent at that time, and grievances may be filed then.

From the Vermont tax Department:

“We at PVR are aware that many towns are concerned about the change in the market due to the effects of Covid-19 over the past few years. Sales have increased generally in price and some towns have seen this more than others. This is a typical real estate reaction which is seen when conditions in the world change such as economy, politics etc.

As a result, there are more towns experiencing large drops in their CLA. This is to be expected in a market shift. There will be many more reappraisal orders going out to towns than in a typical year as a result.”

Do not forget to file your Homestead Declaration by April 15, 2024, or the late filing penalty will be added to your tax bill. If you use any of the available tax filing software packages, they might not include this State of Vermont form. So, make sure to check.

It continues to be a challenging job. We appreciate the townspeople's support in our efforts to maintain the Grand List.

Beth Dawley

Richard Furman

Janet Whitaker

Belcher Memorial Library

2023 was a momentous year for the Library, and 2024 will likely be even more important.

After many years of service, the Board of the Library decided it was time to invite a new generation of supporters to take on the task of renewing the Library and its mission.

The citizens of Stockbridge owe a debt of gratitude to Mary Ellen Dorman, Doug Keffer, Marjorie Turner for their work over decades supporting the Library and keeping it running, serving the town and it's children.

Over the course of 2024, the new Board will be working on a plan for the future of the Library, canvassing the town for ideas and support, and finding new volunteers and staff.

The current Board consists of Meg Hudson, Kim Taylor, Sandy Steele, Kim Marsh Moore, Scott Moore, Karen Pofcher and Kevin Travis (President).

Report of The STOCKBRIDGE CEMETERY COMMISSION

In October, Tom Giffin of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association, supervised a very successful workshop in gravestone repairs at Maplewood. For the enthused volunteers it was a learning experience we can carry forward to work in other cemeteries.

Both the DAR and VOCA praised the condition and appearance of the old section of Maplewood Cemetery and warned of the damaging effects of perennial plantings to gravesites. The need for improvements seems never ending. Some fences are in dire need of repair or replacement. For that purpose, we would like to use some of our Public Funds. However, a written estimate is required and that is hard to come by with the shortage of contractors.

We are aware that 'green burials' are increasing in popularity and we will investigate how we can respond. This is becoming an increasingly popular, environmentally-friendly method of being interred without chemicals or the expense of cremation, caskets or vaults.

The major expense this year was the delivery of a back order of corner stones from the Rock of Ages quarry in Barre, VT. This amount will, over time, be recuperated with the future sale of grave lots. Forty stones were purchased so we are now able to install them in a timely manner.

For Year Ending 12/31/2023	
Beginning balance 1/1/2023	606.94
Homer Perkins Fund	300.00
Town Appropriation	17,000.00
Adm. Public Funds	6,000.00
Sale of Lot	590.00
Total Revenue	23,890.00
S&S Ground Maintenance	21,696.00
Rock of Ages Cornerstones	1,400.00
Misc. hardware & mileage	92.29
M. Ketchum	200.00
Trash cans	80.11
VOCA donation	50.00
Bank deposit slips	14.85
Fountain supply	4.59
Total Expenses	23,537.84
Ending Balance 12/31/2023	959.10

We want to express our gratitude to the many individuals who have assisted in our efforts during the past year. They include our Town Clerks Jill and Lori, Mike Ketchum, the road crew, Duke Maxwell, Steve Farrington, Tom Giffin of VOCA, the stone restoration volunteers, the DAR, Donna Bryan and a special thanks to Brenda Hillier for her years of service to our Commission. Thank you, All. We could not have done it without you.

Commissioners: Richard Lunna Mette Rea Joanne Mills

Stockbridge Trustees of Public Funds Report - 2023

Role: Stockbridge is blessed with six endowment funds left by former residents with foresight and compassion for their fellow townspeople. The Trustees are responsible for prudently managing the endowments, ensuring their continuity for future generations while proactively supporting each funds' stated purpose. The Trustees are also charged with administering the Cemetery Trust Fund.

Highlights for 2023:

The Trustees developed Mission and Vision statements and shared values which guide our decision-making process.

Mission:

Our mission is to support the Stockbridge community by facilitating access to resources made available through the philanthropy of past and present town residents.

Vision:

We envision an innovative, resilient, and mutually supportive Stockbridge community where caring for one another is a shared commitment.

Our Shared Values Power Our Work:

Stewardship – We honor our heritage through fiscal prudence and fidelity to the specified desires of our benefactors.

Integrity – We operate with honesty, transparency, and adherence to the highest ethical standards.

Service – We strive to respond to the enduring and changing needs of our community with empathy and innovation.

Engagement – We value and seek active community participation.

Gratitude – We are grateful for Stockbridge: the land, the people, and the generosity of our benefactors. We strive to honor each with dignity and respect.

Assistance Highlights: In 2023, assistance totaled \$143,591: \$25,100 in High School Graduate and Stockbridge Scholarship awards, and \$103,491 to support 20 nonprofit organizations that support or help Stockbridge residents. Additionally, the Trustees designated \$9,000 for Stockbridge Central School programs and \$6,000 for Town Cemetery care and maintenance. The Trustees also continued support of the Stockbridge/Gaysville Historical society loan program with \$20,000 for restoration work.

Financial Highlights: The total portfolio annual rate of return for 2023 was +14.7%.

Investment Advisory Services: Mascoma Wealth Management LLC of Hanover, New Hampshire provided investment services with a management fee of \$18,172

The Trustees of Public Funds are elected officials and serve all members of the Stockbridge community. If you, or someone you know, is in need or if you know of a worthy program which benefits Stockbridge residents that you don't see on the list on the following pages, please feel free to call any one of us.

For residents needing assistance, Capstone Community Action in Randolph can also help. Call 1-800-639-1053 and let them know you are a Stockbridge resident.

The Trustees would like to thank recently retired Trustee Mary Ellen Dorman for her years of service as Trustee and Capstone Liaison; Bill Edgerton who served on the board, most recently as chair, for his innovative and dedicated service; and Karen Ruben who served as interim Trustee, leading the Stockbridge Scholarship and Graduate program with passion and skill – thank you for your many contributions to the Stockbridge community!

Respectfully Submitted,

Stockbridge Trustees of Public Funds

Deborah Aldrich
234-5140
Capstone Liaison

Kim Moore
746-8595
Chair

Karen Ruben
770-2225
Stockbridge Scholarship Lead

Stockbridge Trustees of Public Funds Trust Funds

Keyes Welfare/School Fund

Established in 1860 with an original endowment of \$632. Its purpose is to be used “for support of the poor of said town, or if not required for this purpose, to be used for school purposes.”

Albert Whitcomb School Fund

Established in 1897. The original gift was \$20,000 and the will states “the income only shall be annually divided among the school districts in said town; each district shall receive an amount in proportion to the number of scholars attending school.”

Albert Whitcomb Welfare Fund

Established in 1898 as part of the Albert Whitcomb estate. The original endowment was \$22,323, and the will instructs “the principal to be safely invested and the income only to be used for the relief of the poor in said town.”

Edwina Paine Welfare Fund

Established in 1903 with an original amount of \$2,905. The will states this amount is “to be used and expended for the poor in said town of Stockbridge.”

Chamberlain Library Fund

Vernie Chamberlain left a sum to the town of Stockbridge in 1948 and directed the income to be used to buy books for the Stockbridge Library. Her will specified the books are to be of religious subjects or biographies of great Americans.

Hollister Fletcher Fund

Established in 2020 by a gift of \$2,114,404 from the Hollister J. Fletcher Trust “to help worthy citizens of the Town to overcome temporary, difficult, or needy situations.”

Cemetery Trust Fund

These funds were originally kept by the town and then turned over to the Trustees in 1938. This fund contains monies originally given for perpetual care of individual lots, monies from the Albert Whitcomb and Orley Whitcomb cemetery trust funds and town sales of cemetery lots. Additions are made to the fund whenever cemetery lots are sold. Distributions from these combined funds are provided yearly to the Cemetery Commissioners to supplement the town’s cemetery appropriation for the maintenance and care of all six town cemeteries--Abbott, Maplewood, Mt. Pleasant-Ranney, South Hill, Sylvester (Alcorn), and Watkins Cemetery

Trustees of Public Funds 2023 Financial Report

<u>A. Assets</u>	<u>12/31/22</u>	<u>12/31/23</u>
Equities	\$ 2,269,524	\$ 2,580,414
Fixed Income	\$ 1,149,257	\$ 1,163,038
Cash	\$ 113,528	\$ 151,912
Asset Totals:	<u>\$ 3,532,309</u>	<u>\$ 3,895,364</u>

Annual Returns: **-15.3%** **14.7%**

<u>B. Sources & Uses</u>	<u>12/31/22</u>	<u>Gains 1)</u>	<u>Uses 2)</u>	<u>12/31/23</u>
Hollister Fletcher Fund	\$ 1,945,230	\$ 284,637	\$ (112,200)	\$ 2,107,008
Whitcomb Welfare Fund	\$ 900,252	\$ 136,337	\$ (13,391)	\$ 1,018,534
WWF Capstone 3)	\$ 4,591	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,591
Whitcomb School Fund	\$ 318,696	\$ 48,415	\$ (12,000)	\$ 353,467
Paine Welfare Fund	\$ 112,879	\$ 17,018	\$ -	\$ 129,308
Keyes School/Poor Fund	\$ 11,096	\$ 1,726	\$ -	\$ 12,763
Chamberlain Library Fund	\$ 8,306	\$ 1,128	\$ -	\$ 9,392
Cemetery Trust Fund	\$ 235,850	\$ 36,260	\$ (6,000)	\$ 264,892
Sources & Uses Totals:	<u>\$ 3,532,309</u>	<u>\$ 525,521</u>	<u>\$ (143,591)</u>	<u>\$ 3,899,955</u>

<u>C. Comparative Uses</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Hollister Fletcher Fund	\$ 466	\$ -
HS Graduate Awards	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,000
Stockbridge Scholarship Awards	\$ 27,050	\$ 21,100
Non-Profit Support	\$ 68,000	\$ 87,100
Whitcomb Welfare Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Non-Profit Support	\$ 22,759	\$ 13,391
Whitcomb School Fund	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
WSF--One Planet/Other	\$ 6,137	\$ 3,000
Paine Welfare	\$ -	\$ -
Keyes School/Poor	\$ -	\$ -
Chamberlain Library	\$ -	\$ -
Cemetery Trust Fund	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Support Totals:	<u>\$ 142,912</u>	<u>\$ 143,591</u>

<u>D. Trust Expenses</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Financial Mgmt. Fee 4)	\$ 18,645	\$ 18,173
Administrative Expenses	\$ 472	\$ -
Expense Totals:	<u>\$ 19,117</u>	<u>\$ 18,173</u>

Notes:

- 1) Gains net of Financial Management Fee.
- 2) Fund transfers, donations and Cemetery perpetual care fees.
Gains and Uses do not include Trust Expenses shown under Section D.
- 3.) Capstone provides direct support for Stockbridge residents including emergency fuel assistance, rent, utilities, and transportation, child care and senior services.
- 4) Financial Management Services: Mascoma Wealth Management LLC, Hanover, N.H.

2023 NP Requests						
Trustees of Public Funds--Non-Profit Support Summary						
	Organization	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	American Red Cross	\$250	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$250	\$250
2	Belcher Library	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,800	\$0
3	Bethel Area Food Shelf	\$3,000				\$15,000
4	Capstone					\$0
5	Central VT Council on Aging	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800
6	Clara Martin Center	\$1,081	\$1,081	\$2,081	\$1,081	\$1,081
8	Green UP Vermont	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
9	One Planet Afterschool Program	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,000
10	Park House	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
11	Quin-Town Senior Center	\$5,668	\$6,668	\$6,668	\$6,668	\$3,500
12	Safeline, Inc.	\$500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$500
13	Stockbridge Community Meals to Go			\$25,400	\$52,000	\$48,100
14	Stockbridge Historical Society				\$10,000	\$20,000
15	Summer Music for Kids				\$6,000	\$4,000
16	Tri-Valley Transit (formerly Stagecoach)	\$1,250	\$2,250	\$2,250	\$1,250	\$1,250
17	VT Adult Learning	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$0
18	VT Center for Independent Living	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$230
19	VT Family Network			\$250	\$250	\$250
20	Vermont Rural Fire Protection TF	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
21	Visiting Nurses Alliance of VT/NH	\$2,930	\$3,930	\$3,930	\$3,930	\$2,930
22	White River Partnership	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
23	Windsor County Mentors	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$200
	Total Contributions:	<u>\$27,209</u>	<u>\$29,209</u>	<u>\$56,859</u>	<u>\$95,759</u>	<u>\$103,491</u>
	TPF Contribution Totals:	\$27,209	\$29,209	\$56,859	\$95,759	\$103,491
	Cumulative TPF Funding since 2015	\$130,635	\$159,844	\$216,703	\$312,462	\$415,953

Planning Commission Report - 2023

Role: The Planning Commission is principally responsible for drafting the Town Plan and the Town's zoning and subdivision bylaws. It also serves in a regulatory capacity, reviewing site plans, subdivisions and Clustered Housing Developments, and may prepare and present building, housing and safety codes, and capital budgets.

Commissioners are appointed by the Selectboard and normally serve three-year terms.

Meetings: Regularly scheduled monthly meetings are held at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday via Zoom and have resumed at the Town office since mid-2021. The public is invited to attend all meetings and hearings. Agendas and meeting minutes are posted on the town website: <http://stockbridgevt.org>

2023 Highlights: 2023 was a busy year for the Planning Commission. Working with the support of Kyle Katz from Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission, the commission edited and revised the draft Town Plan, which is now going through the hearing and approval process. Todd Trzaskos and Regina Toolin left the commission after many years' service, while Steve Farrington rejoined the planning commission after a 20-plus year gap.

2024 Plans: In 2024, the Commission will work to finish the approval of the plan, and then start work on any edits and revisions to the Zoning By-laws. Not much change is anticipated, although there are several State requirements to review and incorporate.

Current Planning Commission members are Jon Benson, Lou Chap, Steve Farrington (Secretary), Patricia Hardyman, Kevin Travis (Chair).

Respectfully submitted,

Stockbridge Planning Commission
Kevin Travis, Chair

2023 Zoning Administrators Report

Town of Stockbridge

The 2023 Zoning activity has remained consistent throughout the fair seasons.

This year there were 4 permits issued for New Construction, 1 Sign Permit, 5 Permits were issued for Accessory Structures, 9 issued for Additions to existing homes, 4 Road permits and 1 exempt permit for agricultural use.

3 Certificates of Compliance were issued. Let me remind those that all construction requires a Certificate of Compliance prior to use of the facility. Please reach out to me to request a walk-through following project completion.

An exempt permit for agricultural use still needs to be submitted to the Zoning Administrator for the Town of Stockbridge with regard to any construction to determine whether or not a project is exempt.

The zoning by laws are posted on our Town website along with the application and fee schedule, and are proving user friendly from the feedback received by applicants.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions, I am happy to help.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Isaacson

Zoning Administrator

zoning@stockbridgevt.gov

Windsor County Service Delivery July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Disaster Response

In the past year, the American Red Cross has responded to **16 disaster cases** in **Windsor County**, providing assistance to **41 individuals**. Most commonly, these incidents were home fires. Red Cross workers were on the scene to provide food, clothing, lodging, emotional support, and more to families during their hours of greatest need. Our teams also provide Mass Care to first responders. Things like food, water, and warm drinks strengthen the brave people of your local Fire and Police Departments as they answer the call to keep your residents safe.

Town/City	Disaster Events	Individuals
Bethel	2	7
Bridgewater	1	1
Chester	2	8
Hartland	4	5
South Royalton	1	2
Springfield	4	11
Windsor	2	7

Home Fire Campaign

Last year, Red Cross staff and volunteers worked throughout Windsor County to educate residents on fire, safety and preparedness. We made **7 homes safer** by helping families develop emergency evacuation plans.

Blood Drives

We collected **1,920** pints of lifesaving blood at **70** drives in Windsor County.

Training Services

Last year, **1,016 Windsor County residents** were taught a variety of important lifesaving skills such as First Aid, CPR, Babysitting Skills and Water Safety.



Service to the Armed Forces

We proudly assisted **25** of **Windsor County's Service Members, veterans, and their families** by providing emergency communications and other services, including counseling and financial assistance.

Volunteer Services

Windsor County is home to **25 American Red Cross Volunteers**. We have volunteers from all walks of life, who are trained and empowered to respond to disasters in the middle of the night, to teach safety courses, to help at our many blood drives, and so much more. The American Red Cross is proud that 90% of its staff is made up of volunteers; they are truly the heart and soul of our organization.





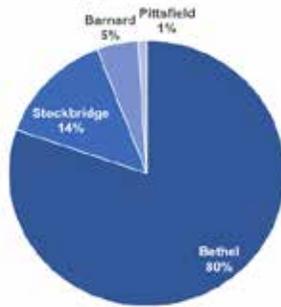
Serving Barnard, Bethel, Pittsfield & Stockbridge

802-234-5513

2024 Stockbridge Town Meeting Report

The Bethel Area Food Shelf (BAFS) -- which serves Bethel, Barnard, Pittsfield, and Stockbridge -- continued to experience tremendous growth during 2023. More than 200 families from our service area relied on the BAFS to supplement their food budget. To illustrate that growth: In 2020, 46 families visited BAFS; in 2021, that number grew to 100; and in 2022, 160 families relied on this support. All told, between 2020 and 2022, BAFS helped relieve food insecurity for 600 individuals in our service area.

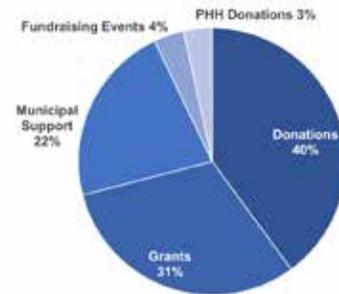
Unique Families by Town (Jan-Oct 2023): 188



With increased demand for food assistance following significant reductions in COVID-relief SNAP benefits this year, persistent inflation, and summer flooding, BAFS's expenses have increased by nearly \$30K. To address the increased demand we are seeking municipal support -- commensurate with resident usage -- from each town we serve.

BAFS is run entirely by volunteers; no one is paid for their time. As a Network Partner of the VT Foodbank, BAFS is able to access free and reduced-price food on a monthly basis and participate in periodic grant opportunities. Willing Hands, a regional gleaning nonprofit, provides BAFS with fresh produce, bread, and dairy products weekly. Local churches, schools, businesses, and organizations periodically collaborate with us.

BAFS Income Sources: Jan 2023–Nov 17, 2023



We continue to be open two days a week, Mondays from 12-1 pm, and Thursdays from 5-7 pm, and we have recently added two Saturday-morning test shifts each month. Deliveries are available throughout our service area during these times so we can reach folks who are housebound for various reasons. We also offer free delivery of fresh produce on the fourth Friday of each month and coordinate Project Happy Holidays annually with help from the Bethel Area Rotary Club. Any excess funds raised during Project Happy Holidays go toward our BAFS Emergency Fund to help families deal with financial crises.

If you need help supplementing your food budget, contact BAFS at 802-234-5513 or bethelvtfoodshelf@gmail.com. Leave your name, address, and phone number and someone will call or email you back as soon as possible. There is a shopping list on our website, bethelvtfoodshelf.org; use it to place an order and request delivery, if needed. Other up-to-date information is available at www.facebook.com/bethelvtfoodshelf. If you'd like to volunteer at BAFS, contact cindy@action-circles.com. If you'd like to donate to BAFS, send a check to Bethel Area Food Shelf, PO Box 211, Bethel, VT 05032.

We have enjoyed working to revitalize the Bethel Area Food Shelf and look forward to continuing this important work, encouraging neighbors to reach out and help their neighbors in need.

Respectfully submitted,

The BAFS Management Team

Kim Marsh, Sharon Pavlik, Alyssa Levy, Joanne Mills, Lisa Warhol, and Cindy Metcalf

Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) 2023 Report for Town of Stockbridge:

Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) is dedicated to the mission of supporting older Vermonters to age with dignity and choice. CVCOA services are available to those age 60 and up, caregivers, and families.

CVCOA makes a difference in the lives of older Vermonters by connecting them to the network of benefit programs and services that they need to thrive, free of charge. CVCOA utilizes town funding to provide individualized support to Stockbridge residents through case management, information and assistance, options counseling, resource and benefit enrollment (nutrition, transportation, mental health counseling, legal services, etc), long-term care planning, health insurance counseling, family caregiver support, connection to wellness and social activities, and more.

CVCOA supported 19 residents of Stockbridge. CVCOA case manager Kathryn Schenkman directly served older adults in Stockbridge.

CVCOA served 4,040 unduplicated clients from 07/01/2022 through 06/30/2023. CVCOA mobilized 497 volunteers through our AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP and general volunteer programs. These volunteers served over 40,000 hours, providing direct service, delivering meals on wheels, supporting nutrition sites, leading wellness classes, offering companionship and creative encouragement, and more.

All of us at CVCOA extend our gratitude to the residents of **Stockbridge for their ongoing commitment to the health, well-being, independence, and dignity of older Vermonters in the Stockbridge community.**



STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY MEALS 2023 Annual Report

The mainstream food economy is not working for everyone.
Two out of five Vermonters are now food insecure, up from one in four.

Stockbridge Community Meals is an experiment in creating a local food economy that works for our whole community.

Our goal is to make locally sourced, prepared food easily accessible for all of us, to become self-sustaining through broad community support, and to become a model for other rural communities.

Through the generous participation of this community and with help from the Stockbridge Trustees of Public Funds, we have made a great start. See details below.

This locally sourced prepared food is for everyone regardless of ability to pay, available for pick up from our freezer in the concession stand at Stockbridge Central School, weekdays from 2:45 – 7:00 PM.

To sustain universal access, SCM needs broad ongoing community support.

To this end, we have invited community members who can afford to do so to commit to supporting this project on an ongoing basis by signing up for our flexible Prepared Food CSA.

The CSA shares are available in various sizes, beginning at less than the cost of the food.
As of the end of 2023, we have approximately 30 CSA subscribers, at rates ranging from \$7.50/week to \$100/week, for a total of approximately \$750/week in CSA income.

We are deeply grateful for our CSA subscribers. THANK YOU!

**STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY MEALS
2023 Annual Report (cont.)**

We have now completed our second full calendar year of operation.

In 2023:

In a rural town with a population of 711 and no grocery store, we distributed 5,877 containers (11,754 servings) of wholesome (largely organic) prepared food. Almost all of the \$85,994 spent on food-related labor and materials went to local farms, a business, cooks, and independent markets: your money stayed in your community.

Total costs (food, labor, containers, labels, fees, marketing...) were \$95,532 and

Total community member support for the same period: \$37,219

The Stockbridge Trustees of Public Funds initially supported us at the rate of \$1000/week

As of the end of 2023, we have reduced our dependence on the Public Funds by 20%

with the understanding that this rate of support will diminish further as community member support increases.

We have already become a model for other rural communities.

Our project was featured in the 2023 Spring issue of Edible Vermont. (Google: Edible Vermont Spring 2023/Stockbridge Community Meals.)

If you are not yet a CSA subscriber, given that you almost certainly spend money on food somewhere, can you use \$20/week of your food budget to buy local?

If you can commit to \$20/week through our CSA, since we have a sliding scale for food, based on the honor system, you can decide how many containers of food to take out based on your circumstance. If \$20/week doesn't sound right for you, check out our CSA page to see the wide range of levels available.

By being part of our CSA, you will be purchasing delicious food for yourself (at a price determined by you,) strengthening our local food economy, and demonstrating your commitment to the proposition that as a community, we are in it together and we are making sure that all of us have access to wholesome, locally sourced food.

If you cannot sign up for our CSA

Please enjoy the food and contribute what you can afford. Every contribution helps!

Contribute at the site or mail a check (SCM) to 621 River Road 05772 or VENMO @SFCMTG

For more information, including pictures of the land and the people your money supports, please visit our website: stockbridgecommunitymeals.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION & GENEROSITY!

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Aldrich, Founder



GREEN UP VERMONT
www.greenupvermont.org

Green Up Day
May 6, 2023



Green Up Day, continued to grow with 23,500 volunteers statewide who cleaned up nearly 348 tons of litter and 15,000 tires. We saw 23% more volunteers lend a hand and heard in many cases there was less litter (30%) to be cleaned up. Tire collection saw a 4.8% increase. The statistics show that the hard work to beautify Vermont is still needed but also that our efforts for awareness are paying off. As one of Vermont’s favorite traditions, it is imperative for today and for future generations to keep building pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont, as well as keep residents civically engaged.

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding for 2024.

Green Up initiatives are year-round and further our environmental impact with waste reduction programs, additional clean-up efforts, and educational initiatives.

Green Up Vermont is a private nonprofit organization that relies on your support to execute the tradition of cleaning up our roads and waterways, while promoting civic pride, and community engagement. **Thank you for supporting this crucial program that takes care of all our cities and towns.**

Your donations make a huge impact and can be made on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or online at www.greenupvermont.org.

Visit our website, like us on Facebook (@greenupvermont), and follow on Instagram (greenupvermont). greenup@greenupvermont.org 802-522-7245

Stockbridge Green Up Day Statistics

Volunteers: 12

Number of roads cleared: 10+ (Mostly non-state arterial roads)

Number of Bags: 24

Number of Tires: 1

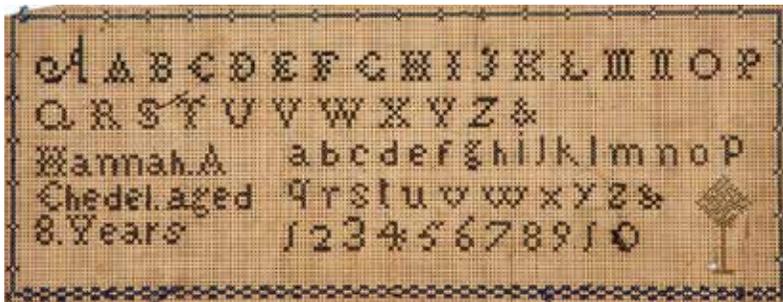
Thanks for everything GreenUp is doing to keep Vermont clean and beautiful!

Stockbridge Historical Society - 2023 Summary Report

It was a busy year. In 2023 Members of the Historical Society-

1. Attended The Annual Conference of local Historical Societies held in Barre. The workshops were focused on maintaining and presenting artifacts to the public;
2. Sponsored a public presentation on Local History by Joanne Woods of Lilliesville;
3. Participated at the annual Craft & Flea Market on Stockbridge Common in August;
4. With the DAR, Sponsored a Public workshop on Cleaning Grave Stone Markers at the Maplewood Cemetery;
5. Held the First Annual 'Constitution Day' celebration on the Green at Stockbridge Center. (Bells were rung! Proclamations Read! History came alive!);
6. Continued to sort and document items from the Perkins House in Gaysville;
7. Met with Board members of the Marvin Newton House in Brookfield and discussed administration of historical buildings/museum. Toured the Marvin Newton House;
8. Attended the Vermont Sampler project in Middlebury.

For 2024, your historical society is planning on regular events that will be fun, educational and open to the public. Expect another presentation on a historical topic of local interest and another Constitution Day Celebration. We also will be coordinating several social and working activities.



The photo is of a sampler found at the Perkins House- our town's future Museum of local history. The sampler was completed in 1865 by Hannah Chedel of Pomfret, Vermont. Hannah's older brother, John Chedel, married a Gaysville woman in 1873 and by 1881 the couple had moved to Gaysville. They inherited his

father-in-law's Mercantile business that was also located in Gaysville. This business was passed down through several generations and Margaret Perkins' father- Merrill- was the last in line to run the old 'Hodgkins' store, as it was known. Margaret's family also inherited some wonderful and rare photographs of the Chedel family-including several of Hannah and even others who were born in the 1700's. Among other elected town and state offices, John Chedel became the Stockbridge town clerk – a position that he held for 38 years.

What are we interested in at the Stockbridge Historical Society? Well, 'History' for starters! Old Photographs. Family Stories... Old Cellar holes. Antiques. Old town roads. Old Quilts and clothing. One room school houses. Family Stories. (It's worth repeating!) If you have a story or two, *let us know!* How many of us remember those who are no longer with us, and regret that we never recorded them and their stories when we had the opportunity to do so?

If you would like to be notified of our future events and activities, please get in touch: Forrestn@fastmail.fm . We will put you on our 'e'-mailer.

Respectfully submitted: Forrest Newton, President



One Planet Afterschool Program

Bethel, Chelsea, Newton, Sharon, Stockbridge,
Rochester, Royalton, Tunbridge

Dear Town of Stockbridge,

December 7, 2023

We want to thank you for your support of \$3,000 for the 2023-24 fiscal year. We utilized this funding to support our summer camp. Please see our report below.

REPORT:

One Planet's mission is to create a dynamic learning environment after school and during the summer that inspires and supports students in becoming compassionate global citizens and lifelong learners.

This summer Rockbridge (Rochester/Stockbridge) One Planet Summer Camp engaged 32 children in grades K-6th with exciting theme-based projects for 5 weeks. Activities ranged widely this summer depending on the week's theme. The 5 themes this year included Fairy & Fantasy, Let's Create, Under the Sea, Rocks Rock!, and Camping Week. Students also participated in a number of exciting field trips. This summer campers traveled to Tip Top Pottery, The Bethel Pool, Bowlerama, Circus Smirkus, The Ben & Jerry's Factory, and Lots 'o Balls. Finally, we continued to offer our Counselors-in-Training program which gives local middle school students the opportunity to join the program giving them leadership roles and the power to make decisions and employed local high school students as high school aides. Our high school aides bridge the gap between adult staff, CITs, and campers, bring wonderful energy to our program, and are strong role models for our elementary students.

Thanks to the support of the Town of Stockbridge, we were able to continue to offer families reduced summer pricing. We also provided a sliding scale and scholarships for those families in need. Parents were truly grateful to see their kids smiling, connecting with their peers and having a summer camp experience.

We want to thank the town of Stockbridge for supporting our program with a contribution of \$3,000. We would like to request \$3,000 for 2024-25 fiscal year. Please let me know if you need any more information or have questions.

Sincerely,

Hayley Zoerheide, One Planet Program Director
hzoerheide@wrvsu.org, 802-763-3812



2023-2024

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Nancy Vadnais
President

Anthony Goupee
Vice President

Sarah Gallagher
Treasurer

Meg Hudson
Secretary

Jakey Twitchell

Evelyn Pruiksma

Larry Plesent

Mary Fratini

STAFF

Lolly Lindsey
Executive Director

Kristi Fuller
Lead Cook

Phyllis Deering
Cook

Susan Leary
Housekeeper

Dawn Cieniewicz
Housekeeper



ParkHouseVT.org

802-767-3416

director@parkhousevt.org

Dear Friends,

Park House is many things to many people— a historical landmark, a community center, a place to serve others—but above all, it is home to up to 16 seniors seeking companionship, assistance, comfort, and community. The residents of Park House are as diverse as our communities are. Some live on fixed incomes while others are somewhat more financially comfortable; some are healthy and vibrant while others are more physically or mentally challenged. While a good number of residents hail from the Quin-Town valley area, some have come to us from further away in order to live closer to family here.

Park House has managed to maintain its commitment to provide affordable housing to seniors in our community over the past 30 years. Each year the costs for utilities, food and basic necessities continue to increase. These past few years, that increase has been even more dramatic. The staff and Board of Trustees have continued to work hard to keep expenses in check and to maintain that commitment to affordability. Our non-profit organization relies on grants, fundraising events and on your generous contributions and appropriations to cover our expenses and to remain an affordable Home.

We currently have all of our 16 rooms rented out and have been maintaining an extensive waiting list. Multiple calls are received weekly from people looking for an elder residence for a family member or for themselves. Most Vermonters are well aware of the housing crisis in our state, and we at Park House can attest that the crisis extends to senior housing as well. We are confident we could fill another Park House sized building in a blink of an eye.

Our dedicated service to this community and it's elders would not have been possible without generous community support. We sincerely thank you for your past support and hope that you will vote to continue that support again this year.

Drop by for a visit sometime. We would love to see you here at the house for a brown bag lunch, a musical performance, or just a good old rocking chair porch chat!

With our best wishes,

Lolly Lindsey

Executive Director

Together with the Park House Board of Trustees and Staff

Quin-Town Center for Senior Citizens
PO Box 113
1097 Route 100
Hancock, VT 05748

802-767-3763
quintownsc@gmail.com

11/20/2023

To the Town of Stockbridge Select Board/Budget Committee and Community Members:

Quin-Town Center for Senior Citizens is based in Hancock and since 1972 has given senior citizens in the area a place to go for on-site meals each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at noon. We also provide nutritionally balanced meals delivered to homebound members through our Meals on Wheels Program.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our senior center. To keep our clients safe, we have had to temporarily change our onsite dining, currently serving onsite meals on Wednesdays. However, we continue to provide nutritionally balanced meals to help meet the dietary requirements of our seniors by offering our To-Go Meals Program and continue delivering Meals on Wheels each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Our Meals on Wheels Program not only provides healthy meals to seniors, but also provides us with an opportunity to perform a wellness check for our senior neighbors.

The Quin-Town Center for Senior Citizens is requesting a donation from each of our surrounding towns. Our request from Stockbridge is **\$5668.00** for the coming year. The donation is well spent. We have supplied nearly 5,000 meals this past year to seniors at the center including our To-Go Meals Program and our Meals on Wheels Program. This past year we have served 3 Stockbridge residents, 7 days a week, totaling 1,092 meals. The recent increased need for food in the community aggravated by this summer catastrophic flooding, builds on the devastation caused by COVID-19 Pandemic, as record inflation in 2022.

Your donation will cover a portion of our operating budget not reimbursed by our contract with the Central Vermont Council on Aging. Therefore, each contributing town and its citizens become participants in the successful operation of our program that provides quality meals and social enrichment for our aging neighbors and relatives.

We continue to supplement our funds with a very successful annual appeal each fall and have increased our search for grants and other fundraising events. We would be glad to meet with you if you have any questions. Thank you for your generous support in the past and for considering our current request.

Sincerely,

Quin-Town Board of Directors

Board of Directors

~ **Natalie Clook, Acting President/Assistant Cook** ~ **Kent Butterfield, Vice President & Treasurer**

~ **Beverly Allen, Secretary** ~

Members: Annette West

Phyllis Deering, Executive Director/Cook ~

SAFELINE, INC.
P.O. Box 368, Chelsea, VT 05038
safelineinfo@safelinevt.org
(802) 685-7900 office
(800) 639-7933 24/7 hotline

Safeline, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that provides free and confidential services for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking in Orange County and northern Windsor County.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, Safeline provided 2,325 services for 262 victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual abuse.

Safeline provides free and confidential services, including: crisis support, safety planning, medical advocacy, economic empowerment, financial education and legal advocacy for members of the Stockbridge community.

In addition to providing direct services, Safeline is a resource to the Stockbridge community at large and is committed to changing the culture of violence in our society. As part of this work, Safeline offers a full-range of prevention education activities for community organizations, faith communities, youth groups and other groups seeking information about domestic and sexual violence.

Along with town appropriations, Safeline utilizes state, local and private grants to provide services to Stockbridge. We also conduct fundraisers, and solicit annual appeals and donations. Stockbridge's financial support has an impact on Safeline's ability to offer important programming.

A trained advocate is always available to provide crisis support, safety planning, resources, information and referrals through Safeline's 24 hours a day/7 days a week Hotline (1-800-639-7233). Survivors can also choose from a wide array of additional services including legal advocacy, day shelter services, job readiness skills development, and financial management education.

We thank the voters of Stockbridge for your support as we work to end domestic violence and sexual abuse in Stockbridge.



A Vermont Domestic Non-Profit Corporation

Email: summermusicforkids@gmail.com

Mailing address: PO Box 134, Gaysville, VT 05746

Thanks to our many generous donors including the Stockbridge Trustees of Public Funds, local businesses and residents, the second summer of Summer Music For Kids day camp was extremely successful! Nineteen students, grades 4-8 (including homeschoolers) from Stockbridge, Pittsfield, Rochester, Granville and Hancock began as well continued learning to play and care for their instruments. They also received fun exposure to theater, visual and other arts. Two students from Stockbridge attended and one of those students chose to play two instruments.

The aim of Summer Music for Kids continues to be to provide access to instrumental music education to all students in the Valley communities regardless of financial constraints or other barriers. Instrumental private lessons with top-notch area teachers, instrument rentals, and snacks were offered free of charge to campers.

Because our Board of Directors is comprised entirely of volunteers, we can maximize the services our teachers and enrichment staff offer. This year, we were able to add seven, teen counselors (most of them musical) with a diverse array of talents ranging from instrumental expertise to volleyball and soccer to theatre and crafts. For several of the teen counselors, this was their first employment opportunity and kids, counselors and staff are already looking forward to summer 2024!

We have continued to offer private lessons on early release days during the 2023/2024 academic year. Our participating Kids tell us this certainly has helped keep their instrumental musical success going.

Our teachers for 2024 will be Scott Paulson (percussion, trumpet, trombone), Barbara Smith (flute, clarinet, saxophone), and Emerson Gale (violin and cello).

For more information, please send an e-mail to summermusicforkids@gmail.com, or talk with Susan Bushnell (Rochester) or Bill Edgerton (Stockbridge).



STOCKBRIDGE TOWN REPORT October 2023

Thank you for the Town of Stockbridge's generous support last year. During the past four years, your support helped us provide an annual average of **107 free Dial-A-Ride trips for Stockbridge residents** either by volunteer drivers or on wheelchair accessible vehicles. An additional **225 riders boarded public buses at Stockbridge bus stops**. *TVT's Dial-A-Ride and Public Bus Systems provided a total of 180,335 rides for the year.* All of TVT's transportation programs enable community members to maintain their independence, gain and keep employment, and access critical healthcare and quality-of-life services.

Dial-A-Ride Programs – Focus on specialized populations including elders, persons with disabilities and low-income families/individuals who are unable to access the bus system. Dial-A-Ride offers direct access from home to: medical treatments, meal site/senior programs, adult day care services, pharmacies, food shopping, social services, vocational rehabilitation, radiation & dialysis, substance abuse treatment, and other destinations that enhance riders' quality of life.



Bus System – Promotes economic development, energy conservation, mobility independence and quality of life. Stockbridge residents can access the 89'er Commuter Route to access the Hanover, Lebanon, White River Jct. area for employment opportunities, medical appointments, and shopping.

The state and local grants through which we provide these services require us to raise up to 20% "local match" dollars. TVT's requests from towns account for approximately 5% of the match requirement.

TRORC 2023 YEAR-END REPORT

The Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission is your regional planning commission. We are governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our 30 member towns. We work to make the area better today, and to articulate a vision for a thriving regional economy that enhances the Region's outstanding quality of life. The following are highlights from our work in 2023.

Technical Assistance on Planning Issues

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

Economy and Public Health

This year, TRORC supported the Region's talented artists, food producers, and other parts of the creative economy sector through training and networking events. We also were able to provide many small businesses with grant funds to weather Covid-19, as well as guidance to towns on using their federal recovery funds. TRORC also helps identify and clean contaminated parcels of land for reuse.

Emergency Management and Preparedness

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

Energy/Climate Change

TRORC assisted towns on Enhanced Energy Plans to save money for communities and further the State energy goal of meeting 90% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. TRORC has continued working to support member towns through assessing town buildings for energy conservation upgrades. We also work on state-level climate policy and local adaptation measures.

Transportation

TRORC also worked with towns to get funding to implement road improvement projects. We also work to support our transit agencies, build park and ride lots, and help towns with traffic counts and speed studies.

Specifically in Stockbridge this past year, TRORC helped complete the Local Emergency Management Plan. TRORC also assisted the Town with updating its Town Plan. Staff assisted the town in completing a Better Roads planning grant for a culvert and ditching project on Laury Road. TRORC will work with the Selectboard to identify local needs and funding programs that could help make progress on needed projects. Staff also assisted the town with applying for energy assessment grants for the Town Office and Town Garage.

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director
William B. Emmons III, Chairperson, Pomfret*

THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING #03-0271000
TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE
SUMMARY REPORT

Request Amount: \$230.00

For over 44 years, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY'23 (10/2022-9/2023) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to **140** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and **4** peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **178** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **115** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **73** individuals with information on assistive technology; **41** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **379** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. Our Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) served **17** people and provided **7** peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone.

VCIL's central office is in downtown Montpelier (although we are working from home as our office (along with so many others) was devastated in the July flood and we have four branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

During FY'23, **2** residents of **Stockbridge** received services from the following program:

- Information Referral and Assistance (I,R&A)

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at:
1-800-639-1522, or, visit our web site at **www.vcil.org**.

Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

White River Junction Local Health Office | 118 Prospect Street, White River Junction, VT
802-295-8820 | AHS.VDHWhiteRiverJct@Vermont.gov

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. **The White River Junction Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Northern Windsor and Southern Orange counties.** Some highlights of our work in 2023 are below. For more information, visit HealthVermont.gov/local/white-river-junction



Collaboration with Partners

The White River Junction (WRJ) staff works with over 30 diverse health care and social service organizations in the Greater Upper Valley Integrated Services Team (GUVIST). **GUVIST is making services and support for community members of all ages more efficient, effective, responsive and appropriate to the desires of those in need.** To learn more about this initiative, visit uvpublichealth.org/guivist/



Addressing Health Equity

Our Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program helps pregnant people and families with children under age 5. We provide healthy foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and referrals to community resources. Our office understands that not having transportation can make it difficult to get services. **Our office has the most access points in the state with our nutritionists hosting clinics at seven satellite sites.** If you would like to learn more visit www.healthvermont.gov/local/white-river-junction/wic-white-river-junction



Planning For and Responding to Emergencies

Our Emergency Preparedness Specialist, Immunization Nurse, Epidemiologist and other staff have worked with the Upper Valley Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) to help our communities. They have spent hundreds of hours **conducting COVID testing, administering COVID and Mpox vaccinations, investigating over 210 infectious disease cases and collecting kits for water testing during flood recovery.** Learn more about the MRC at uvpublichealth.org/featured-partner-upper-valley-medical-reserve-corps/



Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Serving and Strengthening Vermont Local Government

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

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

- **Legal and technical assistance**, including prompt responses to member questions that often involve how to comply with state and federal requirements. Staff responds to thousands of member questions and publishes guidance, templates, research reports, and FAQs. In 2023, VLCT specialists provided government-specific finance training as well as resources and consultation that help Vermont's cities and towns comply with federal rules for receiving federal ARPA and infrastructure funding. Staff also provides input to state leaders on designing and implementing grant programs for municipalities.
- **Trainings and timely communications on topics of specific concern to local officials.** The League provides training via webinars, classes at members' locations, and its annual member conference, the largest gathering of municipal officials in the state. In the wake of the 2023 floods, VLCT became a crucial information hub for local officials. VLCT's Equity Committee assists local officials in centering the work of justice, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in their municipalities' decision making, policies, practices, and programs.
- **Representation before the state legislature, state agencies, and the federal government**, ensuring that municipal concerns are heard collectively and as a single, united voice. VLCT's recent legislative efforts have helped cities and towns access additional resources to respond to the pandemic, repair roads and bridges, enact cybersecurity, improve housing and economic growth, promote renewable energy, provide emergency medical services, address equity and inclusion, and ensure the quality of our drinking water. Specific success in 2023 includes securing \$3 million for towns to expand their capacity to access state and federal grants through the Municipal Technical Assistance Program, fighting to balance changes to local zoning laws with state land use laws to facilitate housing construction, elevating awareness of the financial difficulties rural emergency medical services face, amplifying municipal concerns as the Legislature contemplates moving toward a state-led reappraisal system, and increasing municipal authorities in statute. Members are also represented at the federal level to Vermont's Congressional delegation and through our partner, the National League of Cities.
- **Access to insurance programs.** The Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) provides comprehensive and cost-effective property, liability, and workers' compensation insurance coverage, programs, and services that protect the assets of your community. The VLCT Unemployment Insurance Trust provides unemployment insurance at stable pricing. VLCT also offers members group rates on important benefits for municipal employees: life, disability, dental, and vision insurance. All the programs offer coverage and products that members need and ask for, help Vermont municipalities stretch their budgets, and are *only* available to VLCT members.

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

TIME TO SPAY & NEUTER CATS & DOGS and LICENSE!

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP), under VT Economic Services is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society (VVSA). Funded by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, resources are limited by the number of dogs licensed as required by law by 6 months of age. A rabies vaccination is required to license. The first vaccination can be given at 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a vet office, Community Animal Aid (free to those on public assistance: 734-0259 at the E. Barre Fire Station) & Tractor Supply host monthly clinics. After vaccinating, contact your Town Clerk to license your dog. By statute, unlicensed dogs can be seized. Rabies is in Vermont and it is deadly.

Licensing identifies your dog and is proof the dog is protected in the event bitten by an animal, but would still need immediate medical attention. Vaccinations and licensing protect if they bite another animal or person, which could result in the quarantine of the animal or euthanized. If not proven by being licensed to be currently vaccinated, testing for rabies requires the brain to be examined.

For an Application for VSNIP send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Note if it is for a cat, dog, or both. To print out, go to: VSNIP.Vermont.Gov. VSNIP helps income challenged Vermonters with neutering and vaccinations. If approved, you'll receive a Voucher and instructions. If not, a list of low-cost resources will be sent. Several humane societies host spay neuter clinics open to the public. Your cost for a VSNIP surgery is \$27.00, if without complications. The balance is paid by fellow Vermonters with their \$4.00 fee collected at licensing. **Veterinarians and their staff are the backbone of this important program. Thanks to their generosity and altruistic vision, Vermont no longer uses routine euthanasia as a means of population control. Sincerely thank your veterinarian for their participation in VSNIP. If not currently a participating office, please ask them to join and help make a difference in your community. They are very needed.**

Facts: Female cats as young as 4 months can become pregnant. The "mom" cat can/will become pregnant when nursing is finished. Males travel for miles to find a female in heat, often not returning. Cats and dogs (naturally) mark their territory if not neutered. Resolve Carpet Cleaner and a single moth ball in its place will help deter from repeat markings. (Do not use moth balls with young children in the house.) 70% of cats and 15% of dogs using VSNIP are reported as strays or abandoned, which is cruel and illegal. Please do promote VSNIP, helping those that cannot afford to neuter, that will otherwise reproduce over and over. Repeat litters can cause uterine infection, mammary tumors, kidney failure, etc., leading to death. "Farm" cats are especially at risk. Be wary of any seller of animals that won't allow you to see how they are kept before acquiring and want to meet in a parking lot. Animals are often used as a means of making money, and their life may be the inside a room or cage. Please be the voice for those that cannot speak. Purchasing does not 'save' one, it 'enables' those to continue to misuse animals for money. Thank you for promoting this time proven program.

Thanks to now retired Lynn Murrell, DVM, who first agreed to extend reduced rates for animals in need, and all the Veterinarians and Clinics that served for the last forty years plus. A sincere thank you to Bernard "Snook" Downing for helping support many animals in need over the years with his hard work, contributions, and the donors we are unable to thank in print – but you know who you are! **Together We Truly Do Make a Difference!** 800 HI VSNIP (1-800-448-7647)

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator: VSNIP Executive Director: VVSA

White River Park at Stockbridge, Vermont

2023 Update

Phase II Design Plan



2011: Tropical Storm Irene destroyed the former Gaysville Campground, and ownership transferred to Stockbridge
On August 28, 2011, Tropical Storm Irene’s floodwaters destroyed the former Gaysville Campground. The 20-acre site lies between the White River and Rt. 107, downstream of the Gaysville bridge. **On May 31, 2017, ownership was transferred to the Town after a FEMA-funded buyout and clean-up.**

2018: “Friends of (the future) White River Park” created

With the Selectboard’s support, interested residents formed a Friends group. Assisted by the Planning Commission and the White River Partnership (Partnership), a multi-year Improvement Plan was developed.

2019: Improvement Plan approved; additional trail and clearance work undertaken; and adjacent property donated
On March 5, 2019, the Stockbridge Town Meeting unanimously approved the Improvement Plan. In June, volunteers worked on trail/river access clearance and brush-hogging. **On September 12, 2019, a 9.5 acre property adjacent to the site was donated to Stockbridge in honor of the Hull and Alcorn families.**

2021: Phase I Site Improvements implemented

With the Partnership’s help, a \$24,000 Agency of Natural Resources grant was received and implemented, including entrance improvements, signage, stone steps to the river, parking, and improved trail and river access.

2022: White River Park officially named; Campground trash dump removed; and Phase II Planning started

On April 21, 2022, the Selectboard voted to name the site “White River Park at Stockbridge, Vermont.” Volunteers filled 65 bags of trash and debris from the former Campground’s dump in May.

2023: Phase II Design Plan developed; along with Park maintenance provided by the Friends of White River Park
With Partnership help and Planning Commission support, a Phase II Plan was developed (see above), also to be funded by non-taxpayer sources. Plan highlights – expanding the parking area, adding 1 mile of trails, creating a grassy open space for picnicking, a park entrance sign, and possibly a portable toilet. The Friends conducted their annual park clean-up, ongoing litter patrols, and removing a large fallen tree obstructing the entrance trail.

Respectfully: Bill Edgerton, Friends of White River Park

Kevin Travis, Stockbridge Planning Commission

White River Partnership 2023 Annual Report to Stockbridge

The White River Partnership (WRP) is a membership-based, nonprofit organization formed in 1996 by a group of local people who shared an interest in keeping the White River healthy. The WRP envisions a White River watershed in which individuals and communities work together to make informed decisions that result in clean water, fewer flood damages, improved access to the river, and more. Here are some highlights from our work in 2023:

- WRP staff and 35 volunteers completed the 6th year of our White River Water Trail Stewardship Program, **monitoring river access sites every month during the summer** to remove trash and to report hazardous conditions. We started the season and ended the season with river cleanup events – in sum, 125 volunteers **removed 5,000 pounds of trash** from the river in Bethel, Hartford, Pomfret, Randolph, Rochester, Royalton, Sharon, Stockbridge, and Tunbridge.
- WRP staff and 25 trained volunteers **completed the 23rd year of our water quality monitoring program**, testing bacteria, conductivity, and turbidity at 22 swimming holes in 13 towns – including Gaysville Bridge, Mouth of Tweed River-Stockbridge, and Peavine Observation Site-Stockbridge – every two weeks from late-May through early-September. We shared results via email, our website, and our Facebook and Instagram pages.
- The WRP worked with willing landowners, partners, and a youth work crew to **plant 4,140 native trees and shrubs along the White River and its tributaries** at 4 sites – including 2 sites in Stockbridge – to improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and flood resilience.
- The WRP engaged 1,400 students and teachers from 32 schools – including Stockbridge Central School – in **hands-on education programs that raise awareness about watershed health**, including crayfish sampling & identification, Freshwater Snorkeling with the Green Mountain National Forest, Trout in the Classroom with Greater Upper Valley Trout Unlimited, waterbugs sampling & identification, wildlife track & sign monitoring along the river, and more!

For more information

White River Partnership
PO Box 705, S. Royalton, VT 05068
(802) 763-7733, info@whiteriverpartnership.org
www.whiteriverpartnership.org and www.facebook.com/WhiteRiverPartnership

White River Solid Waste Alliance
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

The Town of Royalton owns a 22-acre parcel of land on Waterman Road in Royalton which provides facilities for aggregation and shipment of municipal solid waste, recyclables, and a variety of Household Hazardous Waste Materials. The site also contains the now closed landfill which served area towns from 1970 to 1993. By contractual arrangement, other member towns also utilize the Waste Management Program: Barnard, Bethel, Granville, Hancock, Rochester, and Stockbridge.

In May 2016, the VT Department of Environmental Conservation approved the program's new "Solid Waste Implementation Plan" (SWIP) for the purpose of managing solid waste and recyclables in accordance with objectives of current local/state/national priorities. The new SWIP which began July 1st, 2020, will run Through June 2025.

Our facility operates under a license (or certification) which is renewed every 10 years. An application to renew was submitted to the Vermont Solid Waste Management Division in February 2014, and approval was issued May 7th, 2014. The certification is valid until March 31, 2024.

From July 1st, 2022, through June 30th, 2023, a total of 2,721.28 tons of solid waste and 321.02 tons of recycling were collected. The solid waste was collected at the Transfer Station "Tipping Floor". This material was loaded into trailers for shipment to an in-state lined landfill. Recycling was directed to various facilities for processing. Various special wastes are regularly collected in addition to the usual recyclables. These include paint, fluorescent bulbs, used motor oil, antifreeze, lead acid batteries and electronic waste. All fees vary depending on the material involved and the current expenses to the program for handling the materials. From February 2022 through December 2022, the Tipping Floor was closed for repair, so all solid waste was being shipped out in open top 30-yard containers. The Tipping Floor opened back up in January 2023 and the Transfer Station is back to full capacity.

Collection events for Household Hazardous Waste were held in April 2023 at the Royalton Transfer Station and in September 2023 at the Rochester Town Hall parking lot. A total of 198 families participated in the two events. These events provided a means for citizens of the member towns to safely dispose of materials, particularly those not normally taken at the facility such as pesticides, various cleaning compounds, acids, bases, contaminated fluids, etc. The events are open to all member towns at no cost for up to 10 pounds or 10 gallons of materials. Small Quantities of materials generated by businesses are also acceptable at collection events, but a fee corresponding to program costs is assessed on business participants and an appointment must be made in advance. There will be 2 events in 2024. One at the Royalton Transfer Station in April and one in Rochester in the Town Hall parking lot in September. This will allow access for towns not located near the Transfer Station.

Public Hours are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 7-1 and Saturday 7-2

Facility Staff are onsite on Wednesday's (closed to the public) from 7-1 for operations and maintenance.

Information may be obtained during those hours by calling 802-763-2232

Web Address: whiteriveralliancesolidwaste.org

Submission by John Leighton, White River Alliance/Facility Manager

WHITE RIVER VALLEY AMBULANCE

Thank you, neighbors, for your continued support of White River Valley Ambulance. We are a non-profit, professional emergency medical service and ambulance transport agency serving the towns of Barnard, Bethel, Braintree, Brookfield, Granville, Hancock, Pittsfield, Randolph, Rochester and Stockbridge, an area of over 500 square miles with numerous hiking and biking trails. We are designated as a Vermont Critical Care Paramedic service, the highest licensed skill level that the state recognizes. With our 14 full-time staff and several part-time staff we maintain two ALS level staffed ambulances 24/7, 365 days a year. From January 1, 2023, through November 15th, 2024, White River Valley Ambulance responded to 1,411 emergency calls and transfers.

Training in emergency medical response is also an important part of our mission. We are a regional American Heart Association Training Center, providing CPR and First Aid courses to community members across central Vermont. WRVA is proud to be celebrating 50 years of service in 2024, this would not be possible without support from our community partners like yourself.

Funding for WRVA comes from billed insurance and budget allocations from the towns we serve. Every town pays the same amount per capita. In 2024, the per capita amount will increase from \$72.00 to \$79.00 (increase of 9.72%). Town contributions pay for about 54% of the cost of ambulance activities. I, and the Board of Directors have tried to keep the cost increase to a minimum, however with inflation and an overall pay scale change across the profession; an increase in per capita is needed.

Looking back on 2023 and ahead to 2024, we are ever grateful for the numerous first responders and fire departments with whom we work with and who volunteer their time to help a neighbor in need. Your dedication and commitment to serve makes a difference in the lives of those who call for help. For that, we can never thank you enough. **3190 Pleasant St., Bethel, VT 05032 802-234-6800** www.wrva.org

**Matthew Parrish,
Executive Director**

White River Valley Ambulance, Inc.

2024 Budget

MONTHLY PAYMENTS BY TOWN FOR JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023

Month	Barnard	Bethel	Braintree	Brookfield	Granville	Hancock	Pittsfield	Randolph	Rochester	Stockbridge	Totals
Assessments	78,368.00	153,418.00	95,353.00	52,061.00	23,779.00	28,361.00	39,816.00	377,146.00	86,821.00	56,722.00	991,845.00
January	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,318.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,726.83	80,404.33
February	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,318.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,726.83	80,404.33
March	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,318.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,726.83	80,404.33
April	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,318.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,726.83	80,404.33
May	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,318.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,726.83	80,404.33
June	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,318.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,726.83	80,404.33
July	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16	3,318.00	32,601.67	7,303.17	4,726.83	84,903.17
August	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16	3,318.00	32,601.67	7,303.17	4,726.83	84,903.17
September	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16	3,318.00	32,601.67	7,303.17	4,726.83	84,903.17
October	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16	3,318.00	32,601.67	7,303.17	4,726.83	84,903.17
November	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16	3,318.00	32,601.67	7,303.17	4,726.83	84,903.17
December	7,011.14	12,815.67	8,046.36	4,368.83	2,072.36	2,639.14	3,318.00	32,601.67	7,303.17	4,726.83	84,903.17
Total	78,367.96	153,418.02	95,353.04	52,060.98	23,779.04	28,360.96	39,816.00	377,146.02	86,821.02	56,721.96	991,845.00

Months	Barnard	Bethel	Braintree	Brookfield	Granville	Hancock	Pittsfield	Randolph	Rochester	Stockbridge	Totals
Jan - June	36,301.02	76,524.00	47,074.98	25,848.00	11,344.98	12,526.02	19,908.00	181,536.00	43,002.00	28,360.98	482,425.98
July - Dec	42,066.94	76,894.02	48,278.06	26,212.98	12,434.06	15,834.94	19,908.00	195,610.02	43,819.02	28,360.98	509,419.02
Total	78,367.96	153,418.02	95,353.04	52,060.98	23,779.04	28,360.96	39,816.00	377,146.02	86,821.02	56,721.96	991,845.00
2023 Budget	78,368.00	153,418.00	95,353.00	52,061.00	23,779.00	28,361.00	39,816.00	377,146.00	86,821.00	56,722.00	991,845.00
Difference	-0.04	0.02	0.04	-0.02	0.04	-0.04	0.00	0.02	0.02	-0.04	0.00

OPTIONAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS BY TOWN FOR THE SIX MONTHS FOLLOWING DECEMBER 31, 2023 (No increase at least until July 1, 2025)

Month	Barnard	Bethel	Braintree	Brookfield	Granville	Hancock	Pittsfield	Randolph	Rochester	Stockbridge	Totals
January 2023	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16		32,601.67	7,303.17		76,858.34
February 2023	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16		32,601.67	7,303.17		76,858.34
March 2023	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16		32,601.67	7,303.17		76,858.34
April 2023	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16		32,601.67	7,303.17		76,858.34
May 2023	7,011.16	12,815.67	8,046.34	4,368.83	2,072.34	2,639.16		32,601.67	7,303.17		76,858.34
June 2023	7,011.14	12,815.67	8,046.36	4,368.83	2,072.36	2,639.14		32,601.67	7,303.17		76,858.34
Total	42,066.94	76,894.02	48,278.06	26,212.98	12,434.06	15,834.94		195,610.02	43,819.02		461,150.04

AMOUNTS FOR FISCAL YEAR TOWNS' BUDGETS FOR FY 2023-2024

Months	Barnard	Bethel	Braintree	Brookfield	Granville	Hancock	Pittsfield	Randolph	Rochester	Stockbridge	Totals
July - Dec 2023	42,066.94	76,894.02	48,278.06	26,212.98	12,434.06	15,834.94		195,610.02	43,819.02		461,150.04
Jan - June 2024	42,066.94	76,894.02	48,278.06	26,212.98	12,434.06	15,834.94		195,610.02	43,819.02		461,150.04
Total	84,133.88	153,788.04	96,556.12	52,425.96	24,868.12	31,669.88		391,220.04	87,638.04		922,300.08

To: Windsor County Town Clerks
From: Assistant Judges Alison Johannensen and David Singer
Re: County News
Date: December 2023

The County has experienced some changes this year, the first one is the bond that the county tax payers had approved for the Court House renovation has been paid off as of November 01, 2023. Thank you to all the tax payers for supporting this renovation.

Assistant Judge Ellen Terie decided not to run for re-election last year and retired as of January 31, 2023. Assistant Judge Terie was a valued member of the county and we certainly thank her for the 8 years she served Windsor County residents.

We also thank Assistant Judge Michael Ricci, who was also a valued member of the county and served the Windsor County residents for almost 2 years after being appointed by Governor Scott.

Our Deputy Clerk, Dianne Bumps decided to retire from her county position in May of 2023. We thank Dianne for her dedication during her 5 years with Windsor County.

The County Building Superintendent, Bruce Page, who has taken care of both county building since July of 2017 decided to retire from his county position at the end of November 2023. We thank Bruce for all his dedication and hard work.

We thank Mike Chamberlain for the many years he served Windsor County as Sheriff. We wish him well and hope he is enjoying himself.

We wish them all well in their new adventures!

Windsor County residents elected Ryan Palmer as the County Sheriff. Sheriff Palmer has been approaching his new responsibility with a lot of enthusiasm.

Windsor County residents elected two (2) new Assistant Judges, Alison Johannensen and David Singer who assumed office as of February 01, 2023. We welcome both of the assistant judges.

The Assistant Judges are working hard on securing an energy efficiency grant to be used to replace the old boiler in the county building. If the county is successful in securing the grant, we hope the boiler can be replaced within the next year.

The Windsor County Final Budget Hearing is scheduled for Friday, January 19, 2024 at the County Building in Woodstock, Vermont at 5:00 P.M.



PO Box 101 • Windsor, VT 05089 • 802-674-5101 • info@wcmentors.org • www.wcmentors.org

Town Narrative - Stockbridge For July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

For 50 years Windsor County Mentors has been creating and nurturing intensive community- and school-based mentoring partnerships, free of charge, to any Windsor County child between 5 and 18 who could benefit from a long-term, trusting relationship with an adult in their community.

Mentoring has been studied extensively and strong evidence shows that mentoring offers vulnerable youth opportunities to share experiences with reliable adults to widen their vision of themselves, helping them to become confident, contributing members of their community and increasing their social and mental wellbeing.

It has been shown that youth with mentors have:

- Increased high school graduation rates, including higher college enrollment rates
- Enhanced self-esteem
- Enhanced self-confidence
- Improved behavior, both at home and at school
- Stronger relationships with parents, teachers, and peers
- Decreased likelihood of initiating drug and alcohol use

In the past year, WCM served and supported school- and community-based mentorships with children from towns throughout Windsor County. Collectively, our mentors volunteered thousands of hours to their communities.

Our surveys demonstrate the positive effects of mentoring on local families, with a clean sweep this year:

- 100% of Mentors would recommend mentoring to a family member, friend, or colleague.
- 100% of Mentee parents said their child is hopeful about his/her future.
- 100% of Mentees reported that having a mentor has made a difference in his/her life.

WCM employs regional outreach coordinators around Windsor County, assuring that we are able to grant each town the attention it deserves.

Financial support from Windsor County towns helps ensure the well-being of children and their families.

For more information on our mentorships, find us on Facebook, visit our website www.wcmentors.org, or contact us at ProgramsWC@outlook.com 802-674-5101. WCM thanks the voters of Stockbridge for their support for the children of Windsor County.

Matthew Garcia
Executive Director

Jamie Kinnarney, Superintendent of Schools
Anda Adams, Chief Academic Officer of MTSS
Annette Rhoades, Director of Special Services
Tara Weatherell, Business Manager
Raymond Ballou, Director of Technology
and Communications



wrvsu.org

461 Waterman Road, Royalton, VT 05068
Phone: 802-763-8840 Fax: 802-763-3235

FY 23-24 Annual Report

To the Constituents of Stockbridge:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Rochester/Stockbridge Unified District (RSUD) to provide the constituents of Stockbridge with updates specific to the unified school district; while reminding everyone that we will also be providing an annual school district report later in the spring prior to the annual school district meeting/budget vote in May.

It is my pleasure to report that the students of RSUD continue to make steady gains in academic and social/emotional achievement. To this end, we are realizing a decreased need for academic interventions, and increasing academic achievement as measured by our supervisory union benchmark assessments. This is the result of the faculty and staff's systematic approach to ensuring that our students are receiving high-quality universal instruction and interventions with fidelity across your two elementary schools. I can't praise Principal Stetson and her faculty/staff enough for their continued efforts in making certain all students receive the highest quality instruction and supports available to help support students in reaching their greatest potential.

We have once again built the RSUD Fiscal Year 2024-25 (FY 25) budget from the approach and philosophy of zero-based budgeting. It's important to note that we anticipate announced tuition from many of our secondary receiving schools to be up as high as 10% for the FY 25 school year, while also navigating health insurance premiums that are also up 16.4%. Therefore, we are going to work on preparing a budget for RSUD that is fiscally responsible, while prioritizing the support needed to continue our progress towards increasing student outcomes. That isn't an easy task this budget season, but I encourage you to visit our website to review our budget process and to learn more about the current state of the FY 25 RSUD budget.

In addition, Education funding has once again fundamentally changed in the State of Vermont due to Act 127. Therefore, I strongly urge everyone to visit the WRVSU website (wrvsu.org) to review the Act 127 fact sheet that we've provided. I also encourage you to contact either Business Manager, Tara Weatherell, or me directly with questions and concerns. The bottom line for WRVSU is that we have gained tax capacity in most of our districts, but we anticipate a significant Ed Fund shortfall in the state this upcoming fiscal year. Therefore, we expect the Yield to drop significantly, which will result in an increase in property taxes and probably impact all or most of the tax capacity gained through Act 127. The Act 127 fact sheet explains what is in our control locally, and what isn't in our control due to the ramification of the state-wide Ed Fund.

I would be remiss if I didn't highlight the work that has occurred over the past twelve months by the High School Repurposing Committee to continue steady progress on the highly anticipated vote this upcoming spring by the Town of Rochester to acquire the high school building from the unified school district. There has been an incredible amount of effort to secure federal grants and to create a sustainability plan for the building once it is acquired by the Town of Rochester.

Finally, I would like to highlight that we were able to complete significant capital improvements at the Rochester and Stockbridge Elementary Schools this summer through the leveraging of federal grants and performance contracting through Energy Efficient Investments. This resulted in new lighting at both schools, increased heating and HVAC controls at both schools and a newly installed wood pellet boiler and propane backup (to create redundancy) at the Rochester Elementary School. This was all completed without needing to approach the citizens of Stockbridge and Rochester about a bond. I'm incredibly proud that we have addressed these deferred maintenance issues at both of our schools. We will also be rolling out a preventative maintenance and capital facilities plan for the district this spring prior to your annual school district meeting to provide a proactive road map for our infrastructure over the next five to ten years.

With great enthusiasm and optimism,

Jamie Kinnarney,
Superintendent of Schools, WRVSU

2023 Vital Records

Births:

Layne Messier to Megan Laperle Messier & Rodney Messier

Simone Hudson to Lea Desforges & Patrick Hudson

Raya Cavacas to Justine & Zachary Cavacas

Azalea Bardis to Clair & Scott Bardis

Marriages:

Makenzie Marel Willams & Joshua Jeffrey Clement

Sierra Leigh Hein & John Earle Gorton

Deaths:

Gerard Miller

Mildred Hunt

Bernadette Mary Candee

Beverly Isham

Robert Philip Kerker, Jr.

Anthony Thomas Lee

Sherry Ackerman

Leonard Desforges

Jane Eubanks

Burials:

Sherry Ackerman

Helen Stearns

OTHER INFORMATION

HOMESTEAD DECLARATION AND PROPERTY TAX ADJUSTMENT: All Vermont Homeowners must file their Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment (HS-122) every year. *Even if you are not required to file a Vermont income tax return or you are filing for an extension, you must file your Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment form by April 15, 2023, to avoid penalties.* A late filed Property Tax Adjustment Claim form and Household Income Form may still qualify for an education tax refund but will be subject to a penalty.

THREE EASY WAYS TO GET YOUR VERMONT INCOME TAX FORMS:

1. Download fillable PDF forms from the web. Download, complete and print forms at <https://tax.vermont.gov/forms-and-publications>
2. Order forms by mail request to: Forms Request, Vermont Department of Taxes, 133 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633-1401
3. Order forms by phone. Call toll-free in the US at 855-297-5600.

DOG LICENSES:

All dogs 6 months of age and older must be licensed on or before April 1st of each year. A current rabies certificate is required. These numbered tags help the Constables to reunite wandering/lost dogs with their owners.

HISTORY BOOKS:

There are still copies of the two town history books for sale. Whether you are new to Stockbridge or a lifetime resident you will enjoy this book. We did a reprint of the 1976 Stockbridge-Gaysville book selling at \$20. The Stockbridge Revisited book is selling at \$24.

REGISTER TO VOTE:

You can register to vote online by using the State of VT's new Elections Management Platform. This streamlined the elections administration process, providing voters with greater access to voter specific information.

By using the My Voter Page, a voter can:

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

We encourage voters to log into their My Voter Page to learn more.

Log in at: <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>

VOLUNTEER FORM:

You will find a volunteer form included in this town report. If you have ever thought you might like to serve on any of the various boards in town, please take a few minutes to complete this form. Even if there are no vacancies at this time you will be notified when something becomes available. If you have any questions about what the positions involve, please give me or any of the current members of that board a call.

TOWN ALMANAC

A Compendium of Old, New and Useful Information and Announcements.

Town Charter - Stockbridge became a Town on July 1st, 1761, chartered by Benning Wentworth, Governor of the Province of New Hampshire, through a grant to William York Grant, being the first one in territory (the same land) was made to William Story. There is nothing further about this grant in town records.

The Land - 28,300 acres

Its People - 718 - 2020 Census

Its Roads – Total 50.312 miles

- 5.12 Class 2
- 33.40 Class 3
- 11.792 State Highway

Its River - The White River enters Stockbridge at the Stockbridge-Rochester line at an elevation of approximately 755 feet. In its course through the town, it falls 175 feet, leaving at the Stockbridge-Bethel line at an elevation of about 580 feet.

Checklist - The Town's current checklist has 580 registered voters.

Dog Licenses - Dog licenses are due April 1st. After April 1st an additional fee is charged. Fees to register dogs are: \$9.00 Spayed Females & Neutered Males and \$13.00 Unneutered dog.

All wolf-hybrids must also be licensed. Rabies shots must be kept up-to-date, and the certificate listed with the Town Clerk.

Taxes Due - Property Taxes are due on August 15th with a second installment due November 15th. All taxes become delinquent on the day following the date they are due and are subject to interest and fees. Stockbridge does not accept postmarks. There is a drop box at the Town Office.

Official Notices & Warnings - The newspaper in which Stockbridge publicizes its official warnings and notices is the Herald of Randolph published weekly on Thursdays.

Garbage Disposal – Stockbridge residents can take their rubbish to the Royalton Solid Waste Facility located at 122 Waterman Road, Royalton, VT. (802) 763-2232. There is a fee for rubbish but no charge for recyclables. You can contract with North Star Rubbish (802-672-3372) for curbside pickup. Northstarrubbish@gmail.com. There is a Saturday drop-off held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at the Town Office from 12:00PM – 2:00 PM. for rubbish and recycling. There is a per bag fee for the rubbish.

Post Offices -

Stockbridge, 05772-Phone 746-8041 Window Hours are Monday - Friday 7:30am -1130am
Saturdays - 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Gaysville, 05746-Phone 234-5575 Window Hours are Monday - Friday 12:45pm – 4:45 p.m.
Saturdays - 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.

To Report a Fire - Dial 911

To Call Police - Dial 911 or 234-9933

To Call Ambulance - 911

To Call Clara Martin Center - Dial Toll Free 1-800-622-4244 - 24-hour emergency phone.

Burning Permits - Burning permits are required. Contact Dave Brown, Fire Warden. Please advise the Stockbridge Fire Department of any major burning to be accomplished. Fire watch towers and residents call in to report smoke.

Town Clerk's Office - The Town office is open to the public on Monday by appointment, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. and Friday from 7:30 A.M. – 12:00 Noon. Telephone/Fax 802-746-8400. Email Townclerk@stockbridgevt.gov. Town website: stockbridgevt.gov

Selectmen - The Selectboard meets the first and third Thursday of each month in the Town office at 6:00 P.M.

Fire Department - The Stockbridge Volunteer Fire Department meet regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the Town garage at 7:00 P.M. Jim Munyon, Fire Chief (802) 747-8828

Planning Commission- The Stockbridge Planning Commission has its regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at the Town office at 6:30 P.M.

Zoning- Zoning regulations are in effect and a building permit is required for most projects. Please contact the Zoning Administrator if you have any questions regarding permit requirements.

Rochester/Stockbridge United District School Board - The Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 P.M. alternating between campuses.

Quin-Town Center - The Quin-Town Center in Hancock serves lunch to Senior Citizens on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at noon.

Reminder

All dogs 6 months of age and older must be

Licensed on or before April 1st of each year.

A current rabies certificate is required.

Please contact the Town Clerk if you have any questions.