

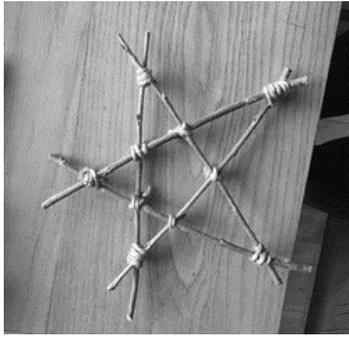
ANNUAL REPORT  
YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020  
TOWN of RIPTON, VERMONT

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*Jacob's Ladder. Photo credit: Warren King*

**Informational Meeting: March 1, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Town Meeting Day Voting: March 2, 2021, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Ripton Community House**



**MANY THANKS TO FIRE AND FIRST RESPONDERS, FRONTLINE WORKERS,  
AND EVERYONE WHO PITCHED IN TO SUPPORT THEIR NEIGHBORS.  
YOUR ARE OUR STARS OF 2020!**



## **INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

**Monday, March 1, 2021**

**7:00 p.m.**

Zoom Teleconference: Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/315365540>

Phone: 1-929-205-6099

## **TOWN MEETING DAY**

**Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

**7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Community House**

**Vote for town officers, school budgets, and other ballot items**

## **VOTER INFORMATION**

If you are not registered to vote in Ripton, you may register at the Town Office or online at

<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/registration/>

You may request an early/absentee ballot from the Town Office or online at

<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/early-absentee-voting/>



*Ripton Town Meeting 2016. Photo credit: Bryan Alexander*

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*Photo credit: Ripton Elementary School*

## Warning – Town of Ripton Annual Meeting

The legal voters of the Town of Ripton are warned to vote the following Articles by Australian ballot at the Ripton Community House, Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Early and absentee voting by mail is available with ballots due in the Community House by 7:00 p.m. March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- Article 1:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$647,361.68 to pay General Fund and Highway Fund expenses for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, divided as follows:
- General Fund \$233,211.68  
Highway Fund \$414,150.00
- Article 2:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$41,000 to the Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department to pay expenses for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022?
- Article 3:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$6,000 to the Ripton Cemetery Commission to pay expenses for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022?
- Article 4:** Will the Town vote to have current property taxes collected by the Treasurer with a tax due date of November 1, 2021; payments due in the Town Office by 6:00 p.m.?
- Article 5:** Will the Town vote to continue a locally funded agreement to reduce the property tax for the Silver Towers Camp owned and operated by the Vermont Elks Association, Inc. to 33% of the total taxes that would be due?
- Article 6:** Will the Town elect the following Officers?
- Selector: Ronald Wimett, 3-year term  
Moderator: Molly Witters, 1-year term  
Delinquent Tax Collector: Carolyn Smith, 1-year term  
Constable: Perry Hanson, 1-year term  
Lister: Beth Eliason, 3-year term  
Cemetery Commissioner: Carole B. Cummings, 5-year term
- Article 7:** Will the Town approve the following funding requests?
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Addison Central Teens (ACT) \$1,900               | HOPE – Helping Overcome Poverty’s Effects \$3,000 |
| Addison County Home Health and Hospice \$750      | John W. Graham Emergency Shelter \$1,600          |
| Addison County Parent/Child Center \$600          | Middlebury Regional EMS \$5,880                   |
| Addison County Restorative Justice Services \$170 | NeighborWorks of Western Vermont \$300            |
| Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative \$400     | Open Door Clinic \$1,500                          |
| Age Well \$750                                    | Otter Creek Child Care Center \$1,000             |
| Charter House Coalition \$1,600                   | Otter Creek NRCD \$50                             |
| Counseling Service of Addison County \$1,400      | Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) \$475 |
| End of Life Services \$500                        | Tri-Valley Transit (formerly ACTR) \$1,901        |
| Green Up Vermont \$50                             | Vermont Adult Learning \$300                      |
| Homeward Bound \$750                              | Women Safe Inc \$1,250                            |

The legal voters of the Town of Ripton are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting shall be as provided in Chapters 43 and 51 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Laureen Cox, Chair  
Ripton Selectboard, January 25, 2021

Timothy Hanson

Ronald Wimett

**OFFICIAL BALLOT  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
RIPTON, VERMONT  
MARCH 2, 2021**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS**

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this: ●
- B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
- C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

**ARTICLES**

**Article 1:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$647,361.68 to pay General Fund and Highway Fund expenses for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, divided as follows:

General Fund	\$233,211.68	YES <input type="radio"/>
Highway Fund	\$414,150.00	NO <input type="radio"/>

**Article 2:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$41,000 to the Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department to pay expenses for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022? YES   
NO

**Article 3:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$6,000 to the Ripton Cemetery Commission to pay expenses for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022? YES   
NO

**Article 4:** Will the Town vote to have current property taxes collected by the Treasurer with a tax due date of November 1, 2021; payments due in the Town Office by 6:00 p.m.? YES   
NO

**Article 5:** Will the Town vote to continue a locally funded agreement to reduce the property tax for the Silver Towers Camp owned and operated by the Vermont Elks Association, Inc. to 33% of the total taxes that would be due? YES   
NO

**Article 6: Officers**

<p align="center"><b>SELECTOR</b></p> <p align="right">Vote for not 3-year term more than One</p> <p><b>RONALD WIMETT</b> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>	<p align="center"><b>DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR</b></p> <p align="right">Vote for not 1-year term more than One</p> <p><b>CAROLYN SMITH</b> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>	<p align="center"><b>LISTER</b></p> <p align="right">Vote for not 3-year term more than One</p> <p><b>BETH ELIASON</b> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>
<p align="center"><b>MODERATOR</b></p> <p align="right">Vote for not 1-year term more than One</p> <p><b>MOLLY WITTERS</b> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>	<p align="center"><b>CONSTABLE</b></p> <p align="right">Vote for not 1-year term more than One</p> <p><b>PERRY HANSON</b> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>	<p align="center"><b>CEMETERY COMMISSIONER</b></p> <p align="right">Vote for not 5-year term more than One</p> <p><b>CAROLE B. CUMMINGS</b> <input type="radio"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="radio"/></p> <p align="center">(Write-in)</p>

**VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT**

**ARTICLES CONTINUED**

**Article 7:** TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this: ●  
to approve or disapprove the following allocations from the General Fund, total **\$26,126**.

<b>Requested by</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
Addison Central Teens (ACT)	\$1,900.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
Addison County Home Health and Hospice	\$ 750.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
Addison County Parent/Child Center	\$ 600.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
Addison County Restorative Justice Services	\$ 170.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative	\$ 400.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
Age Well	\$ 750.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
Charter House Coalition	\$1,600.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
Counseling Service of Addison County	\$1,400.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
End of Life Services	\$ 500.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
Green Up Vermont	\$ 50.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
Homeward Bound	\$ 750.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
HOPE - Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects	\$3,000.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
John W. Graham Emergency Shelter	\$1,600.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
Middlebury Regional Emergency & Medical Services	\$5,880.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
NeighborWorks of Western Vermont	\$ 300.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
Open Door Clinic	\$1,500.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
Otter Creek Child Care Center	\$1,000.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District	\$ 50.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)	\$ 475.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
Tri-Valley Transit (formerly ACTR)	\$1,901.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
Vermont Adult Learning	\$ 300.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>
WomenSafe, Inc.	\$1,250.00	<b>YES <input type="radio"/></b>	<b>NO <input type="radio"/></b>

**VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT**

## Discussion of Warning – Town of Ripton Annual Meeting

The realities of COVID require that for the first time in more than 193 years (assuming that Town Meetings began with the Town's organization in 1828) Ripton residents will not be able to gather in person for Town Meeting. We will miss the energetic give-and-take that characterized previous meetings and hope most sincerely that we will be able to assemble in person one year from now.

Items that were previously voted from the floor will be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday March 2<sup>nd</sup>. A brief explanation of the items to be voted Tuesday, March 2 follows. It stands in lieu of the discussion from the floor when the Selectboard, Fire Chief, or Cemetery Commissioners explained their budget and took questions. These items will be discussed at an informational meeting Monday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom teleconference, link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/315365540> or phone 1-929-205-6099.

**Article 1:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$647,361.68 to pay General Fund and Highway Fund expenses for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, divided as follows:

General Fund \$233,211.68  
Highway Fund \$414,150.00

This is the annual opportunity for voters to hear from the Town about where funds will be spent in the following year. Usually, the Chair of the Selectboard begins with a review of the highlights of the budget and answers questions. A detailed Selectboard's report is included in the Town Report, and we encourage everyone to review the narrative and spreadsheet details.

**Article 2:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$41,000 to the Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department to pay expenses for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022?

This article is the Town's opportunity to vote on funding RVFD. A detailed Fire/Rescue financial report is also included in the Town Report.

**Article 3:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$6,000 to the Ripton Cemetery Commission to pay expenses for July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022?

Article 3 provides an opportunity to vote on the Cemetery Commission budget. A Cemetery Commission budget is included in the Town Report.

**Article 4:** Will the Town vote to have current property taxes collected by the Treasurer with a tax due date of November 1, 2021; payments due in the Town Office by 6:00 p.m.?

Article 4 is a so-called 'bookkeeping' item that needs to be passed for the Treasurer to collect taxes in the upcoming fiscal year.

**Article 5:** Will the Town vote to continue a locally funded agreement to reduce the property tax for the Silver Towers Camp owned and operated by the Vermont Elks Association, Inc. to 33% of the total taxes that would be due?

For decades we have been giving a tax break to the Vermont Elks Association for the Silver Towers Camp for People with Disabilities, their largest charitable project. By reducing their property tax (by two thirds) they can provide more services to their campers. This locally voted exemption must be revoted every five years. The state education tax for the property is paid by the taxpayers in the local exemption tax rate. In 2020 the Elks paid \$3,145.77 in property tax and saved \$6,384.76. The amount paid to the state education fund was \$4,864.43.

**Articles 6 & 7:** Town Officers and Funding Requests and will be voted on paper ballot as done in the past.

**WARNING**  
**ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING**  
**FEBRUARY 23, 2021**

**Member Towns are Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Weybridge**

The legal voters of the Addison Central School District are hereby notified of the Virtual Public Information Hearing on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7:00 PM, to discuss Australian Ballot articles warned for vote on Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

Virtual connection details may be found on the ACSD Website: <https://www.acsdvt.org>

Linda J. Barrett, ACSD Clerk  
Addison Central School District

Mary Cullinane, ACSD Chair  
Addison Central School District

**The Addison Central School District Annual Report and FY22 Budget Book will be available in the following manner: <http://www.acsdvt.org/domain/30> (*Departments/Finance*) or call 802-382-1274 to request a copy.**

**WARNING**  
**ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**MARCH 2, 2021**

**Member Towns are Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Weybridge**

The legal voters of the Addison Central School District are hereby warned to meet at the following polling places on March 2, 2021 to vote by Australian Ballot on the following article(s) of business:

<b>District</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Polling Hours</b>
<b>Bridport</b>	<b>Bridport Community/Masonic Hall</b>	<b>7:00 AM-7:00 PM</b>
<b>Cornwall</b>	<b>Cornwall Town Hall</b>	<b>7:00 AM-7:00 PM</b>
<b>Middlebury</b>	<b>Middlebury Recreation Center/Gym 154 Creek Road</b>	<b>7:00 AM-7:00 PM</b>
<b>Ripton</b>	<b>Ripton Community House</b>	<b>7:00 AM-7:00 PM</b>
<b>Salisbury</b>	<b>Salisbury Town Office</b>	<b>8:00 AM-7:00 PM</b>
<b>Shoreham</b>	<b>Shoreham Town Office</b>	<b>7:00 AM-7:00 PM</b>
<b>Weybridge</b>	<b>Weybridge Town Clerk's Office</b>	<b>7:00 AM-7:00 PM</b>

**ARTICLE 1:** To see if the voters of the Addison Central School District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors, under 16 VSA 562 (9), to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year.

**ARTICLE 2:** Shall the voters of the Addison Central School District vote to authorize the ACSD school board to expend \$40,352,941 which is the amount the ACSD school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$18,936.57 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is **0.34%** higher than spending for the current year.

**ARTICLE 3:** Shall the voters of the Addison Central School District vote to authorize the ACSD school board to appropriate \$623,744 of the FY 2020 Unassigned Fund Balance (estimated at \$1,173,744) to the ACSD Capital Reserve Fund?

**ARTICLE 4:** To elect four (4) school directors from the nominees to serve on the Addison Central School District Board for the following terms:

Two (2) who are residents of Middlebury for a three-year term.

One (1) who is a resident of Cornwall for a three-year term.

One (1) who is a resident of Shoreham for a three-year term.

**ARTICLE 5:** To elect the following school district officers from the nominees for a one-year term: a) Moderator b) Treasurer c) Clerk

Ballots shall be commingled and counted at Middlebury Union High School by representatives of the Boards of Civil Authority of the member town school districts under the supervision of the District Clerk of Addison Central School District.

Linda J. Barrett, Clerk  
 Addison Central School District

Mary Cullinane, Chair  
 Addison Central School District

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**MARCH 2, 2021**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS**

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this:
- B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
- C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.
- D. To vote in favor of the article, completely fill the OVAL to the RIGHT of YES. To vote against the article, completely fill the OVAL to the RIGHT of NO. If you make a mistake, tear or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR ACSD SCHOOL DIRECTOR: CORNWALL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">For 3 Years <span style="float: right;">Vote for not more than ONE</span></p> <p>PETER CONLON <input type="radio"/></p> <p>CHRIS KRAMER <input type="radio"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR ACSD SCHOOL DIRECTOR: SHOREHAM</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">For 3 Years <span style="float: right;">Vote for not more than ONE</span></p> <p>BARBARA WILSON <input type="radio"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR ACSD TREASURER</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">For 1 Year <span style="float: right;">Vote for not more than ONE</span></p> <p>MICHELE L. WARREN <input type="radio"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR ACSD SCHOOL DIRECTOR: MIDDLEBURY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">For 3 Years <span style="float: right;">Vote for not more than TWO</span></p> <p>DAVINA DESMARAIS <input type="radio"/></p> <p>LINDSEY HESCOCK <input type="radio"/></p> <p>MARY HEATHER NOBLE <input type="radio"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in) <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR ACSD MODERATOR</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">For 1 Year <span style="float: right;">Vote for not more than ONE</span></p> <p>JAMES H. DOUGLAS <input type="radio"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FOR ACSD CLERK</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">For 1 Year <span style="float: right;">Vote for not more than ONE</span></p> <p>LINDA BARRETT <input type="radio"/></p> <p>_____ <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Write-in)</p>

**ARTICLES**

- ARTICLE 1.** To see if the voters of the Addison Central School District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors, under 16 VSA 562 (9), to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year. YES   
NO
- ARTICLE 2.** Shall the voters of the Addison Central School District vote to authorize the ACSD school board to expend \$40,352,941 which is the amount the ACSD school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$18,936.57 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is **0.34%** higher than spending for the current year. YES   
NO
- ARTICLE 3.** Shall the voters of the Addison Central School District vote to authorize the ACSD school board to appropriate \$623,744 of the FY 2020 Unassigned Fund Balance (estimated at \$1,173,744) to the ACSD Capital Reserve Fund? YES   
NO

## WARNING

### PATRICIA A. HANNAFORD REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 2021 & MARCH 2, 2021

**Member Towns are Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Panton, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham and Weybridge.**

The legal voters of the Regional Technical School District are hereby warned to meet at their local polling places (see attached) on March 2, 2021 to vote by Australian Ballot on the following article(s) of business:

**ARTICLE 1:** To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to borrow money, pending receipt of payment from member districts, by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date for the purpose of paying the sum approved by the voters.

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to assign Twenty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$24,000) of the school district's FY20 fund balance into the Building & Equipment Reserve Fund.

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to use funds in the Building and Equipment Reserve Fund for capital improvements and program equipment.

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to assign Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) of the school district's FY20 fund balance into the Health Reserve Fund.

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to use funds in the Health Reserve Fund for expenses related to Health Care Coverage.

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to allocate its current fund balance as follows: assign Twenty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$28,500) of the school district's FY20 fund balance as revenue for the 2021-2022 operating budget, and assign Twenty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$27,500) as revenue for future budgets.

**ARTICLE 7:** Shall the voters of the Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District approve the school board to expend \$3,829,301 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? This budget represents a **0.92%** decrease over expenses for the current year. It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending at the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center to be **\$23,827** per full-time equivalent student on a 6-semester trailing average. This projected spending per full-time equivalent student is **6.57%** lower than spending for the current year. The legal voters and residents of the Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District are further warned and notified that an informational meeting will be held on the above-listed Australian ballot article on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at the Hannaford Career Center in the Town of Middlebury, Vermont immediately following the Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District's annual meeting which begins at 7:00 pm.

**ARTICLE 8:** To elect the following officers:

A Moderator

A Treasurer

A Clerk

Dated this 13th day of January, 2021 at Middlebury, Vermont.



Suzanne S. Buck, Chair  
PAHRTSD

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**PATRICIA A. HANNAFORD REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**MARCH 2, 2021**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS**

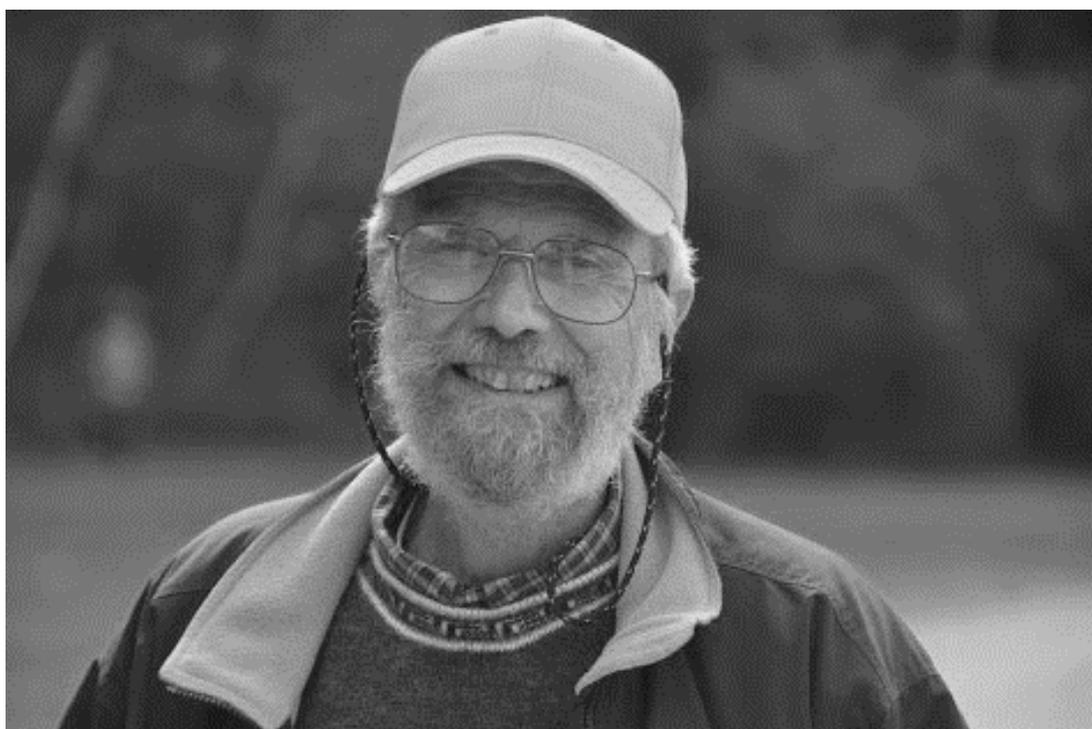
- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this:
- B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
- C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

**ARTICLES**

<b>ARTICLE 1.</b>	To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to borrow money, pending receipt of payment from member districts, by the issuance of its notes or orders payable not later than one year from date for the purpose of paying the sum approved by the voters.	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>
<b>ARTICLE 2.</b>	To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to assign Twenty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$24,000) of the school district's FY20 fund balance into the Building & Equipment Reserve Fund.	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>
<b>ARTICLE 3.</b>	To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to use funds in the Building and Equipment Reserve Fund for capital improvements and program equipment.	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>
<b>ARTICLE 4.</b>	To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to assign Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) of the school district's FY20 fund balance into the Health Reserve Fund.	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>
<b>ARTICLE 5.</b>	To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to use funds in the Health Reserve Fund for expenses related to Health Care Coverage.	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>
<b>ARTICLE 6.</b>	To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to allocate its current fund balance as follows: assign Twenty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$28,500) of the school district's FY20 fund balance as revenue for the 2021-2022 operating budget, and assign Twenty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$27,500) as revenue for future budgets.	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>
<b>ARTICLE 7.</b>	Shall the voters of the Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District approve the school board to expend <b>\$3,829,301</b> which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year. This budget represents a <b>0.92%</b> decrease over expenses for the current year. It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending at the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center to be <b>\$23,827</b> per full-time equivalent student on a 6-semester trailing average. This projected spending per full-time equivalent student is <b>6.57%</b> lower than spending for the current year.	YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>

<b>ARTICLE 8.</b> Elect the following officers		
<b>FOR MODERATOR</b>	<b>FOR CLERK</b>	<b>FOR TREASURER</b>
FOR 1 YEAR <span style="float: right;">Vote for not more than One</span>	FOR 1 YEAR <span style="float: right;">Vote for not more than One</span>	FOR 1 YEAR <span style="float: right;">Vote for not more than One</span>
<b>RICHARD THODAL</b> <input type="radio"/>	<b>LINDA BARRETT</b> <input type="radio"/>	<b>JANE M. BECK</b> <input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(Write-in)	(Write-in)	(Write-in)

## Dedication



*Photo courtesy of Barry King*

**Warren King** has been recognized for his international work as an ornithologist and nationally, state and county wide for his conservation efforts and research. It is our turn to honor him for his quiet and continuous work for our community since making Ripton his home in 1989. That May he volunteered to be our Green Up Day coordinator and still is. He has greeted many of us with a Green Up bag for our stretch of road, just a hint of how he has connected us while tending to our trash and treasures. In 1989 he also began the town's recycling program, 3 years before recycling was mandatory. He is still the coordinator despite hours of cleaning up after others at the recycling shed, now aptly named the King Dome.

Many may not know that Warren has done the following and more for us.

- Green Up Day Coordinator 1989-present (now co-chair with Steve Zwicky)
- Addison County Solid Waste Management District (ACSWMD) alternate delegate 1989-1993
- Recycling Coordinator 1989-present
  - First recycling drop-off 2 December 1989 in front of the Old Hollow School (town office)
  - Chronicles our waste and recycling habits in the town report 1989-on
- Justice of the Peace 1990-present
  - Performed 23 Ripton marriages
  - Serves on Boards of Civil Authority and Tax Abatement
  - Serves as an elections officer, approximately 90 elections to date
- Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) alternate delegate 1993-2001
- Ripton Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Historic District Commission 1993-present; Chair 2002-2018; participated in or led monthly meetings and implemented:
  - Computerized mapping project and natural resource inventory with ACRPC
  - 4 Town Plan Revisions/Adoptions, serving as chair for 3 of the 4
  - 5 Zoning Bylaw, Unified Development Bylaw Revisions/Adoptions, serving as chair for 4 of the 5
  - Creation of new overlay zones – Fluvial Erosion Hazard/River Corridor Overlay Zone, and Rare Species Overlay Zone

- Ripton Conservation Committee and Ripton Conservation Commission 1994-present; Chair 1994-2016. In 2002 the Town voted to create a Conservation Commission to serve as an advisory body to the Selectboard, formalizing the Committee. The Commission has worked to protect our natural resources and educate the public ever since. As invasive species approached town, the Commission brought in experts to teach us, and put themselves to work eradicating and watching for invasives. They took on energy issues with the Ripton Alternative Energy Group 2007-2008, giving Warren another leadership role.
- Ripton Energy Assistance Program (REAP) – founding member 2008-present
- Town Energy Coordinator 2009-present
  - Organized workshops and Button Up visits to homes
  - Promoted creation of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) district – to provide homeowners affordable financing for energy improvements
  - Wrote the Town Energy Plan and the 2020 Enhanced Energy Plan with the help of the Energy Committee and ACRPC
  - Planned and implemented the 50 KW solar voltaic system at the Ripton Elementary School

In addition: Warren serves as Chair of the Democratic Party Caucus which meets at least every 2 years to assure we have Justice of the Peace candidates; has hosted ‘meet the candidate’ or ‘meet your neighbor’ events; and is a long-time Ridge Run volunteer. As an educator Warren has made visits to the Ripton Elementary School. As a conservationist Warren has served as Riverwatch water quality monitor; conserved 80.5 of his Ripton acres with the VT Land Trust; participates in the annual Birdathon, listing Ripton birds; and is a plant conservation volunteer – inventorying, protecting and monitoring our rare plant species, including the Appalachian Jacob’s ladder in Vermont.

Warren has received praise from Ripton friends and neighbors:

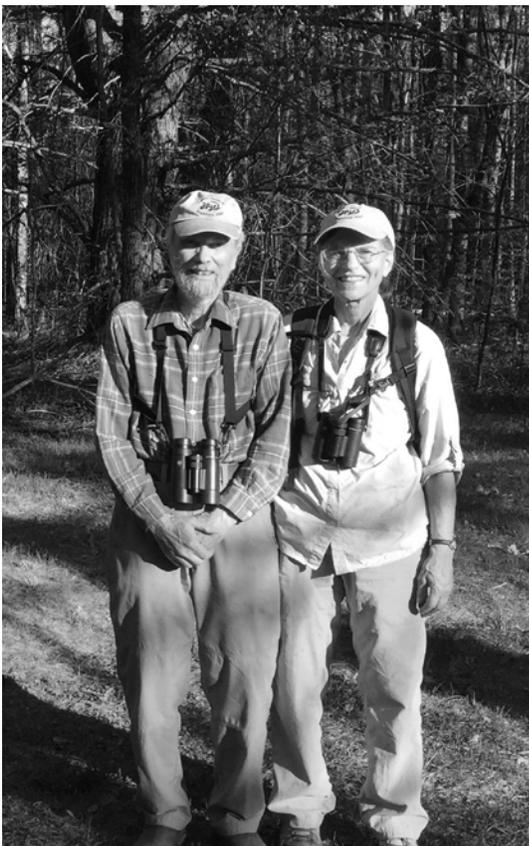


Photo credit: Becky Purdom

“Warren’s commitment to leading our town – our community – in a positive direction is deeply based, long lived, and vigorously worked at. He is a leader and...he has consistently sought to involve people who represent a range of opinions to ensure the wider community is represented in the process while aiming for consensus. He will share his knowledge, he will share his ideas, and he will share the recognition for success.” *Laurie Cox, Selectboard Chair*

“In these busy times, it’s difficult for folks to commit to public service. Warren does so selflessly. His accumulated knowledge of Ripton, his fairness and genuine interest in the individuals who approach the boards he’s on establishes a positive model for all board members. I admire Warren’s ability to pore over town regulations and bylaws seeking fairness for all who come before us. His comments are always made with great thought and courtesy and he is never judgmental. I can honestly say that I have never heard Warren utter an unkind or derogatory word about anyone. I often look across the table during a meeting to see Warren writing notes in pencil on the margin of his papers. These are done using the faintest and tiniest of letters which in my mind is testament to his clear vision and insightfulness. Warren embodies so many quality traits. Above all else, he is always a perfect gentleman, something seen too infrequently nowadays.” *Jorene Doria, Planning Commissioner*

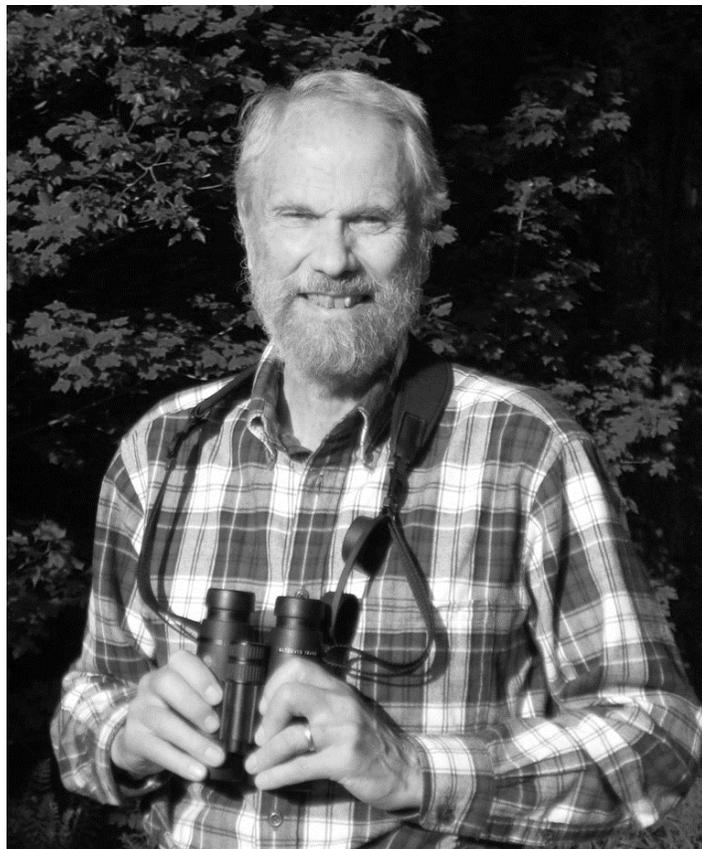
“The Town of Ripton owes a deep debt of gratitude to Warren King. He has long been the voice and--most importantly--the conscientious force behind the preservation of our environmental integrity. His tireless work with the Planning Commission, the Conservation Commission, the Energy Committee and myriad related projects leave more than a lasting mark; they form much of the backbone protecting the flora, fauna, the citizens and the enduring beauty and health of our home. Whether it's the identification of rare birds or fauna, the crafting and enforcement of thoughtful zoning regulations or the down and dirty business of sorting recycling and pulling invasives, he's done it with grace and dignity. Thank you, Warren.” *Jeremy Grip, Energy Committee and ACRPC Delegate*

“Everyone in Ripton knows that Warren defines good neighbor: the person who makes good and necessary things happen, quietly but effectively. We can also testify--since we have had the privilege of being his closest neighbors for decades--that there is no one you would rather be just through the woods from. His graciousness is what made it possible, and happy, for us to move to Ripton long ago, and our affection for him has only grown stronger with each passing year. Christmas tree, sledding hill, sugarbush: what fun to be part of his remarkable life.” *Bill McKibben and Sue Halpern*

One of the great privileges of my life in Ripton was serving on the Planning Commission with Warren King, eventually as his vice-chair. Warren is thoughtful and thorough, traits also appreciated at abatement hearings and elections. I have sat with Warren and the town attorney reviewing bylaw and plan revisions, climbed into attics with Warren for energy assessments, and pulled wild chervil with him. My husband and I have called him when we've been dive-bombed by a bird or found a mysterious amphibian. He has been a mentor and a friend, and I expect that he has been that to many of you.

In a 2016 interview with John Flowers of the *Addison County Independent*, Warren King said, “As my life has moved on, I've gotten more and more local in my involvements. When I started it was the world. Year by year the world has shrunk down to Vermont, then Addison County, and to a large extent, Ripton.” How lucky we are.

Alison Joseph Dickinson



*Photo courtesy of Barry King*

## Elected Officers

	<b>Name</b> (term expires)	Phone	
Selectboard	Laureen Cox, Chair (23) Timothy Hanson (22) Ronald Wimett (21)	388-7820 388-2546 388-7346	Chair <a href="mailto:lcx@riptonvt.org">lcx@riptonvt.org</a>
Justices of the Peace	Aaron Coburn (21) Richard “Kim” Kimler (21) Warren King (21) Timothy Hanson (21) Amy McGlashan (21)	388-4082 388-2546 388-7080	Elected for Feb. 2021: Anza Armstrong (23) Perry Hanson (23) Timothy Hanson (23) Richard “Kim” Kimler (23) Warren King (23)
Board of Listers	Alison Joseph, Chair (23) Erik Eriksen (22) Beth Eliason (21)	388-2266	<a href="mailto:listers@riptonvt.org">listers@riptonvt.org</a>
Cemetery Commission	Elizabeth Walker, Chair (22) Carole Cummings (21) Samantha Smith Lau (23) Bonnie Swan (24) Karen Heppell (23)		Contact Chair Liz Walker at 388-1634
Moderator	Molly Witters (21)	388-2266	
Delinquent Tax Collector	Kathleen B. Sullivan (21)	388-3471	
Constable	Perry Hanson (21)	388-9977	
Town Agent	Wendy Harlin (21)	388-2266	2021 position eliminated

## Meeting Schedule

**All meetings are public. Agenda are posted on bulletin boards and at [riptonvermont.org](http://riptonvermont.org).**

Selectboard: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

Ripton Fire & First Response: General meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Fire Station

Planning Commission/ZBA/Historic District Commission: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

Cemetery Commission: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month March – December, 7:30 p.m. or as posted

Conservation Commission: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, every other month, or as posted

## Appointed Officers

	Name	Phone
Selectboard Administrator	Alison Joseph Dickinson	388-2266
Town Clerk	Alison Joseph Dickinson	388-2266
Assistant Clerks	Paula Scott, Carolyn Smith	388-2266
Treasurer	Carolyn Smith	388-2266
Assistant Treasurers	Paula Scott, Alison Joseph Dickinson	388-2266
Zoning Administrator	Jonathan Heppell	388-2266
Road Commissioner	Ronald Wimett	388-7346
Animal Control Officer	Alex Cox	
Conservation Commission	Mark Nelson, Chair (21), Zapata Courage (23), Warren King (21), Judy Kowalczyk (23), Barry King (22), Jay Harrington (22), Martha McCaughin (22)	Chair 388-2857
Zoning Board of Adjustment, Planning Commission and Historic District Commission	Marty Kulczyk (23), Chair Michael J. Cummings (22), Jorene Doria (23), Marlene Harrison (21), Warren King (22)	Chair 388-4606
Zoning Board, Alternate Members	Alison Joseph (22), Amy McGlashan (23) Leonard Tiedemann (22)	
Health Officer	Tim Hanson	388-2266
Emergency Management Coordinator	Erik Eriksen	388-3629
Emergency Shelter Director	Mark Nelson	388-2857
Fire and First Response Chief	Erik Eriksen	388-3629
Fire Warden	Erik Eriksen	388-3629
Recycling Committee	Warren King, Barry King, Mac Cox, Mark Nelson, Steve Zwicky	
Regional Planning Delegates	Jeremy Grip; Marty Kulczyk, alternate	
Regional Transportation Delegates	Norm Tjossem; Jonathan Heppell, alternate	
Solid Waste District Delegates	Jay Harrington; Steve Zwicky, alternate	
Town Energy Coordinator	Warren King	
Tree Warden	Bruce Danek	
Fence Viewers	William Ford, Giles Hoyler, Gary Whitman	
Weigher of Coal	Richard Collitt	
Inspector/Lumber, Shingles & Wood	Tom Cabot	

## Selectboard Report

Much of this past year found the Selectboard Zooming, so we were lucky that we had not planned a lot of new initiatives. The opportunity to meet virtually certainly helps get things accomplished despite the pandemic, but it also tends to lessen the amount of discussion that can be helpful for creative thinking. Just two weeks after last year's Town Meeting we were all "sheltering in place". As traffic up and down the mountain became a rarity, our community put into place a number of supports for our residents, and those supports remain available: help in getting deliveries, financial help for groceries, tech help, etc. People who stepped up to get all of this in place include Carrie Herzog, Paula Scott, Billy Sneed, Laura McIntosh, Jay Harrington, Richard Collitt, Mac Cox, Carolyn Smith, Norm Tjossem, Aaron Coburn, Alison Dickinson, Barry King, and Tammy Snyder. A huge "thank you" to them for their help and remember that you can still access this help: contact the Town Office at 388-2266 or Laurie Cox at 388-7820. Additionally, many people connected with our school provided help, support, food, and internet for families in town as this pandemic came upon us last spring. The Board voted to waive delinquent property tax interest (not the initial late penalty) until May 2021, and late fees on dog licensing for 2020, to further aid during these difficult times. It is also now possible to make credit card payments to the town online.

**Roads:** Amidst all this, the business of the town continued, much of it focused on projects that had begun in the past year or just as 2020 began. A good number of these were road related. A couple of years back, we received a major grant to move our sand pile into a covered structure away from the riverbank. Last year we discussed the preferred site, on the Lincoln Road, south of the school. The Zoning Board has approved a subdivision to create a parcel for the shed site, and the School Board has agreed to a small boundary adjustment that will allow the structure to be set back further from the road, allowing for more screening. If all goes according to plan, the land could be purchased, and the sand shed constructed before the next sanding season (otherwise known as winter). Adjoining property owners will weigh in on the color of the structure.

We decided to move ahead on our plan to cut back the uphill slope at the intersection of Natural Turnpike and Rte. 125 to allow for better visibility. The land in question is part of the National Forest, abutted by a State highway, but both those parties agreed to our plan. No money had been specifically budgeted for this effort, so we decided to forgo paving for one year and divert that part of the budget to accomplish this project. We engaged an engineering firm to do the necessary planning, and subsequently have a contractor lined up to begin the project in the spring. Once started, it should go quickly. When the project is completed, traffic emerging from Natural Turnpike onto Rte. 125, especially those turning left, will have a significantly better line of sight.

At the beginning of 2020, we were awarded a grant of \$627,600 from the State (with a 20% town match) to replace the culvert that carries the river under Peddlers Bridge Road, just above the Recycling shed. This has been a source of flooding in the past. The plan is for that project to go out to bid in December 2021 and be completed during the following spring/summer. Upgrading the lower portion of Old Town Road, adjacent to the Middlebury border, began this year as a cooperative effort with the National Forest and Green Mountain Power. The road is the right-of-way for GMP's power line, and it passes through National Forest land. Ripton's interest is to enable this road to serve as an emergency corridor in and out of town in case of a long-term closure of Rte. 125. A large culvert that had washed out will be reset and gravel added to improve the roadbed. The road is gated at both ends, because it is not available for any vehicular access except for maintenance and emergency needs. The Forest Service assisted financially, and GMP will assist with the delivery of gravel.

One last road-related issue is the speed limit on our roads. The current 35 mph speed limit is the default speed limit in the state. Questions have arisen as to whether some of our roads should have a lower posted limit, such as 25 or 30 mph. No decisions have been made on this yet, but it is something the Board is considering. Input from residents will certainly be listened to, as to suggested speeds or road sections.

**Voting and elections** has been another area of change due to the pandemic. During the November elections, we were all able to receive our ballots in the mail. Funds from the Secretary of State allowed for the installation of a secure drop box for ballot return in the Town Office door. We borrowed a tabulator for vote counting, an item that the town may purchase in the future. It was necessary in November due to the large volume of ballots and the impossibility of human counters sitting in close proximity safely.

For Town Meeting ballots by mail are available upon request. Ripton has traditionally voted on most town items from the floor; we will do this voting by Australian ballot for this year only. A Monday evening meeting will take place via Zoom, but will be for discussion and information, rather than the actual vote.

**Ripton Elementary School:** At the end of 2019, Ripton residents presented the Addison Central School District (ACSD) board with petitions signed by voters from throughout the district, requesting a vote by the included towns to re-write portions of the Articles of Agreement that had been put in place at the beginning of the district consolidation. They also asked the selectboards of the various towns to consider warning the vote if the School Board made the decision to not honor the request. Ripton did vote on this by Australian ballot, and both proposed article changes passed by a large majority. As it became clear that the district was not considering keeping Ripton's school open, citizens in town presented the Selectboard with a petition to hold a vote to withdraw from the consolidated school district. That vote took place on January 12, 2021, with the withdrawal approved 163 to 107. To proceed, the other towns in ACSD must approve the withdrawal. They will vote March 2, 2021.

**Town buildings/properties:** The main building that experienced changes in 2020 was the town's recycling shed. Early in the year, new lighting as well as a security system were installed. This has helped with monitoring trash drop-off as well as illuminating the once-a-month Wednesday evening recycling opportunity. Then, in the late fall, the return of the large dumpster to the interior of the building led to the failure of internal rails on which it slid and the door to sustain damage. A new concrete slab with embedded rails and a stone walkway has taken care of the problem as well as created a safer, more easily accessible area. The other main change in any town building was the addition of a heat pump to the second floor of the Town Office.

In June 2019, the property at 1568 North Branch Road went to tax sale. There being no other buyers, the town purchased the property. With a tax sale, the prior owner has one year to pay the back taxes and related costs/penalties to re-claim the property. This time-period ended in June 2020. Since we were in the middle of the pandemic and the prior owner was still in residence, this situation has continued because there has been a moratorium on evictions during this time. Once that moratorium has been lifted, the town plans to put the property on the market. The Selectboard has made the decision to give the prior owner any profits from the sale once all debts to the town have been deducted.

**Internet service:** One side effect of the pandemic has been to emphasize the need for reliable, high-speed internet access around even the most rural parts of the state. COVID-relief monies are being directed towards this, and Ripton has joined the Addison County Communications Union District, Maple Broadband, with our own Billy Sneed on the Executive Committee. Ultimately, this group will be bringing fiber optic internet connection throughout our community. As a shorter-term help, there is now a hot spot in the vicinity of the Town Office.

**Environment:** At last year's Town Meeting, residents supported addressing climate change locally, which was going to begin by a kind of brainstorming meeting. The pandemic scuttled our ability to meet until such future time when meetings are again allowed. Meanwhile, the town did adopt a new Enhanced Energy Plan in November 2020, which looks ahead to ways our town can become more energy efficient and self-sufficient.

**Emerald Ash Borer:** Knowing that this destructive pest is in our area, the ash trees in town that are along the road have been mapped. Over time, we plan to remove these trees that are in the town right-of-way before they become infested. Once infested, removal is more complicated and expensive. As we move

through this process, landowners will be notified before trees on the edges of their property – but in the town’s right-of-way – are cut. Certainly, property owners may cut their own trees rather than the town.

Hopefully, when we approach Town Meeting next year, the pandemic will be a thing of the past, and we will once again be able to gather in person both to meet for the town’s business but also meet for the sociability of our community.

Laurie Cox, Selectboard Chair

## Road Commissioner Report

Glad to see 2020 go by, hope all are well.

This past year has had many glitches. Some of our distributors were closed due to COVID. When they opened, we placed gravel on muddy or rocky spots around town in the spring. Later more gravel was spread and graded from Boyle Bridge to Fire Brook Rd on the North Branch Rd.

Ditching continues to be an important issue. We ditched and hydroseeded the class 3 section of the Pearl Lee Rd. We ditched and removed berms along another section of the Lincoln Rd. A grant from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) has funded Lincoln Rd ditching and berm removal for the past few years.

ACRPC also completed a road and culvert inventory which will help us select road areas that need work.

A project was done in the right-of-way by Freeman Allen’s, 1676 Natural Turnpike. Large poplar trees were cut and removed by an arborist, and ditching and seeding were done.

Culvert work was done on the Goshen Rd. Two short culverts were replaced by larger, longer culverts.

There are major projects in the works. The first big project this spring will be the removal of some of the hill at the Route 125 and Natural Turnpike intersection. This will improve safety and line of sight entering onto 125. This project is being paid by 2020 paving money. A new sand storage building is hoped to be completed in fall 2021. A new bridge or large concrete culvert will be installed near the King Dome on Peddlers Bridge Rd. in 2022.

This coming year I hope to do a lot more ditching in different areas around town. More culverts will be replaced after we look at them this spring. Spring is when we find where we need gravel the most and then haul.

Ronald Wimett, Road Commissioner



*Photo credit: Mike Winslow*

## Selectboard Budget Narrative

This report includes a discussion of the fiscal year that ended June 2020 (**FY20**), a review of the status of the current year's budget (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, voted at Town Meeting March 2020 – **FY21**) and a discussion of key elements of the proposed budget to be voted on at Town Meeting March 2, 2021 (**FY22**). The outside Auditors reviewed the **FY20** and reported that the Town's financial officers have correctly represented the Town's financial status. A full Auditor's report is available for review.

**Financial Status:** At the end of the fiscal year (**FY20**) the Auditors confirmed that the Town had total revenues of \$793,723, compared with total expenses of \$645,763. Total funds held by the Town as of June 30, 2020 were \$908,112, an increase of \$45,319 from **FY19**. The largest single Town-wide expense in **FY20** was the \$105,724 spent by the Fire Department on their new mini-pumper which is now in service. The Department put money aside for many years to be able to afford this needed purchase and had a very successful fundraising drive to offset the costs.

**General Fund Revenues for FY20:** General Fund revenues were quite consistent with what was anticipated. Delinquent tax receipts were approximately \$10,000 less than anticipated, whereas the College payment-in-lieu of taxes (PILOT) was about \$5,500 more. Other items came in close to what was planned for, with the usual variances as delineated in the Selectboard's Budget report.

**General Fund Expenses for FY20:** General Fund expenses in **FY20** were very consistent with what was anticipated. As is usual, a few lines in the budget were underspent (Town Clerk, Listers, Delinquent tax collector, Zoning Administrator) while a few others were modestly overspent (office supplies, internet, recycling, Sheriff patrol). Details of all General Fund spending are laid out in the General Fund Budget spreadsheet that follow this report.

**Road Income in FY20** was nearly \$20,000 more than anticipated, due to income generated by the College and National Forest PILOT payments. Other income lines were basically as anticipated.

**Road Expenses FY20:** The Road Budget for **FY20** was significantly underspent. The budget for winter work – plowing and acquiring and spreading sand – was underspent by about \$30,000 as the winter was not as harsh as the previous winter. Anticipating winter-work, with Mother Nature in charge, is essentially a guessing game. \$10,000 was transferred to the Major Project Fund to help pay for big road projects in the future. Funds are also authorized each year to cover the Town's share of grants we are awarded. We were lucky that there was no major storm or flood damage in **FY20**, especially when we consider that the loan taken out to pay for the floods in 2008 was just paid off in **FY20**.

### **Current year Budget 2020-2021 (FY21) voted March 2020, starting July 1, 2020, ending June 30, 2021.**

**Income for FY21:** Income as of January 12 is close to estimates. As it was last year, income to date is more than 98% of what is anticipated for the whole year, mostly of course because taxes are paid in the fall, and taxes represent the main share of the Town's income. Taxes came in \$55,000 higher than our estimate, whereas the Middlebury College's PILOT payment was \$7,500 less. We do, however, expect to receive less in speeding fines generated from the Addison County Sheriff's patrol – the deputies seem to be writing fewer tickets, perhaps giving the drivers a bit of a break in these difficult times. Road Fund income is also doing well so far, with over 80% of its expected revenue already booked. Pending are payments-in-lieu of taxes from the National Forest (an annual amount about \$60,000) and a payment from the State of Vermont for State Aid to Roads.

**Town Road Grants:** The Town has received several large grants for road-related improvements. First is a grant to build a sand shed, with a total cost of \$445,000. Second is a major grant to replace the large culvert on Peddlers Bridge Road just past the recycling shed heading east, the site of several previous floods. This project has an estimated cost of \$627,600. These grant projects are obviously a benefit to the Town, but they do require a 20% match from the Town. The Town has been budgeting funds annually to be able to pay for our match for these projects.

**Expenses for FY21:** General Fund expenses are staying close to estimated. Halfway through the year as this is written, there are no unusual expenses other than the cost of a heat pump installed in the Town office's second floor to allow the upstairs office to be used winter and summer to allow for more COVID required social distancing.

**Road Expenses FY21:** When the tax rate was set the Highway Fund budget was reduced \$8,000 to minimize a rate increase. One major cost-shift in **FY21** is the Board's plan to use money designated in **FY21** for paving to pay instead to excavate the so-called 'hogback' at the intersection of Natural Turnpike and Route 125 to allow a proper easterly line-of-sight. A contract has been awarded, and we expect the work will be done in the spring.

**Proposed Budget 2021-2022 (FY22)** General fund non-tax revenues for **FY22** are expected to be similar to **FY21**. However, less revenues for liquor licenses, Sheriff's patrol fines, and Community House rental are anticipated.

**Road Income FY22:** Anticipated income for **FY22** should be about the same as last fiscal year. The Town is always on the lookout for State or Federal grants to leverage more roadwork.

**Road Expenses FY22:** Expenses for **FY22 have been level funded.** The Board has left the estimated expenses for winter work high, even though the line was underspent in **FY20**, as winters are so variable, and we need to be prepared. There are no large projects contemplated for **FY22** – the sand shed, and Peddler's Bridge project are mostly paid for by grants, and the cutting back of the Hogback at the intersection of Natural Turnpike and Route 125 will be paid for from the paving funds from **FY21**.

There are many uncertainties during this COVID-19 emergency. When the tax bills went out last summer the Town was not sure what the response would be, but it turns out our delinquencies were consistent with previous years. We are hoping for more support from the State and Federal government this year, in particular general financial support for the schools.

Laurie Cox, Chair  
Selectboard for the Town of Ripton

Timothy Hanson

Ronald Wimett

## Auditors' Report

Telling & Hillman, P.C. audited the Town's financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2020. Accounting practices do not allow us to print a portion of their report in our town report. The full report is available at the town office.



## General Fund Budget

GENERAL FUND BUDGET	Budget FY20	Actual FY20	Budget FY21	Budget FY22
<b>Non-Tax Revenue</b>				
Recording Fees	7,000.00	7,491.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
Copier & Vault Time	1,500.00	1,402.09	1,500.00	1,500.00
Dog Licenses	600.00	496.00	800.00	500.00
Liquor Licenses	300.00	300.00	370.00	185.00
Zoning Permit Fees	2,000.00	1,852.50	2,000.00	2,000.00
Compliance Letr & Hearing Fees	0.00	450.00	400.00	400.00
Recycling Donations	2,000.00	2,547.47	2,000.00	2,200.00
Sheriff Fines	6,500.00	5,873.44	7,000.00	2,500.00
Marriage Licenses, Posting, Green Mt Pass & Miscellaneous	115.00	232.96	180.00	208.00
State Funds for Listers	430.00	425.00	424.00	425.00
Current Use * split with HWY Fund	16,000.00	16,436.50	16,500.00	18,000.00
Interest	400.00	771.52	500.00	500.00
Rent: Community House	2,000.00	1,145.00	1,500.00	1,000.00
College PILOT (adjusted by tax rate)	89,000.00	94,673.71	95,000.00	88,000.00
<b>Total Non-Tax Revenue</b>	<b>127,845.00</b>	<b>134,097.19</b>	<b>136,174.00</b>	<b>125,418.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
Selectboard Stipend (3 x 750)	1,950.00	1,950.00	2,250.00	2,250.00
Selectboard Administrator/Clerk	22,600.00	23,809.15	23,000.00	23,000.00
Town Clerk	16,500.00	14,888.34	16,800.00	17,000.00
Town Treasurer	16,500.00	13,115.62	16,800.00	16,800.00
Assistant Town Clerks & Treas	17,500.00	17,327.52	18,000.00	18,000.00
Elections	400.00	350.72	1,200.00	400.00
BCA & BTA Hearings	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Delinquent Tax Collector	5,000.00	3,765.36	4,200.00	4,000.00
Listers	8,500.00	7,198.86	8,500.00	8,500.00
Lister Training	500.00	75.00	200.00	200.00
Planning Commission	1,300.00	1,550.00	1,550.00	1,550.00
Zoning Administrator	3,500.00	2,433.20	3,000.00	3,000.00
Animal Control Officer	800.00	215.00	500.00	500.00
Health Officer	0.00	243.28	500.00	500.00
Officers Training	1,000.00	150.24	1,000.00	500.00
Facilities Management	2,000.00	369.32	2,000.00	1,000.00
Emergency Mgmt Coord.	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00
Payroll Taxes	8,000.00	7,160.17	8,000.00	8,000.00
Office Supplies	1,000.00	1,886.76	1,200.00	2,000.00
Office Equipment/Furnish	1,000.00	539.94	1,000.00	1,000.00
Photocopier	1,500.00	1,453.13	1,500.00	1,500.00
Computer/Technology	5,000.00	4,288.98	5,000.00	5,000.00
Telephone	900.00	1,059.19	1,000.00	1,100.00
Internet	1,200.00	1,822.37	1,600.00	2,000.00

<b>GENERAL FUND BUDGET</b>	<b>Budget FY20</b>	<b>Actual FY20</b>	<b>Budget FY21</b>	<b>Budget FY22</b>
Website	400.00	475.40	800.00	800.00
Postage	800.00	840.25	800.00	850.00
Legal Notices	400.00	238.33	400.00	400.00
Document Preservation	4,000.00	4,005.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Clerk & Treasurer Expense	100.00	75.00	100.00	100.00
Listers Expenses	500.00	423.80	400.00	400.00
Planning & Zoning Expense	1,000.00	277.81	500.00	500.00
Property Insurance	14,000.00	13,452.00	14,000.00	14,000.00
Workers Comp Ins	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	900.00
Town Report	1,500.00	1,453.15	1,500.00	1,500.00
Legal Services	5,000.00	2,302.21	7,500.00	7,500.00
Audit	8,500.00	7,700.00	8,500.00	9,000.00
Generator	400.00	579.16	400.00	400.00
Recycling	11,000.00	10,896.91	12,000.00	12,000.00
Animal Damage	200.00	0.00	200.00	100.00
Bank Fees	0.00	15.15	30.00	30.00
Miscellaneous	104.88	0	200.00	100.00
Conservation Commission	0.00	381.14	200.00	200.00
Grounds Maintenance	1,000.00	1,145.00	1,000.00	1,200.00
Town Office Fuel	2,000.00	1,547.39	2,000.00	1,500.00
Town Office Electric	800.00	962.69	800.00	1,200.00
Town Office Maintenance	6,000.00	5,733.95	6,000.00	6,000.00
Community House Fuel	4,000.00	2,217.45	3,500.00	3,000.00
Community House Electric	800.00	925.42	800.00	800.00
Community House Maintenance <i>Insurance credit 2020</i>	4,000.00	-1,287.20	5,500.00	5,000.00
Transfer to Town Buildings Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Public Telephone	630.00	495.00	600.00	600.00
Streetlights	1,100.00	1,018.72	1,000.00	1,100.00
Recycling Shed Electric	0.00	418.29	800.00	600.00
Recycling Shed Maintenance	6,000.00	6,655.89	4,000.00	4,000.00
Waste Disposal	1,000.00	351.06	800.00	500.00
VLCT Dues	1,726.00	1,726.00	1,795.00	1,795.00
Regional Planning Dues	758.52	758.52	767.00	767.00
Addison County Sheriff	11,000.00	11,810.40	11,000.00	12,000.00
Addison County Tax	2,950.60	2,950.60	3,000.00	3,619.68
Animal Holding Facility	400.00	450.00	450.00	450.00
Tax Mapping	950.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
NEMRC – programs/fees	2,500.00	1,460.81	5,000.00	7,000.00
VT Bond Bank 2008 Flood	26,000.00	25,460.40	0.00	0.00
Tax Sale Expense	0.00	1,037.70	0.00	0.00
<b>Total General Fund Expense</b>	<b>249,670.00</b>	<b>227,005.55</b>	<b>231,642.00</b>	<b>233,211.68</b>

GENERAL FUND BUDGET	Budget FY20	Actual FY20	Budget FY21	Budget FY22
<b>Voted Items</b>				
Ripton Fire Department	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00
Cemetery Commission	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Funding Requests	23,816.00	23,816.00	29,226.00	26,126.00
<b>Total Voted Item Expense</b>	<b>70,816.00</b>	<b>70,816.00</b>	<b>76,226.00</b>	<b>73,126.00</b>
Total General Fund (GF)	249,670.00	227,005.55	231,642.00	233,211.68
Total Voted Item Expense	70,816.00	70,816.00	76,226.00	73,126.00
Total Highway Fund	397,100.00	316,736.51	413,050.00	414,150.00
<b>Total Municipal Expense</b>	<b>717,586.00</b>	<b>614,558.06</b>	<b>720,918.00</b>	<b>720,487.68</b>
Total General Fund (GF)	249,670.00	227,005.55	231,642.00	233,211.68
Total Voted Item Expense	70,816.00	70,816.00	76,226.00	73,126.00
Payment to Highway Fund	183,545.00	183,389.20	190,300.00	191,000.00
Minus GF Non-Tax Revenue	-127,845.00	-134,097.19	-136,174.00	-125,418.00
<b>Amount to raise</b>	<b>376,186.00</b>	<b>347,113.56</b>	<b>361,994.00</b>	<b>371,919.68</b>



Photo credit: Ripton Elementary School

## Highway Fund Budget

Highway Fund Budget	Budget FY20	Actual FY20	Budget FY21	Budget FY22
<b>Revenue</b>				
Property Tax – Roads	183,545.00	183,389.20	190,300.00	191,000.00
Overweight Permit Fees	355.00	855.00	750.00	750.00
State Aid to Highways	48,200.00	46,256.42	49,000.00	50,100.00
College PILOT Roads	89,000.00	94,673.71	95,000.00	90,000.00
USFS PILOT Payment	60,000.00	64,224.00	61,500.00	64,300.00
Current Use/Hold Harmless	16,000.00	16,436.50	16,500.00	18,000.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>397,100.00</b>	<b>405,834.83</b>	<b>413,050.00</b>	<b>414,150.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
Ditching	19,000.00	20,580.00	17,000.00	20,000.00
Grading	16,000.00	12,222.50	16,000.00	16,000.00
Chloride	8,500.00	4,785.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Sweeping Roads	8,000.00	2,130.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
Culverts	7,000.00	6,630.71	7,000.00	7,000.00
Guardrails	1,000.00	256.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Gravel	32,000.00	33,034.35	40,000.00	40,000.00
Storm Damage	7,000.00	6,327.50	9,000.00	9,000.00
Road Signs	1,000.00	1,069.46	1,000.00	1,000.00
Cutting Brush	5,000.00	1,755.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Mowing: Roadside	5,000.00	6,525.00	5,200.00	5,200.00
Mowing: Boom	2,500.00	715.00	2,500.00	2,800.00
Road Commissioner	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
Training	500.00	0.00	300.00	300.00
Class IV Road Work	5,000.00	490.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Paving	50,000.00	48,062.40	50,000.00	50,000.00
Major Road Reconstruction	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
Municipal Rds State Permit	0.00	0.00	1,750.00	1,750.00
Grant Match Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Transfer to Major Project Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Misc. Summer Work	1,500.00	500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Buy/Screen Sand	37,000.00	34,954.30	40,000.00	40,000.00
Truck Sand	22,000.00	12,417.20	20,000.00	20,000.00
Salt	7,200.00	6,772.99	7,200.00	7,000.00
Sanding Roads	40,000.00	34,687.50	42,000.00	40,000.00
Plowing Roads	55,000.00	43,720.00	55,000.00	55,000.00
Winter Storm Damage	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Culvert Thawing	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Misc. Winter Work	2,000.00	280.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>391,800.00</b>	<b>326,514.91</b>	<b>413,050.00</b>	<b>414,150.00</b>

## Town Grants

<b>Grants – 4-year report</b>	<b>Actual FY19</b>	<b>Budget FY20</b>	<b>Actual FY20</b>	<b>Actual FY21</b>	<b>Budget FY22</b>
<b>Revenue</b>				to January	
Vtrans sand and salt shed	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	356,000.00
Peddlers Bridge Rd culvert	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Better Roads Nat Tpke	0.00	12,356.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Better Roads Inventory	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Better Roads BR0732 Lincoln Rd	16,959.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Better Roads BR0373 N Branch	5,334.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,557.20
Better Roads BR0518 Pearl Lee	16,607.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FEMA 4330 Flood 07012017	0.00	39,832.38	0.00	11,869.14	0.00
FEMA Winter Storm	2,248.68	0.00	0.00	6,022.78	0.00
Municipal Rds Grants-in-aid	5,300.00	6,710.00	6,100.00	5,022.00	6,300.00
NRCS Wagon Wheel Rd	0.00	24,180.00	0.00	6,262.50	0.00
VLCT PACIF Grant	0.00	1,170.62	1,170.62	0.00	0.00
Digitization	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,588.58	0.00
FS Old Town Rd	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,450.17	0.00
CTCL Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
TAC study grant (\$ at ACRPC)	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>46,450.12</b>	<b>94,249.00</b>	<b>17,270.62</b>	<b>60,215.17</b>	<b>352,710.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
Vtrans sand and salt shed	6,008.13	438,991.87	17,439.67	2,801.31	316,000.00
Peddlers Bridge Rd culvert	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,295.32	100,000.00
Better Roads Nat Tpke	0.00	15,455.00	0.00	5,159.50	0.00
Better Roads Inventory	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,333.33	0.00
Better Roads Lincoln Rd	20,610.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Better Roads N Branch Rd	6,954.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,446.50
Better Roads BR0518 Pearl Lee	20,759.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FEMA 4330 Flood 07012017	0.00	27,133.50	23,106.09	0.00	0.00
FEMA 4330/6350 Old Town Rd	0.00	24,816.21	26,600.00	0.00	0.00
FEMA Winter Storm	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Municipal Rds Grants-in-aid	7,159.89	8,388.00	0.00	6,277.50	6,675.00
FEMA expense	4,550.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
NRCS Wagon Wheel Rd grant	0.00	32,240.00	100.00	8,250.00	0.00
VLCT PACIF Grant	0.00	1,170.62	1,170.62	0.00	0.00
Digitization	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,153.68	0.00
FS Old Town Rd	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,450.17	0.00
CTCL Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,149.22	0.00
TAC study grant	0.00	1,525.00	1,525.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>66,042.99</b>	<b>549,720.20</b>	<b>69,941.38</b>	<b>67,870.03</b>	<b>437,121.50</b>

Several years of grants are presented because they carry across fiscal years. Most of our grants require a local match from town funds or in-kind services. The amount is in the descriptions.

#### **Grants FY19**

- FEMA DR4356 Oct. 29-30, 2017 disaster: storm debris. In FY19 received payments of \$23,955.30 + \$904.88 for work done in FY18 = \$24,860.18. In **FY21** we received a final payment of \$6,022.78, thanks to the help of our auditors.
- DEC Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid – for work on the Lincoln Road: FY18 grant \$5,300, match \$1,614.79, total project \$6,914.79
- Vtrans Better Roads BR0372 – Lincoln Road ditching and culvert replacement: awarded FY18, completed FY19; grant \$16,959.94, match \$4,239.98, total project \$21,199.92
- Vtrans Better Roads BR0373 – North Branch Road ditching, stone, culvert: awarded FY18, completed FY19; grant \$5,334, match \$1,620.87, total project \$6,954.87
- Vtrans Better Roads BR0518 Lincoln and Pearl Lee Roads – ditching, stone, and drainage improvements. This grant was awarded and completed in FY19, grant \$16,607.50, match \$4,151.88, total project \$20,759.38.

#### **Grants FY20**

- FEMA DR4330 June 29 – July 1, 2017 disaster – road washouts and bridge repair. In FY18 the Town was awarded \$50,867.76 for work completed, \$20,350.12 for road washout work to complete, and \$19,842.16 for repair to complete at the Old Town Road bridge, known as Potash Bridge. The repair work deadline was extended to Sept. 2019. The road washout repair (ditching, lining, seeding) cost \$23,106.09. The bridge repair was completed for \$26,600. This grant was audited by the VT Dept of Public Safety in July/August 2019. In **FY21** we received a final payment of \$11,869.14, thanks to the help of our auditors.
- DEC Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid – for work on the Lincoln Road: FY19 grant \$6,100, match \$1,526.57, total project \$7,626.57.
- DEC Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid – for work on the Lincoln Road: FY20 grant \$6,710, match \$1,678, total project \$8,388, completed June 2020.
- Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) planning study grant. ACRPC awarded \$12,000 for a planning study for replacement of the Old Town Road/Potash Bridge, match \$1,525, total project \$13,525. ACRPC paid the consultant, Dubois & King, directly.
- The VLCT PACIF grant is from our insurer, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. It paid part of the cost of the Community House alarm system.

#### **Grants FY21**

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) FY19 – Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) for repair and mitigation work on the class 4 section of Wagon Wheel Road: \$24,180 grant, \$8,060 match, total project \$32,240. This project was awarded in FY19 but funds were cancelled, then reallocated. It was completed in summer 2020, under budget for \$8,250.00.
- Vtrans Better Roads BR0709 – Natural Turnpike culvert replacement, ditching, & ditch lining awarded FY20; grant \$12,356.00, match \$3,089.00, total project \$15,445. This project was not completed within the deadline and may be completed in 2021 with town road funds.
- Vtrans Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program FY19 – construction of a sand/salt shed: grant \$356,000, match \$89,000, total grant \$445,000. Expenses paid to date \$26,249.11. It is hoped that construction may be complete by the end of 2021.

- Vtrans Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program FY20 – Peddlers Bridge Road TH#2 culvert project: grant \$627,600, match \$156,900 for replacing the culvert on Peddlers Bridge Road near the recycling shed. This project is expected to go to bid in Dec. 2021 with construction in 2022.
- Better Roads program road and culvert inventory grant: The ACRPC completed an inventory that complies with the State Municipal Road General Permit (MRGP) requirements. \$8,000 grant, \$2,000 match, total \$10,000. The inventory was accepted for compliance with the MRGP requirements in Dec. 2020. ACRPC will complete a capital plan when we provide project estimates.
- Forest Service – Old Town Rd: The FS offered \$6,000 for a gate and culvert repair on Old Town Rd. The funds had to be spent by Dec. 30, 2020. The gate installation was completed.
- DEC Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid: We submitted our intent to participate in the program in FY 21 grant \$6,300, match \$1,575, total project \$7,875
- Digitization grant: A Coronavirus Municipal Records Digitization Grant award provided up to \$14,800 for digitization of municipal records. The funds had to be submitted by Dec. 12 and spent by Dec. 31, 2021. We were able to use most of the award, \$13,588.58, to make more than 40 years of land records available online.
- Center for Technology & Civic Life (CTCL) grant: The clerk’s office was awarded \$5,000 for election-related items to address COVID-19 concerns. If you vote in person, you will see some of the purchases (personal protective equipment, sanitizing stations, tables, table-top booths, and more). If you voted by mail in January, this grant helped pay for your postage and envelopes. The grant also paid for our use of a tabulator and postcard mailing costs.
- Vermont Secretary of State: reimbursement for a drop box \$541

**Grants FY22:** The sand shed grant and Peddlers Bridge Rd culvert replacement will continue into FY22. A Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid program grant is expected. An application has been submitted for a Better Roads grant for ditching, stone-lining ditches, and a culvert replacement on the North Branch Rd.

Alison Joseph Dickinson  
Selectboard Administrator



*Photo credit: Norm Tjossem*

## Volunteer Fire and First Response Department Report

Our new vehicle arrived in June and replaced the old FMC pumper and Ford utility. It carries 300 gallons of water, medical equipment and an assortment of fire-fighting tools. The 2020 Ford F550 4x4 was built by G. Stone Commercial of Middlebury. The truck is used to respond to medical calls, motor vehicle crashes, hiker rescues, brush fires, and structure fires. Ripton Fire and Rescue would like to sincerely thank the community for their support. We raised \$106,499 over two years and spent \$106,488.19.

As we all are aware, COVID shut down our operations except for calls. Eventually we will be able to reopen our building to outside users. Our medical people have a whole new set of guidelines to follow until this is over, so please bear with them. Also, eventually, our open house will return!

Thank you for your support and please follow the guidelines to stay healthy.

Erik Eriksen, Chief

Assistant Chief: Chris Pike

First Response Head of Service: Mark Nelson

Members: Justin Allen (Salisbury), Jake Coddington, Ross Elliot, Erik Eriksen, Jay Harrington, Alison Joseph, Marty Kulczyk, Bob Lau, Erica Mathis, Will Mathis, Mark Nelson, Reid Peck (Weybridge), Chris Pike, Gary Smith (Salisbury)

Activity Report 2020	# Calls	Hours
Fire calls	15	72
Medical calls	32	108
Motor vehicle accidents	6	51
Search & rescue	3	3
Fire training		90
Medical training		112
Maintenance		80
Meetings		72
Total calls & hours (excluding admin)	56	588

Account Balances June 30, 2020	
Checking	\$1,856.86
Savings	\$37,956.92
Vehicle Replacement Fund	\$35,740.48

2020 Vehicle & Major Equipment Inventory	
Pumper. 1993. KME/International	Ladders. 2-roof, 2-24', 1-8', 2-attic
Tanker. 2005. Freightliner	Chainsaw. Jonsered
Ford 2020 F-550 4x4	CO monitors – 2
Pump, portable. Hale HPX400	Air compressor. Porter Cable, 3 hp
Pump, portable. Hale HP300	Thermal Imaging Camera
Portable pond. 1,000 gallons	Defibrillator. Laerdal Heartstart
Portable pond. 2,000 gallons	Defibrillator. Medtronic Lifepak 500
Generator & light, portable. Honda (2)	Defibrillator. 2 Medtronic Lifepak 1000
Generator, station. Honda	Defibrillator. Phillips Heartstart
Generator, portable. Generac	



Photo credit: Chris Pike

### RVFD's New Brush Truck

The Department was overwhelmed by the towns response to fundraising for our new vehicle, which was paid for using 100% donated funds. **Thank you!**

The department is honored to provide service to our neighbors.



Photo credit: Chris Pike

## RVFD Budget Report

Account	Budget FY20	Actual FY20	Budget FY21	Budget FY22
<b>Revenue</b>				
Town Payment	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00
Grants	600.00	909.13	1,240.00	1,200.00
Donations & fundraising	600.00	881.00	2,000.00	2,040.00
Field Days in donation in prior yrs	0	289.00	290.00	200.00
Interest - Savings	10.00	12.06	10.00	10.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	42,210.00	43,091.19	44,540.00	44,450.00
Prior year carry over	4,640.00			
	46,850.00			
<b>Expense</b>				
Gear/Tools/Equipment	11,000.00	3,565.09	6,000.00	6,000.00
Vehicle Repair/Maint	6,000.00	10,762.33	10,000.00	10,000.00
Fuel	600.00	464.30	500.00	500.00
Administration	1,800.00	729.55	1,800.00	2,000.00
Stipend - chief	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Insurance	4,000.00	2,900.00	4,000.00	3,000.00
Field Days	0.00	289.00	290.00	200.00
Training, Meetings	3,000.00	433.50	2,000.00	2,000.00
Events (formerly in other lines)	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00
Computer & Internet	1,000.00	684.00	1,000.00	1,200.00
Dispatch	2,500.00	3,029.45	2,500.00	2,000.00
Electricity	1,200.00	1,231.01	1,200.00	1,200.00
Telephone	1,300.00	1,111.64	1,100.00	1,200.00
Heat/Propane	3,000.00	2,846.03	2,500.00	3,000.00
Furniture & Equipment	500.00	579.32	500.00	500.00
Hydrants	500.00	100.00	500.00	500.00
Maintenance	3,000.00	2,511.94	2000.00	2500.00
Plowing	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
Fundraising expense	0.00	0.00	400.00	400.00
Payment to vehicle fund	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	46,850.00	<u>38,687.16</u>	44,540.00	44,450.00
Balance for savings		4,404.03		
<b>Vehicle Replacement Fund</b>				
Town payment	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Vehicle Donations	0.00	14,830.00	0.00	0.00
Interest - Vehicle Fund	8.00	33.28	15.00	15.00
Vehicle Sale	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	5,508.00	20,363.28	6,015.00	5,515.00
<b>New Vehicle Expense</b>		105,723.99	764.20	

## Cemetery Commission Report & Budget

COVID-19 affected the Cemetery Commission, moving some meetings outside as weather and daylight permitted and canceling others, delaying fencing and other planned projects. Ripton was fortunate to have no increase in burials as some Vermont Cemetery groups were anticipating. The Cemetery Commission is grateful to Mountain Signs for their donation of auxiliary signs that they made and installed at Galvin and Cook Cemeteries. Rules and Regulations were updated, and cornerstone and memorial placements on several lots continues. Karen Heppell was voted onto the Commission in March 2020. Carole Cummings agreed to run for another 5-year term. Her seat is on the March ballot.

The Commission is asking Ripton residents for your support in the 2021/22 fiscal year to continue the work of operating, restoring, and improving Ripton’s Town Cemeteries. Requested funds will pay for yearly clean-up, mowing and landscaping, tree and brush cutting, and work on interments and restoration projects throughout the year. Installation/replacement of cemetery fences will continue.

The Ripton Cemetery Commission is a town entity established in 2014 to administer Ripton’s public cemeteries: Cook, Galvin, Gee & Cushman. Monthly meetings are held March through December. The agenda is posted outside the Town Office. Current Commissioners are Carole Cummings, Karen Heppell, Bonnie Swan, Samantha Lau, and Elizabeth Walker. The Commission welcomes volunteers to help clean monuments and clear overgrown shrubs and plantings throughout the year, following Federal CDC Guidelines during the pandemic.

Elizabeth Walker, Chairperson

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Budget FY20</b>	<b>Actual FY20</b>	<b>Budget FY21</b>	<b>Budget FY22</b>
From account balance	4,200.00	4,200.00	5,500.00	2,630.00
Sale of Plots	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	500.00
Town Payment	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>11,200.00</b>	<b>11,200.00</b>	<b>12,500.00</b>	<b>9,130.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>Budget FY20</b>	<b>Actual FY20</b>	<b>Budget FY21</b>	<b>Budget FY22</b>
Dues/Admin	150.00	150.00	100.00	50.00
Stipends	1,650.00	1,650.00	2,000.00	1,650.00
Mowing	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,000.00
Tree & brush cut & removal	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Fencing	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Repair/grounds clean-up	200.00	200.00	0.00	30.00
Monument cleaning & repair	100.00	100.00	400.00	400.00
Development-Cook	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	500.00
Development Galvin	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	500.00
Landscaping	600.00	600.00	0.00	500.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>11,200.00</b>	<b>11,200.00</b>	<b>12,500.00</b>	<b>9,130.00</b>

**Account Balance June 30, 2020: \$16,625.51**

## 2021 Funding Requests

Funding requests will be voted by Australian ballot, Tuesday March 2, 2021. Summary information for organizations, with service to Ripton residents if known, is below. Full reports are available online or at the town office.

**Addison Central Teens (ACT)** “provides a safe and welcoming place for teens to socialize after school and throughout the year.” **Request: \$1,900**

**Addison County Home Health and Hospice** “is a community-focused non-profit home healthcare agency. ACCH depends on and greatly appreciates funds received from the town of Ripton.” 17 individuals served by 598 visits in 2020. **Request: \$750**

**Addison County Parent/Child Center** “provides parenting education classes and workshops, community playgroups, home visits, pregnancy prevention programs, job training, academic classes, transportation, and childcare.” Provided services to 27 Ripton residents in 2020. **Request: \$600**

**Addison County Restorative Justice Services** “provides a community restorative justice response focusing on the “balanced approach” in meeting the needs of the victim, the community and the offender.” Ripton residents received services from the following programs in FY 2020: 1 reentry navigation, 1 safe driving. **Request: \$170**

**Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative** requests funds to support water quality testing in the Middlebury River. River Watch volunteers monitored the Middlebury River at East Middlebury Gorge. **Request: \$400**

**Age Well** provides services and support that allow seniors to stay independent and remain healthy at home. Programs include Meals on Wheels, community meals, wellness programs, social activities, transportation, and a helpline. **Request: \$750**

**Charter House Coalition** offers Community Meals and Emergency Shelter Programs. **Request: \$1,600**

**Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC)** provided 14,972 hours of service to residents of Ripton who had mental health, substance abuse, or developmental disability needs in 2020. **Request: \$1,400**

**Elderly Services** In 2020, 1 Ripton resident attended Project Independence regularly. 3 Ripton seniors participated in the ESI College Lifelong Learning Center. **No funding request for 2021**

**End of Life Services** provides free hospice programs and bereavement support services. Ripton services for 2020 included providing 8 hospice patients with 5 volunteer visits, 15 hours of respite care, 2 people with 40 hours of bereavement/grief support, 16 sessions. Ripton has 12 volunteers. **Request: \$500**

**Green Up Vermont** coordinates Vermont’s annual spring clean-up on the first Saturday of May. **Request: \$50**

**Homeward Bound** is a “private, open-admission animal shelter.” Programs include education, Pets in Crisis, Pets Eat, Too!, investigations, microchipping, lost and found, Trap-Neuter-Return. In 2020 Ripton residents adopted 15 animals and surrendered 5. **Request: \$750**

**Helping Overcome Poverty’s Effects (HOPE)** requests funds to help defray the costs of providing Ripton residents with heat, housing, food, clothing, medical items, and more. HOPE assisted 52 Ripton residents in 2020. **Request: \$3,000**

**John Graham Shelter** provided food, shelter, services and hope to more than 300 people at our shelter (many of whom were children); provided rapid re-housing, counseling, case management and support services. **Request: \$1,600**

**Middlebury Regional EMS (MREMS)** provides ambulance and heavy rescue service to the area. **Request: \$5,880**

**NeighborWorks of Western Vermont** promotes safe and affordable housing, focusing on sustainable homeownership. **Request: \$300**

**Open Door Clinic** provides access to high quality dental and healthcare, free of charge, to those who are uninsured or under-insured in accordance with 24 VSA § 2691. **Request: \$1,500**

**Otter Creek Child Care Center** supports young children and families in achieving their goals by providing high quality early care and education. Ripton residents served included 4 children for a cost of \$20,002.71 per resident. **Request: \$1,000** to support tuition assistance

**Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District** provides free technical assistance to landowners; programs include workshops, Conservation Field Day, green stormwater infrastructure, scholarships, Tree Sale, and the Envirothon. Four residents purchased trees from the tree sale. **Request: \$50**

**Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** is a volunteer management program that coordinates volunteers for their programs and local non-profit organizations. Through RSVP, Ripton residents volunteered over 430 hours last year. Service to Ripton residents in 2020 included free income tax return preparation, osteoporosis prevention classes, and clothing and blankets distributed through the elementary school. **Request: \$475**

**Tri Valley Transit (ACTR)** provided an average of 1,100 free Dial-a-Ride trips for Ripton residents during the past four years. In addition, the Snow Bowl Shuttle provided 2,130 rides through Ripton last year. **Request: \$1,901**

**Vermont Adult Learning** “offers a variety of learning opportunities to help adults achieve their educational goals and enhance their quality of life. We are grateful to the townspeople of Ripton for supporting the services we provide.” 2020 Ripton service: 1 resident. **Request: \$300**

**WomenSafe** offers a 24-hour hotline, transitional housing, advocacy and outreach services, support groups, supervised visitation and monitored exchange, and education. Ripton service: assisted at least 3 residents including parents and at least 1 child exposed to violence; 20 prevention programming presentations to 52 students and 9 adults at RES; 33 prevention programming presentations to 206 students and 32 staff at MUMS and MUHS serving Ripton students. **Request: \$1,250**



*Photo credit: Ripton Elementary School*

## Financial and Tax Reports

### Statement of Town Indebtedness

With **\$25,460.40** paid to the Vermont Bond Bank in FY20, the bond payment of \$335,116.39 is complete and the Town has no debt.

#### Vermont Bond Bank 2010-2019 (for 2008 flood expenses) \$275,000 at net 3.047251% interest

	Payment Date	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Payment Due	Payment Made
Loan Amount	7/21/09	\$275,000.00				
	10/14/19	\$25,000.00	3.861%	\$460.40	\$25,460.40	<b>\$25,460.40</b>
	Totals	\$275,000.00		\$47,092.67	\$335,116.39	\$335,116.39

## Account Balances

### Account Balances June 30, 2020

Intermediate Account: includes General Fund & Highway Fund	\$421,639.61
Checking	\$20,068.30
Major Projects Highway Fund	\$215,801.73
Town Building Fund	\$100,372.46
Reappraisal Fund	\$41,234.39



*Photo credit: Ripton Elementary School*

## Statement of Taxes

Tax Calculation for Year Ending June 30, 2020, **FY20**, from 2019 Billed Grand List

<b>Property Tax Rates</b>	<b>Tax Rate</b>	<b>Grand List</b>	<b>Total Raised</b>
Non-Residential Education	1.7697	260,108.00	460,313.17
Homestead Education	1.7579	382,011.00	671,537.15
Local voted exemption	0.0099	642,119.00	6,356.96
Highway Fund	0.2856	642,119.00	183,389.20
General Fund	0.3061	642,119.00	196,552.63
Total municipal rate	0.6016		
Total non-homestead rate	2.3713		
Total homestead rate	2.3595		
Total education tax			1,131,850.30
Total municipal tax			386,298.79
Total Tax			1,518,149.11
Total State Payments			193,055.68
Municipal Payments			6,227.00
Education Payments			186,828.68

Tax Calculation for Year Ending June 30, 2021, **FY21**, from 2020 Billed Grand List

<b>Property Tax Rates</b>	<b>Tax Rate</b>	<b>Grand List</b>	<b>Total Raised</b>
Non-Residential Education	1.8212	254,840.00	464,114.65
Homestead Education	1.8748	395,434.00	741,359.65
Local voted exemption	0.0100	650,274.00	6,502.74
Highway Fund	0.2847	650,274.00	185,133.09
General Fund	0.2745	650,274.00	178,500.09
Total municipal rate	0.5692		
Total non-homestead rate	2.3904		
Total homestead rate	2.4444		
Total education tax			1,205,474.30
Total municipal tax			370,135.92
Total Tax			1,575,610.22
Total State Payments			191,801.86
Municipal Payments			6,456.00
Education Payments			185,345.86

# Town Clerk Report

**Office Hours:** Per the Governor’s Executive Orders in 2020 and extended into 2021, we closed the town office to the public but continue working and allow appointments. We can fulfill many requests for documents electronically. The office is staffed 9-1 weekdays, and 1-5 Mondays, more coverage than pre-COVID. I am there most afternoons. If you call ahead, or knock on the door and we hear you, we will help you. For residents and property owners, the mail slot drop box, installed in the town office door through a grant from the Secretary of State, is helpful. We check it daily. Email is a good way to reach us.

**Document Preservation:** In FY20 and FY21 we preserved Grand List books. Years 1842-1929 are deacidified and bound. In FY22 we will send relatively recent land records books out for preservation. While scanning pages from the books, we found that the photocopier toner wears off the page. Preservation will stabilize the toner and prevent further fading. A \$14,800 Coronavirus Municipal Records Digitization Grant award paid for scanning and digitizing land records to make them available online. Documents may now be viewed and purchased through a portal at [riptonvermont.org](http://riptonvermont.org) and the digitization preserves them in another format.

**Dogs:** Vermont law requires dogs be licensed by April 1 annually. The information below from VSNIP explains why and how to get your dog vaccinated and licensed.

.....  
*The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP), under VT Economic Services, helps income challenged care-providers of cats & dogs neutered for \$27.00. The balance is paid ONLY by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, and put into a designated account.*

*VSNIP is now at “0” funding due to dogs not being registered at least by six months of age. Required by law, a rabies vaccination enables your dog to be licensed. While town offices may not be open to the public, dogs can be licensed. Call, provide the rabies certificate, include a check for that amount, and a SASE. **Rabies IS in Vermont and IS deadly.** Tractor Supply Stores are now holding monthly rabies clinics!*

**TRACTOR SUPPLY STORES: RABIES CLINICS FOR CATS & DOGS. CALL AHEAD TO BE SURE INFO IS CURRENT!**  
Middlebury: 476 Foote St. (802)-382-9292 TIME: 9:30 – 11:00 2.27.21 / 3.27.21

**Licensing a dog: 1)** identifies your dog if lost, **2)** provides proof that your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal {but would still need immediate medical attention}, **3)** bites another animal/person, which could result in the quarantine of your dog or possibly euthanasia to test for rabies if your current vaccination isn’t proven, **4)** helps support VSNIP to address the over-population of cats and dogs in VT, and **5) \$3590. List of dogs and wolf-hybrids not licensed states, in part ...** “the municipal clerk shall notify the owners or keepers of all dogs and wolf-hybrids named on the list that have not already been licensed or inoculated, and after May 30 shall furnish to the legislative body a list of dogs and wolf-hybrids not licensed or inoculated as required by law. **Owners shall also be notified that unlicensed or uninoculated dogs or wolf-hybrids may be destroyed.**” (No one wants this, so vaccinate & register – for the protection of your animals and people!

*For an application for VSNIP, send a SASE to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Indicate if this is for a cat/dog or both. 802-672-5302*

*Thanks! Sue Skaskiw, VVSA Director/ VSNIP Administrator: 802-672-5302.*

.....  
You may license your dog by mail or by using the drop box in the office door, if we have a current rabies vaccine certificate. If a new rabies certificate is due, drop it off, mail, email or fax it to us. Fees are \$9 for neutered or spayed dogs and \$13 for those that are not. Penalties are added after April 1. In 2020, **106 dogs** were licensed – thank you to their owners.

**Elections/Voting:** In FY20 we held the town meeting and presidential primary in our traditional way. For FY21 elections laws were temporarily changed to allow for COVID-19 precautions, such as mailing ballots to

all voters. These laws expired Dec. 31, 2020, and our Jan. 12 special election was held under pre-COVID rules. Late January 2021 legislation put COVID-19 precautions and options back in place. The Ripton selectboard chose not to change the town meeting date but approved voting on March 2 by Australian ballot. This is the same day the school district votes. If you requested a ballot by mail for the January special election, you will be mailed ballots. Otherwise, ballots will be mailed to voters upon request. We are not mailing ballots to all voters because all the towns in the ACSD and Hannaford Career Center Districts would need to do so, and that was not approved.

Full-time legal residents of Ripton may register to vote at the town office, through the DMV when renewing a driver's license, or online at the Secretary of State website, <http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>. Every voter has a "My Voter Page" at <http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us> with information about absentee and early voting, poll locations and hours, and voting history.

For FY21 we will be overbudget for elections due to the increase in absentee/early voting and the ACSD withdrawal vote in January. A \$5,000 Center for Technology and Civic Life Grant will offset some costs, but not the budget line for town clerk. The assistant clerk budget line may stay within the budget because many hours in fall 2020 were paid by the digitization grant. For FY22 we expect to have only the town meeting election.

#### **Election Results:**

- 2020 Town Meeting  
All Articles were approved, and officers elected. There were two advisory questions petitioned by voters. One was to change the way ACSD directors are elected, and the other was to allow a town vote about school closure. Both were approved. Full results are in the Minutes.
- 2020 Presidential Primary  
Democrat - Sanders 134, Biden 44, Warren 30, Bloomberg 14, Steyer 6, Klobuchar 1, Stewart 1, Yang 1. Republican – Trump 15, Weld 3
- 2020 State Primary  
Representative to Congress – Welch 148, Corbo 11; Brimmer 6; Berry 8, Tuthill 5, Tynio 4, Rodriguez 3  
Governor – Zuckerman 81, Holcombe 54, Scott 6, Winburn 5, Corbo 4; Wardinski 2; Scott 26, Klar 6, Peters 1  
Lt Governor – Gray 79, Ashe 42, Siegel 23, Ingram 5; Ericson 1, 6 write-ins; Milne 12, Hansen 11, Tucker 2, Colson 1  
Treasurer – Pearce 140; Ericson 1; Branagan 21  
Secretary of State – Condos 143; Ericson 1; Paige 22  
Auditor – Hoffer 96, Sullivan 47; Ericson 1; Hansen 1  
Attorney General – Donovan 138; Ericson 1; Peyton 9, Paige 8  
State Senator – Bray 113, Hardy 119; Briggs 21  
State Representative – Conlon 108  
High Bailiff – Silberman 83, Holmes 54  
123 voted early/absentee, 83 voted in person
- 2020 General Election  
President – Biden 280, Trump 76, Jorgensen 4, Hawkins 3, Sanders 3, Speed 1  
Representative to Congress – Welch 279, Berry 53, Becker 13, Helali 4, Trudell 3, Horne 2  
Governor – Scott 189, Zuckerman 165, Peyton 3, 1 each – Billado, Dickerson, Whitney, Briggs  
Lt Governor – Gray 246, Milne 94, Ericson 7, Corbo 3, 2 each – Billado, Zuckerman  
Treasurer – Pearce 250, Branagan 64, Wright 12, Ericson 9  
Secretary of State – Condos 252, Paige 62, Smith 16, Ericson 13  
Auditor – Hoffer 263, Ericson 53, Briggs 1  
Attorney General – Donovan 271, Paige 57, Ericson 17

State Senator – Bray 228, Hardy 217, Briggs 77, Christiano 44  
 State Representative – Conlon 187, M. Cox 117  
 High Bailiff – Silberman 203, Holmes 100, Elmore 37  
 Ripton Justices of the Peace – Anza Armstrong, Timothy Hanson, Perry Hanson, Richard “Kim”  
 Kimler, Warren King  
 371 voted early/absentee, 100 voted in person

- 2021 Special Election: Shall the Town of Ripton withdraw its membership from the Addison Central School District? 163, YES; 107, NO; 2 defective ballots  
 64 voted early/absentee, 208 voted in person

### Voter Participation

Town Meeting			State & Federal Elections		
Year	Total Voters	Voted	Election	Total Voters	Voted
2021	421	272 (65%)			
			General 2020	422	371 (88%)
			State Primary '20	418	206 (49%)
2020	434	257 (59%)	Pres Primary '20	434	250 (57%)
2019	430	145 (33%)	General 2018	429	304 (71%)
2018	408	134 (33%)	Primary 2018	414	167 (40%)
2017	415	119 (29%)	General 2016	429	313 (73%)
			State Primary '16	419	128 (31%)
2016	406	216 (53%)	Pres Primary '16	406	216 (53%)

**Recording:** As of July 1, 2019, \$4 of the \$15 per page recording fee is allocated to a *Restoration and Preservation Reserve Fund*. The Fund accumulated \$2,519 in FY20, which was spent on document preservation. Assistant clerk, Paula Scott, does most of our land records recording, summarized in the table.

Land Records	FY20	FY19	FY18	2017	2016	2015
Property Transfers	35	37	45	44	36	35
# Pages Recorded	602	586	581	589	635	685

**Vital records:** Birth and death records may be requested anytime from the Vermont Department of Health vital records system at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/stats/vital-records>. You may request birth and death records from us, and we will download them from the Dept. of Health site. We issue marriage licenses and provide copies of marriage certificates from town records.

Vital Records	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Births	5	1	0	6	6
Marriages	5	5	3	4	6
Deaths	5	2	5	4	5

**2020 U.S. Census:** Thank you for your participation in the 2020 Census. It will determine the distribution of funds we receive from federal programs including special education funding, school lunch programs, meals on wheels, fuel assistance, Medicare, early childhood education, and more.

Alison Joseph Dickinson  
 Town Clerk

## Board of Listers Report

**Grand List:** The listers prepare the annual grand list, the record of property ownership and assessed value as of April 1. Assessed values are based on the last town-wide reappraisal year, 2011. The state adjusts the grand list to an equalized 100% value for the statewide education tax by studying three years of property sales. A common level of appraisal (CLA) and coefficient of dispersion (COD) are determined based on those sales. The CLA is the ratio of the grand list value to an “equalized” 100%. The coefficient of dispersion (COD) is a measure of how fairly property tax is distributed.

### **Grand List Summary for FY20 June 30, 2019 – July 1, 2020**

- Municipal Grand List: 642,119.00
- Education Grand List: 645,690.00
- Common Level of Appraisal (CLA): 89.39%
- Coefficient of Dispersion (COD): 10.81%
- Current Use Appraisal Program: 39 properties were enrolled, \$146,338 in property tax saved.
- Property Tax Reduction Summary: Homesteads were declared by 184 owners, 124 or 67.4% of whom received education tax credits. The average credit was \$1,501. Municipal tax credits, averaging \$328, were received by 19 owners.

### **Grand List Summary for FY21 June 30, 2020 – July 1, 2021**

- Municipal Grand List: 650,274.00; change from 2019 +8,155.00
- Education Grand List: 653,845.00; change from 2019 +8,155.00
- Common Level of Appraisal (CLA): 89.78%.
- Coefficient of Dispersion (COD): 12.36%
- Change of Appraisal: Due to COVID-19 there were no interior inspections. Thank you to those who answered questions and provided photos. Values changed for 31 properties.
- Grievance Hearings: The Listers received grievance appeals for 2 properties. Both were minor corrections and approved.
- Current Use Appraisal Program: 40 properties were enrolled, \$156,648 in property tax saved.
- Property Tax Reduction Summary: Homesteads were declared by 195 owners, 132 or 67.7% of whom received education tax credits. The average credit was \$1,421. Municipal tax credits, averaging \$364, were received by 20 owners.

**Reappraisal** is required when the CLA is below 85% and the COD above 20%. There is no time requirement for reappraisal. As of Jan. 30, 2021, there is \$41,240.90 in the Reappraisal Fund, which is funded by an annual payment of about \$3,600 from the state. Reappraisals cost roughly \$100 per parcel. We have approximately 420 parcels, excluding non-tax parcels. We have not budgeted for reappraisal in FY22 but should plan for it after FY22.

**Sales:** The table shows the 3-years of sales through April 1, 2020 that determine the CLA, plus sales after April 1, 2020. The grand list value is the town’s assessed value as of April 1 of the sales year. If there is no street number, it is a land sale. SFD = single family dwelling, MFD = multi-family dwelling, ac = acres

**Homestead Declarations:** Vermont requires residents to file a homestead declaration by **April 15** even if a property owner files for an extension. The declaration determines eligibility for a property tax adjustment credit and, if on time, assures there will be no late-filer penalty. **PLEASE FILE ON TIME.**

Board of Listers

Alison Joseph Dickinson, Beth Eliason, Erik Eriksen

**Ripton Sales Data – 2018-2020**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Seller</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Sale Price</b>	<b>Grand List Val</b>
2571 North Branch Rd	0.96 ac & camp	Bohnert Estate	Dec-20	\$84,000	\$74,400
50 Billings Old Town Rd	10.39 ac & SFD	Walker	Nov-20	\$325,000	\$301,200
202 Robbins Crossroad	10.01 ac & SFD	McCarty & Phelps	Oct-20	\$316,000	\$247,800
671-3 North Branch Rd	1 ac & SFD & MFD	Carney	Oct-20	\$171,000	\$162,200
599 Selden Mill Rd	19.1 ac & SFD	Phinney & Hagerman	Oct-20	\$440,000	\$427,500
1207 Lincoln Rd	17 ac & SFD	Danek	Oct-20	\$260,000	\$191,800
220 Lincoln Rd	3.1 ac & SFD	Smith	Sept-20	\$387,000	\$290,800
669 Maiden Lane	0.45 ac & SFD	Ferland	Sept-20	\$162,000	\$93,700
520 Chandler Hill Rd	10.1 ac	Campbell	Sept-20	\$50,000	\$48,300
498 Old Town Rd	10.45 ac & SFD	Coeby	Aug-20	\$295,000	\$239,600
1062 North Branch Rd	4.13 ac & SFD	Pfeifer	July-20	\$290,000	\$247,100
Lincoln Rd	5.55 ac	Stewart	July-20	\$45,000	\$49,700
Natural Turnpike	2.09 ac	Woodhams	June-20	\$39,900	\$26,400
Goshen Rd	53.6 ac	Neilsen	June-20	\$150,000	\$143,400
2943 North Branch Rd	2.7 ac & SFD	Groleau	June-20	\$155,000	\$92,400
118 Maiden Lane	37.61 ac, shop/apt	Weinstein	May-20	\$340,000	\$280,100
1198 Lincoln Rd	1.2 ac & SFD	Beardsley	Feb-20	\$40,000	\$89,500
150 Wimett Lane	2.5 ac & SFD	Emilio	Jan-20	\$285,000	\$233,800
Old Goshen Rd	.49 ac	Ross	Nov-19	\$10,000	\$13,000
27 Robbins Crossroad	5.8 ac & SFD	Stewart	Oct-19	\$185,000	\$209,600
58 Peddlers Bridge Rd	7.2 ac & SFD	Brown	Oct-19	\$275,000	\$249,900
1625 Lincoln Rd	2.5 ac & SFD	Wimett	Sept-19	\$185,000	\$144,900
Billings Farm Rd	6.56 ac	Billings	July-19	\$34,000	\$32,100
732 Maiden Ln	.74 ac & SFD	Billings	June-19	\$200,000	\$155,300
162 Hemlock Ln	10 ac & camp	White	June-19	\$65,000	\$54,800
47 Scott Rd	7.2 ac & camp	Ellis	June-19	\$57,000	\$55,200
503 Pearl Lee Rd	30 ac & SFD	Morse	June-19	\$420,000	\$468,600
371 County Cross Rd	13.7 ac & SFD	Kleine	May-19	\$140,000	\$141,500
3791 Lincoln Rd	13.63 ac & SFD	Ramsey	May-19	\$195,000	\$153,000
1410 Lincoln Rd	1.01 ac & SFD	Prager & Wheeler	Apr-19	\$235,000	\$186,100
753 Pearl Lee Rd	1.5 ac & SFD	Alexander	Feb-19	\$136,000	\$131,700
Hemlock Lane	10.02 ac	McLaughlin	Dec-18	\$32,000	\$33,700
Pearl Lee Rd	17 ac	N'Shaiha	Dec-18	\$55,000	\$54,600
395 Natural Turnpike	7.8 ac & SFD	Woodhams	Nov-18	\$90,000	\$116,600
1192 Rte. 125	0.5 ac & store	Collitt	Nov-18	\$175,000	\$154,700
441 Maiden Lane	2.3 ac & SFD	Dunakin	Oct-18	\$240,000	\$213,800
220 Wagon Wheel Rd	14 ac & SFD	Read	Sep-18	\$275,000	\$180,000
113 Murray Lane	1.45 ac & SFD	Cornell	Sep-18	\$180,000	\$143,400
1207 Lincoln Rd	17 ac & SFD	Martin	Sep-18	\$187,500	\$191,800
3087 Natural Turnpike	17.71 ac & SFD	Pike	Aug-18	\$385,000	\$254,000
2777 Rte. 125	1.4 ac & SFD	Ryan	Jul-18	\$100,000	\$157,400
2338 North Branch Rd	9.9 ac & SFD	Nikitin	May-18	\$400,000	\$369,700
3792 Lincoln Rd	1.5 ac & SFD	Larocque	May-18	\$65,000	\$117,800
1078 Natural Turnpike	1 ac & SFD	Corbin	May-18	\$145,000	\$150,500
1797 North Branch Rd	2.5 ac & camp	Herringshaw	Apr-18	\$50,000	\$81,900
Eagles Nest Rd	11.25 ac	Harms	Feb-18	\$35,000	\$48,100

(Taxable properties only - State and Non-tax status properties are not listed below)

REAL ESTATE Category/Code	Parcel Count	Municipal Listed Value	Homestead Ed Listed Value	Non-Resi Ed. Listed Value	Total Education Listed Value
Residential I R1	114	19,884,700	15,464,400	4,420,300	19,884,700
Residential II R2	123	35,621,400	23,717,400	11,904,000	35,621,400
Mobile Homes-U MHU	2	114,300	0	114,300	114,300
Mobile Homes-L MHL	12	994,300	628,000	366,300	994,300
Seasonal I S1	17	960,300	69,400	890,900	960,300
Seasonal II S2	27	2,479,800	0	2,479,800	2,479,800
Commercial C	19	2,963,200	372,600	2,590,600	2,963,200
Commercial Apts CA	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial I	0	0	0	0	0
Utilities-E UE	1	1,039,800	0	1,039,800	1,039,800
Utilities-O UO	0	0	0	0	0
Farm F	0	0	0	0	0
Other O	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland W	15	3,200,400	0	3,200,400	3,200,400
Miscellaneous M	69	3,553,300	53,700	3,499,600	3,553,300
<b>TOTAL LISTED REAL</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>70,811,500</b>	<b>40,305,500</b>	<b>30,506,000</b>	<b>70,811,500</b>
P.P. Cable	0	0		0	0
P.P. Equipment	0	0			
P.P. Inventory	0	0			
<b>TOTAL LISTED P.P.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL LISTED VALUE</b>		<b>70,811,500</b>	<b>40,305,500</b>	<b>30,506,000</b>	<b>70,811,500</b>
<b>EXEMPTIONS</b>					
Veterans 10K	3/3	30,000	20,000	10,000	30,000
Veterans >10K		90,000			
<b>Total Veterans</b>		<b>120,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>
P.P. Contracts	0	0			
Contract Apprv VEPC	0/0	0	0	0	0
Grandfathered	0/0	0	0	0	0
Non-Apprv (voted)	1/1	267,100			
Owner Pays Ed Tax	0/0	0			
<b>Total Contracts</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>267,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
FarmStab Apprv VEPC	0/0	0	0	0	0
Farm Grandfathered	0/0	0	0	0	0
Non-Apprv (voted)	0/0	0			
Owner Pays Ed Tax	0/0	0			
<b>Total FarmStabContr</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Current Use	39/39	6,212,500	2,024,400	4,188,100	6,212,500
Special Exemptions	0		0	0	0
Partial Statutory	0/0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sub-total Exemptions</b>		<b>6,599,600</b>	<b>2,044,400</b>	<b>4,198,100</b>	<b>6,242,500</b>
<b>Total Exemptions</b>		<b>6,599,600</b>	<b>2,044,400</b>	<b>4,198,100</b>	<b>6,242,500</b>
<b>TOTAL MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST</b>		<b>642,119.00</b>			
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION GRAND LIST</b>			<b>382,611.00</b>	<b>263,079.00</b>	<b>645,690.00</b>
<b>NON-TAX</b>	<b>28 NON-TAX PARCELS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE 411</b>				

(Taxable properties only - State and Non-tax status properties are not listed below)

REAL ESTATE Category/Code	Parcel Count	Municipal Listed Value	Homestead Ed Listed Value	Nonhmstd Ed. Listed Value	Total Education Listed Value
Residential I R1	116	20,231,900	16,397,200	3,834,700	20,231,900
Residential II R2	125	35,861,600	24,487,200	11,374,400	35,861,600
Mobile Homes-U MHU	2	114,300	53,100	61,200	114,300
Mobile Homes-L MHL	12	994,300	482,200	512,100	994,300
Seasonal I S1	15	932,200	78,100	854,100	932,200
Seasonal II S2	28	2,422,700	93,600	2,329,100	2,422,700
Commercial C	19	2,963,200	372,600	2,590,600	2,963,200
Commercial Apts CA	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial I	0	0	0	0	0
Utilities-E UE	1	1,703,600	0	1,703,600	1,703,600
Utilities-O UO	0	0	0	0	0
Farm F	0	0	0	0	0
Other O	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland W	15	3,200,400	0	3,200,400	3,200,400
Miscellaneous M	69	3,518,000	15,400	3,502,600	3,518,000
<b>TOTAL LISTED REAL</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>71,942,200</b>	<b>41,979,400</b>	<b>29,962,800</b>	<b>71,942,200</b>
P.P. Cable	0	0		0	0
P.P. Equipment	0	0			
P.P. Inventory	0	0			
<b>TOTAL LISTED P.P.</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL LISTED VALUE</b>		<b>71,942,200</b>	<b>41,979,400</b>	<b>29,962,800</b>	<b>71,942,200</b>
<b>EXEMPTIONS</b>					
Veterans 10K	3/3	30,000	20,000	10,000	30,000
Veterans >10K		90,000			
<b>Total Veterans</b>		<b>120,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>
P.P. Contracts	0	0			
Contract Apprv VEPC	0/0	0	0	0	0
Grandfathered	0/0	0	0	0	0
Non-Apprv (voted)	1/1	267,100			
Owner Pays Ed Tax	0/0	0			
<b>Total Contracts</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>267,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
FarmStab Apprv VEPC	0/0	0	0	0	0
Farm Grandfathered	0/0	0	0	0	0
Non-Apprv (voted)	0/0	0			
Owner Pays Ed Tax	0/0	0			
<b>Total FarmStabContr</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Current Use	40/40	6,527,700	2,356,000	4,171,700	6,527,700
Special Exemptions	0		0	0	0
Partial Statutory	0/0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sub-total Exemptions</b>		<b>6,914,800</b>	<b>2,376,000</b>	<b>4,181,700</b>	<b>6,557,700</b>
<b>Total Exemptions</b>		<b>6,914,800</b>	<b>2,376,000</b>	<b>4,181,700</b>	<b>6,557,700</b>
<b>TOTAL MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST</b>		<b>650,274.00</b>			
<b>TOTAL EDUCATION GRAND LIST</b>			<b>396,034.00</b>	<b>257,811.00</b>	<b>653,845.00</b>
<b>NON-TAX</b>	<b>28 NON-TAX PARCELS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE 411</b>				

## Delinquent Tax Report

**Delinquent Tax Sale:** After three years of tax owed and no payment plan agreement, the Randall property at 1568 North Branch Road was subject to tax sale June 18, 2019. With no bidders, the Town purchased the property for the \$7,882.27 due. The owner did not redeem the property from the Town by paying the \$7,882.27 delinquent tax, plus 1% interest per month, total \$8,828.14 by June 18, 2020. Fines and an additional year of delinquent tax were also owed.

**FY20 Delinquent Tax:** Total due June 30, 2020: **\$11,398.16**

As of June 30, 2020, delinquent tax, and/or penalty and interest was owed by:

David Bralow  
Joseph Charest & Carolyn Malzac  
Daniel Coughlan  
William Howard & Diana Whitney  
Cheryl Larocque  
Ian, Brian, John Sr. Peck  
John Peck Jr. & John Peck Sr.  
Pamela Randall/Town of Ripton  
Ronald Stevers

**Current Year Delinquent Tax:** Total due Jan. 25, 2021: **\$27,962.52.** The Selectboard waived interest through May 2, 2021. As of January 25, 2021, delinquent tax, and/or penalty was owed by:

David Bralow  
Joseph Charest & Carolyn Malzac  
Daniel Coughlan  
Anthony & Roy Gover  
William Howard & Diana Whitney  
Thomas & Donna Kerr  
David Manning  
Robert Moran  
Thomas Olson  
Ian, Brian, John Sr. Peck  
John Peck Jr. & John Peck Sr.  
Ronald Stevers  
James Thompson  
Jean Winter

# Zoning Administrator's Report

## SUMMARY OF PERMIT ACTIVITY -

Calendar Year 2020

New dwellings	
Permanent/seasonal houses .....	5
Camps.....	2
Apartments/accessory dwellings.....	0
Mobile homes .....	0
Replacements .....	0
Renovations/additions .....	6
Accessory outbuildings/structures.....	6
Exempt agricultural outbuildings .....	0
Access drives/roads/work in right-of-way.....	2
Ponds/dams/other land development .....	0
Renewable resource uses (wind turbines, solar panels) .....	0
Temporary uses.....	1
Signs .....	0
Subdivisions	
Single-lot .....	2
Multiple lot.....	0
Boundary adjustments .....	1
Planned unit developments (PUDs) .....	0
Renewals of permit .....	0
Conditional uses.....	2
Certificates of occupancy .....	3
Verifications of compliance.....	9
Notices of Violation.....	0
Hearing applications	
Zoning Board of Adjustment	
Conditional use.....	3
Site Plan Reviews.....	0
Variances/Waivers.....	0
Appeals.....	0
Planning Commission	
Subdivisions/PUDs.....	3
Site plan reviews.....	0
Historic District Commission	
Historic District developments .....	1

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan C. Heppell, Zoning Administrator

## Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment, and Historic District Commission Report

The Ripton Planning Commission (RPC) provides land use planning for the Town. The Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) considers conditional and non-conforming use applications, rules on applications for variances and waivers from the Unified Development Bylaw and serves as an appeal body for decisions by the Zoning Administrator. The Historic District Commission (HDC) provides guidance on external changes to properties in the Historic District. The Town Plan, Unified Development Bylaw, and state statutes guide the decisions of these commissions.

### 2020 Permit Summary:

January: Conducted a hearing and approved a minor subdivision for Dr. Carrie Wulfman.

March: Conducted a public hearing regarding a conditional use permit for Mr. and Ms. Lobert to rebuild a residential structure.

April: Continued the public hearing and approved with conditions an application for a conditional use permit for Mr. and Ms. Lobert.

June: Conducted a public hearing and approved a conditional use permit for Mr. Caleb Allen and Ms. Julie Allen to construct a garage. Conducted a public hearing regarding an application for minor subdivision by The Conservation Fund to exclude a camp and two-acre parcel as a condition for transfer of ~423 acres to the U.S. Forest Service. The hearing was continued to June 23<sup>rd</sup> at which time the application was rejected.

August: Conducted a public hearing of the sketch plan for a three-lot subdivision by Mr. Millard Cox and Ms. Lauren Cox. The preliminary plan meeting has not yet been scheduled. Conducted a public hearing and approved the Ripton Energy Plan.

September: Conducted and approved with conditions a request for a two-lot subdivision by Mr. Levi Doria and Ms. Joanna Fontaine Doria for the purpose of creating a location for a new Town sand shed.

November: Conducted a public hearing for a conditional use permit by the Town of Ripton to build a sand shed. The hearing was continued to December.

December: Concluded the public hearing for the Town of Ripton conditional use application to build a sand shed. The permit was approved with conditions.

Marty Kulczyk, Chair



*Photo credit: B. Eliason*

## Energy Coordinator's Report

The Ripton Energy Assistance Program (REAP) provides firewood or payments for fuel oil, kerosene or propane for households that qualify under criteria provided by HOPE, with which REAP has a collaborative arrangement. Wood can be made available in an emergency or to avert a likely emergency. In the winter of 2019-2020 REAP provided 1 order of propane and 1 cord of firewood. REAP received 1.5 cords of split and dried firewood from a generous donor. Volunteers will be needed from time to time to cut, split and stack firewood at the REAP woodshed beside the Ripton Fire Station. Contact Mac Cox (388-7820 or [millardcox@gmail.com](mailto:millardcox@gmail.com)) if you know of someone in need of firewood or who needs help paying for fuel oil, kerosene or propane. On 17 December 2020 the REAP Steering Committee approved its first bylaw, a copy of which is on file in the Town Office.

Ripton has approved an energy plan that conforms to the plans of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan, and Act 174, which calls for 90 percent renewable energy use by 2050. The Ripton Planning Commission approved the draft Energy Plan following a hearing on August 12, 2020. The Ripton Selectboard approved the Energy Plan following a hearing on November 9, 2020. It is now a part of the Ripton Town Plan.

Warren King



*Photo credit: Ripton Elementary School*

## Conservation Commission Report

Highlights of 2020 activities for the Ripton Conservation Commission:

2020 certainly presented a challenging year for all of us. The Ripton Conservation Commission continued to meet but, as with other organizations, we moved from in-person meetings to on-line meetings. Technology has helped all of us stay connected during these times.

Following COVID-19 safe guidelines, our 2020 activities were restricted. Here is a summary of what the Ripton Conservation Commission worked on in 2020.

**Emerald Ash Borer Project** - The Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive insect that kills North American ash trees. The Emerald Ash Borer has been identified in Bristol and it is only a matter of time before it appears in Ripton. In 2020, the Conservation Commission worked with the Town to develop a plan and map Ash trees along rights-of-way on specific roads in Ripton. This mapping helps the State gather data and the Selectboard make decisions about tree removal.

**Invasive Plant Control** – The Conservation Commission continued to identify and remove invasive plants in Ripton. In some places, the invasive plants have grown to the point where they can only be addressed via mechanical or chemical treatments. We focus on critical areas where we can work to control or eliminate the invasive plants. In 2020, we pulled Garlic Mustard, Narrow-leaf Bitter Cress, Wild Chervil, Dame’s Rocket, and Wild Parsnip. Due to education outreach efforts concerning invasive plants in Ripton, the Conservation Commission was able to enlist other community members to assist with invasive plant control this year.

**US Forest Service land acquisition from The Conservation Fund** – The Ripton Planning Commission reviewed the final plans for the US Forest Service acquisition of land from The Conservation Fund. One of the plots included Ripton’s largest wetland (approx. 126 acres) and 5 smaller wetlands (approx. 26 acres). The Ripton Conservation Commission submitted comments to the Ripton Planning Commission concerning this portion of the land acquisition.

**Stream Reclassification Project** - The Ripton Conservation Commission has pursued stream reclassification of three tributaries of the Middlebury River in Ripton to enhance the streams’ long-term protection. To encourage a response from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, the Conservation Commission secured approval from the Ripton Selectboard to invite the Vermont Natural Resources Commission and the Conservation Law Foundation to join Ripton’s effort to elicit a response from the Agency of Natural Resources.

Mark Nelson, Chair



*Photo credit: B. Eliason*

## Recycling Information

### DUMPSTER OUTSIDE SHED

- Corrugated cardboard only, broken down and flattened, not just crushed

### BIG CONTAINER INSIDE SHED

- **All recyclables must be clean.**
- Metal food or beverage containers if clean, preferably flattened
- Aluminum foil, pie and baking tins
- Glass bottles and jars, all colors, without caps
- Plastic bottles that are not redeemable (like for water); rinsed, can have caps
- Plastic containers/lids with triangular recycling symbol (number 1-7), **but NO Styrofoam of any sort**, any lids must be all plastic and larger than 2"
- Paper:
  - newspaper, magazines, catalogs, boxboard (cereal boxes, etc.)
  - paperback and telephone books
  - office paper, junk mail, construction paper
  - un-reusable paper bags, cardboard egg cartons
  - paper-lined (not plastic-lined) grain sacs
  - wrapping paper (except metallized paper)

### ELSEWHERE INSIDE THE SHED

- **BATTERIES:** Household batteries should be placed in container labeled batteries. NO car or industrial batteries (these should be taken to the transfer station)
- **REDEEMABLE** cans and bottles (proceeds go to Friends of Ripton School)
- **EGG CARTONS:** Whole and clean cardboard egg cartons
- **METAL:** Scrap metal of all shapes and sizes (into the labeled barrels)

### **SORRY, we cannot take the following:**

- **No Plastic bags of any kind!** However, you can bring them to the Transfer Station yourself. For information go to [AddisonCountyRecycles.org](http://AddisonCountyRecycles.org) or ask for a flyer at the town office.
- No containers with food residue
- **No Styrofoam at all!** No peanuts, blocks, chunks, sheets, or trays, even with a recycling symbol
- No plastic containers without the recycling symbol
- No loose bottle and jar caps smaller than 2"
- No sheet glass, dishware, goblets and drinking glasses, Pyrex, light bulbs
- No coated cardboard milk or juice containers, waxed, carbon or metallized paper, ribbon, plastic-lined grain sacs, or other compound materials
- No car batteries (take to Transfer Station)
- No fluorescent bulbs (take to Transfer Station)
- No paint cans, even if the paint is dry - the Transfer Station takes full or largely full paint cans.
- **No books, personal or household items!** – These should be brought to the Transfer Station or donated to HOPE or another organization.

**Questions?** Call Barry or Warren King 388-4082 or the Town Office 388-2266.

## Recycling Report

Ripton Recycling was open 36 days in 2020 and was staffed by a total of 60 volunteers, many for the first time. The program cannot operate without volunteers so if you are not on the list yet and are willing to work once every couple of years, we could use your help. Contact the Town Office (388-2266) or the recycling coordinator (388-4082) to let us know. Special thanks go to Mac Cox who makes the monthly Wednesday evening sessions work smoothly. And thanks also to Lyle Webb who tirelessly helps volunteers and residents with recycling as well as trash.

Recycling and trash drop-off take place on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 9 a.m. to noon and recycling only (no trash) on the first Wednesday of each month from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Although recycling drop-off is free to residents, a contribution of \$3 helps offset the cost to the Town. In FY20, the Town paid Casella \$10,896.91 to haul our recycling. In that same period, recycling donations amounted to \$2,547.44.

**Recyclables** are listed on separate page. Information is also at the Solid Waste District website <https://www.addisoncountyrecycles.org>.

**Trash** drop-off ends at 11:45 a.m. on recycling Saturdays. Trash disposal is \$3-5 per bag depending on weight. All trash should be disposed of correctly; **dumping is illegal as is burning household waste in burn barrels**. Both are subject to a fine. The burning fumes pose a danger to downwind neighbors.

**Leaf and yard waste** (grass clippings, leaves, small twigs) can be brought to the Recycling Shed for \$5/bag or to the Transfer Station for \$2/small load. Clean wood (branches, stumps, roots) is accepted at the Transfer Station only.

**Household food scraps** must be composted rather than put into the trash, according to state law. If you are concerned about nuisance animals, you can put meat and bones into your trash and compost the rest. If you cannot compost at home, you can bring your food scraps to the Transfer Station for \$1 up to 5-gallons, or bring them, in a pail separate from your trash, to Lyle on drop-off Saturdays for \$5 for up to 5-gallons.

Recycling Committee

Millard Cox, Barry King, Warren King, Mark Nelson, Steve Zwicky

## Green Up Day

**GREEN UP DAY** is a special day in Vermont when thousands of volunteers do a massive spring clean-up of litter. It is the largest statewide volunteer event in Vermont with over 22,000 taking part, and the only statewide Green Up Day in the US. Green Up Day is the first Saturday in May, but in 2020 it was postponed to the last Saturday, due to COVID-19. In 2021 Green Up Day is Saturday, May 1. Contact Steve Zwicky (388-2301) or Warren King (388-4082) to find out how to participate.



## Ripton Community Coffee House Report

The Ripton Community Coffee House is a nonprofit concert series held at the Ripton Community House on the first Saturday night of every month (except July and August). It has been going since May 1995. Usually, concerts start with an open-mic set followed by the featured performer, but due to COVID-19 all in-person concerts have been suspended since our concert on March 7th. We have been doing streaming concerts since September, but they do not include the open-mic portion.

We hosted seven concerts in 2020. Our three in-person concerts had an average attendance of about 100 people. Three of our seven featured performers were from Vermont. We had four open mike performers for each of our three in-person concerts. Once it is safe to host in-person concerts again, we encourage anyone interested in performing for the open-mic to sign up. We have four 12-minute open-mic slots at each concert, so even if you have only limited talent, it just needs to stretch to fill twelve minutes!

Our organization is completely volunteer run. The refreshment sales at our concerts are fundraisers for nonprofit organizations. In 2020 the beneficiaries of our three concerts were the Wellspring End of Life Services, Otter Creek Daycare, and the Ripton Community Coffee House. Once it is safe to host in-person concerts again, if you are interested in running the refreshment sales to make money for your nonprofit organization, please contact Andrea Chesman at 388-9782.

We are looking forward to the time when it is again safe to host our concert series back in the Ripton Community House and hope to see many Ripton folks there then. To find out more about the Ripton Community Coffee House, visit our website at [www.rcch.org](http://www.rcch.org).



*Photo courtesy of Ripton Community Coffee House*

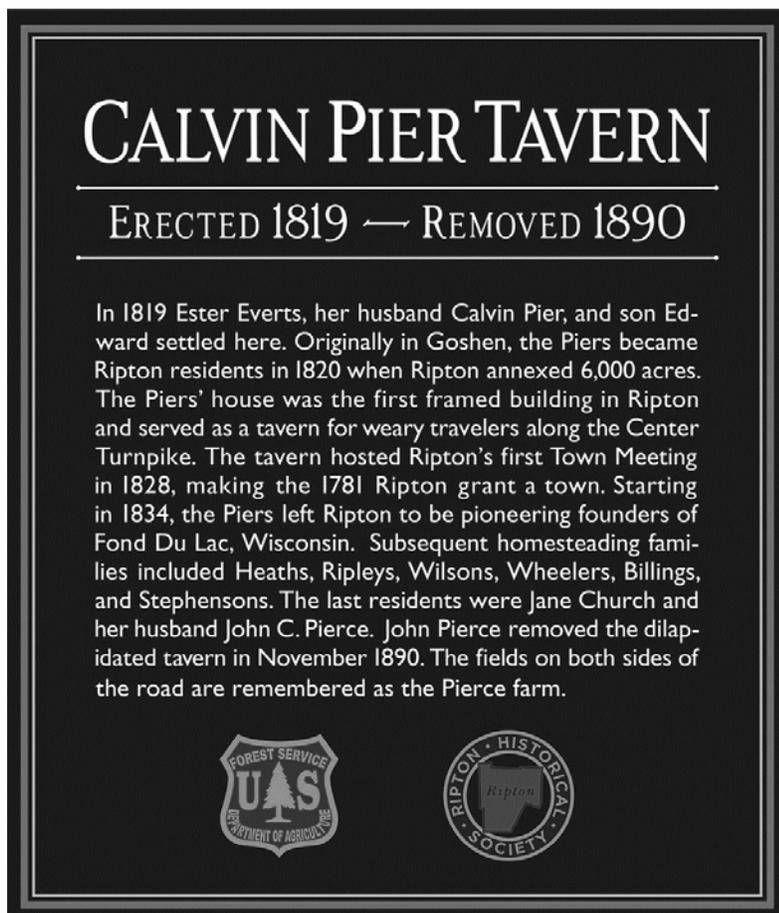
## Ripton Historical Society Report

**Ripton Historical Society** was re-established in April 2014 and currently has about 15 members. RHS seeks to collect, preserve, and restore Ripton's diverse history, and to present that history to the community. Members also seek out and enjoy different aspects of our regional and Vermont history by attending events sponsored by other organizations. At the beginning of the year, five monthly meetings were held at Ripton Town Office, and after COVID took hold three meetings were held virtually. Most planned activities, like the May presentation of "Breaking the Secret ENIGMA Codes" by Bristol Historical Society, were canceled due to the virus. Charles Billings did manage to attend several local history discussions in the well-ventilated, open-door event, at Jack Brown's historic East Middlebury grist mill. Ian Malin and Jerry Shedd were able to add PayPal to the RHS website <http://riptonhistoric.org>, making it possible to benefit RHS by processing memberships, donations, and book orders for *A History of Ripton, Vermont*.

Ripton Historical Society officers are: President - Charles Billings; Secretary - Alison J. Dickinson; Webmaster - Ian Malin; Curator - Paula Scott; Treasurer - Jerry Shedd; and Vice President - Norm Tjossem. RHS invites anyone interested in Ripton history to join RHS and be included in the RHS email announcements. For more information contact Charles Billings by mail at Ripton Historical Society, P.O. Box 140, Ripton, Vermont 05766, by phone 388-1634, or by email to [charlsbillings@gmail.com](mailto:charlsbillings@gmail.com).

At February's RHS meeting it was agreed to pursue a sign to be placed at the location of Calvin Pier's Tavern to document it as an historic Ripton site and a USFS Cultural Heritage Site. The old Tavern's cellar hole is located on USFS land on the north side of Route 125, a few hundred yards west of Robert Frost Wayside. After preparing a brief history of the Tavern, it was presented to USFS archeologists David Lacy and Andrew Triplett.

After much COVID delay, an onsite meeting was held on June 25<sup>th</sup>. RHS was represented by Alison Dickinson, Paula Scott, Charles Billings, and Gary Whitman attending as the sign expert. USFS attendees included Sarah Skinner (interim archaeologist due to the reassignment of Andrew Triplett), David Lacey (archaeologist, retired), and Chris Matrick (District Ranger). Everyone agreed that the Pier sign would benefit Ripton's and USFS' goals and would be a good addition alongside the handicap accessible path USFS has planned for 2021 to connect Robert Frost Wayside and Interpretive Trail. RHS commissioned the sign shown here. It was executed by Mountain Signs and is ready to be installed this summer, after USFS has established the path and removed the shrubbery inside the Pier cellar hole.



## Maple Broadband

The effort to expand the availability of affordable, reliable, high-speed internet service across Addison County is well under way. To date, 16 towns, including Ripton, have joined Maple Broadband, the non-profit municipal collaborative that is focused on bringing high-speed, reliable, affordable internet access - along with prompt, user-friendly customer service and support - to all households and businesses in Addison County. A combination of user fees; state, federal and private charitable grants; and loans – but no taxpayer dollars - will fund the effort. So far, the select boards that have voted to join this organization, (called a Communications Union District), are Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Panton, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Waltham and Weybridge.

Since its formation this summer, and with help from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, Maple Broadband (MB) has already secured grants totaling \$160,000 and is working to apply for additional grant funds as well. It hired consultants to conduct a feasibility study, which is completed. Establishing a public/private partnership with an existing internet provider and developing a business plan will be the next steps. That should be completed this winter. Raising the necessary funds, through grants and loans, and building the pole-to-pole-to-house fiber infrastructure across our county, including our more rural areas, will take time. MB aims to be providing service to its first Addison County customers beginning as early as spring 2022.

Steve Huffaker, chair of the MB Executive Committee, and a resident of Ferrisburgh, described the mission of the organization this way, “Access to true high-speed internet service (100 Mb/s download and 100 Mb/s upload) is key to community development in our region. Many people in the county who have internet service today are getting speeds well below what the Vermont Department of Public Service deems

adequate (25Mb/s download / 3Mb/s upload). Some others do not have internet service at all. Broadly available high-speed internet will enable Addison County residents to have equitable access to information. It will attract new businesses and jobs. It will attract new families, looking to settle in a place where adults and students can work from home, even after this pandemic is behind us. It will enable residents to take advantage of telemedicine services. It will enhance the ability of public officials to communicate with each other and with the communities they serve.”

More information about Maple Broadband, including updates and pre-subscription surveys will be available in the coming months on the MB website. In the meantime, if you have questions, please contact Ripton’s representative on the Maple Broadband Board: Billy Sneed, ([billy@maplebroadband.net](mailto:billy@maplebroadband.net) or [billy@sneed.org](mailto:billy@sneed.org) or 382-8780)



*Photo credit: B. Eliason*

## Report from the Ripton Post Office

**Hours:** My hours are Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. We are closed all Federal holidays. If the mail volume is such that I need to stay longer, I will stay until all the mail is up.

**Packages:** There are only 14 parcel lockers – so here is my system of package delivery:

1. **A key!** – If you have a key in your box, you have parcels in the parcel locker. Each key is numbered to a corresponding locker. The key goes in the chrome lock not the gold one. The key stays in the lock after you retrieve your parcels.
2. **Peach slip** - If you find a peach slip in your box, I took your packages to East Middlebury and you can pick them up during their hours.
3. **Yellow card** - If you find a yellow card in your box, the parcel is in the Ripton Post Office. Either the parcel is too large for the lockers, you have multiple packages that won't fit in a locker, or you have to sign for something. Please come in during my hours or leave me a note to take it to East Middlebury.
4. **No key, but tracking says it is here** - and you have no peach slip or yellow card – it is probably sitting on the shelf awaiting a parcel locker. We operate on 1<sup>st</sup> in 1<sup>st</sup> out, and our goal is that packages will only wait 24 hours - however, sometimes that doesn't happen. Lately, that hasn't happened...some have waited for 3-4 days. If you are concerned about a package or wonder if it has arrived, you can call me at 802-989-2365. I will return your call as soon as possible.

**\*\*The World of packages has changed so much since COVID! We are receiving upwards of 50+ packages a day, sometimes more. I realize that you may not want to pick up your mail as often as you once did, however, we still only have 14 parcel lockers. If you know you have packages in lockers based on the tracking, please pick them up as soon as possible. If you aren't sure, please give me a call. Starting March 1st, we will only be leaving packages in lockers for a maximum of 5 business days. If they are not picked up by then, I will remove them from the locker and put a yellow card in your box. They will need to be picked up during my office hours or we can take them to East Middlebury to be picked up there, if you prefer.**

If you will be going out of town or will not be able to pick up your mail regularly, please let me know so that lockers are not tied up. If you do not want to wait for a parcel locker, please let me know and I will put your name on a list to take your packages to East Middlebury on the day they arrive.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks for your cooperation! Stay safe!

Laurie Bertrand  
802-989-2365  
Ripton Postmistress



Photo credit: Kaitlin O'Shea

## Annual Report –Year End June 30, 2020

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) provided the following technical assistance and planning to the Region during its 2020 fiscal year:

### Regional and Municipal Planning and Mapping

- Assisted member municipalities creating, adopting and regionally approving their municipal plans.
- Assisted member municipalities creating and adopting local regulations implementing their municipal plan.
- Provided data and mapping products to support on-going municipal planning activities.
- Provided technical assistance to municipal officials concerning municipal government.
- Represented the Region in Act 250 and Section 248 hearings.
- Assisted municipalities in applying for Village Center Designation.
- Worked with Ferrisburgh and Shoreham on their 2020 municipal planning grants to create housing
- Continued work on the update of the Population and Housing section of the regional plan.

### Educational Meetings and Grants

- Hosted educational workshops, Zoning Administrators Roundtables and monthly public meetings on a wide variety of planning topics, including water quality, housing and planning essentials.
- Wrote or provided information and support to communities and organizations to secure grant funding.

### Emergency Planning

- Worked with Addison County’s Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC 8) and Vermont Emergency Management staff to assist with municipal emergency planning and training.
- Hosted Local Emergency Management Plan training for town Emergency Managers and hosted a Tier II workshop for municipalities and businesses required to report hazardous chemicals.
- Worked with Vermont Emergency Management to exercise local and statewide disaster plans.
- Assisted in development of a hazard mitigation plan for the Town of Lincoln, and completion of FEMA requirements and acceptance for the Town of Ripton.
- Assisted communities in completing Local Emergency Management Plans to maintain ERAF status.
- Provided COVID-19 updates and information to Town Officials and Emergency Managers
- Assisted in developing a Mutual Aid agreement for Public Works Departments

### Energy Planning:

- Assisted a Bristol, Panton New Haven and Shoreham in completing their enhanced energy plans and strengthening policies supporting renewable energy.
- Worked with five municipalities; Monkton, Panton, Salisbury, Vergennes and Weybridge through the process of regional approval of their Enhanced Energy Plans.
- Worked with Efficiency Vermont and municipalities to implement enhanced energy plans.
- Hosted 4 roundtables of municipal energy committees and coordinators

### Transportation Planning

- Supported the Addison County Transportation Advisory Committee’s regional priorities and studies.
- Supported Tri-Valley Transit/ACTR by providing leadership and technical support.
- Worked with municipalities to produce road erosion inventories for local roads.
- Assisted Towns with bike and pedestrian, structures, and stormwater grants.
- Served as a Municipal Project Manager for sidewalk construction projects in Middlebury and Weybridge.
- Sponsored town transportation planning studies, and supported municipal capital budget development.
- Hosted regional Walk/bike council and began planning for a future Bike/Ped Summit in Middlebury.

### Natural Resources Planning

- Actively support the efforts of the Addison County River Watch Collaborative.
- Worked with municipalities to support conservation commissions.
- Participated on the Lake Champlain Basin Program technical advisory committee.
- Provided educational outreach supporting the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan update.
- Assisted in stormwater planning projects and Ecosystem Restoration Program grants.



# ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The Addison County Solid Waste Management District is a union municipal district formed in 1988 to cooperatively and comprehensively address the solid waste management interests of its 21 member municipalities: Addison, Bridport, Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Goshen, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Panton, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham, Weybridge and Whiting. The District is governed by a Board of Supervisors (Board) comprised of one representative and one alternate appointed by each of the member municipalities. The Board regularly meets virtually (due to the ongoing pandemic) on the 3<sup>d</sup> Thursday of the month at 7PM, and the Executive Board meets monthly 8 days prior to the Board meeting. All meetings are open to the public.

### District Mission

To seek environmentally sound & cost effective solutions for: (1) Promoting **waste reduction**; (2) Promoting **pollution prevention**; (3) Maximizing **diversion** of waste through reuse, recycling and composting; and (4) Providing for **disposal** of remaining wastes.

### District Office and Transfer Station

**Telephone:** (802) 388-2333

**Fax:** (802) 388-0271

**Website:** [www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org](http://www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org)

**E-mail:** [acswmd@acswmd.org](mailto:acswmd@acswmd.org)

**Transfer Station Hours:** M-F, 7 AM–3 PM & Sat, 8 AM–1 PM

**Office Hours:** M-F, 8 AM–4 PM

**HazWaste Center Hours:** M-F, 8 AM–2 PM & Sat, 8 AM–1 PM

The District Office, Transfer Station and HazWaste Center are co-located at 1223 Rt. 7 South in Middlebury. The Transfer Station accepts large loads of waste and single stream recyclables for transfer to out-of-District facilities. District residents and businesses may drop off a variety of other materials for reuse, recycling and composting. A complete list of acceptable items and prices is posted on the District's website. The office is closed to visitors due to the pandemic, but staff can be reached via phone, e-mail, text, and mail.

### 2020 Highlights

**COVID-19.** The year 2020 has been a difficult year, requiring the flexibility to adapt to the pandemic that disrupted all of the lives of our community residents and businesses. The District staff have been working diligently, despite the risk, toward maintaining the solid waste management and collection system during these challenging times. Deemed an “essential business” by the Dept. of Homeland Security, and state and local emergency declarations, the District has been following the guidance on how to protect our staff and customers while providing essential services. On March 30<sup>th</sup> – May 18<sup>th</sup>, the District Transfer Station was forced to limit residents to food scraps only. The **Reuse It or Lose It!** Centers were closed until further notice. Thankfully, the Transfer Station was able to continue servicing businesses and commercial haulers without interruption.

**Waste Diversion.** The VT Universal Recycling Law instituted a landfill ban of food scraps as of 7/1/2020. All generators had to begin diverting food scraps, either through backyard composting, through a commercial hauler, or at a waste facility. The District has been busy working with its residents, haulers, schools, institutions, and businesses to comply with the new mandate. As a result, the District has collected an average of 14,500 lbs. per week, a 200% increase since the ban took effect.

**Recycling.** The decline in market prices for most recyclables continued in 2020. The District has been able to absorb the recycling losses, estimated to reach \$35,000+ this year. However, the District's commitment to recycling remains steadfast. VT Act No. 69 mandates took effect on 7/1/2020. Single-use expanded polystyrene food service products are banned, along with single-use plastic carryout bags. Expanded polystyrene food service products are not allowed to be sold in VT. Plastic straws are available upon request only, and plastic stirrers are banned. A study committee was formed to further examine ways to manage packaging and printed materials.

**Product Stewardship.** The District has continued to be a strong advocate for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws as a method of controlling costs and keeping unwanted and banned items out of the landfill. EPR laws help distribute the cost of recycling and safe management of these products among industry, government, and consumers. The District continues to serve as a Collector under Vermont's EPR programs for electronics, mercury-containing lamps, primary cell batteries, and architectural paints.

**Illegal Burning/Disposal.** The District contracted with the Addison County Sheriff's Department in 2020 to enforce its Illegal Burning & Disposal Ordinance. The District served again as County Coordinator for Green-Up Day, assisting the many area volunteers who organized collection of roadside litter, and providing bags and gloves. Green-up Day collection totals were lower this year, with an event delay and a drop in participation rates due to the pandemic. The District subsidized the disposal of 6.09 tons of roadside trash, 10.81 tons of tires, and various other abandoned items, for a total economic benefit to its member towns of \$2,293.

### 2021 Annual Budget

The District adopted a 2021 Annual Budget of \$3,818,063, an 8.35% increase. The Transfer Station tip fees will increase to \$130/ton (\$8 minimum fee) for MSW and C&D. The rate for Single Stream Recyclables will increase to \$125/ton. Residential food scraps will be \$1 per 5 gallons or less. Business Food Scraps will increase to \$15 per 32-gal unit and \$20 per 49-gal unit. Leaf & Yard Waste greater than 3 cu.yds. will increase to \$20. Rates on some other items will have nominal increases. The prices of green food scrap buckets, Soil Savers, kitchen collectors and blue recycling bins will also increase. **There will be no assessments to member municipalities in 2021.** For a copy of the full 2020 Annual Report and Adopted 2021 Annual Budget and Rate Sheet, please give us a call, or visit the District website at [www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org](http://www.AddisonCountyRecycles.org).



## Green Mountain National Forest Town Meeting Report

*This report has been edited to be specific for the Ripton area.*

The employees of the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) depend heavily on support from many municipalities, volunteers, partners, and contractors. We thank you and your community for the support and interest that you have shown in helping with the management of the approximately 400,000-acre GMNF. Receiving several million outdoor recreation enthusiast visits annually, these visitors seek enjoyment in a natural setting while providing critical benefit to the local economies. The GMNF is proud to be a part of Vermont and your town. It is truly one of Vermont's treasures and the largest contiguous public land area in the state. Forest staff work hard to achieve quality public land management under a sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of the people -- people in your town as well as all of the visitors who come to Vermont every year. Following is a brief summary of what happened in your National Forest throughout the past year:

### Land Acquisition

There were no additional acres acquired in the year of 2020, however, this program remains active. We are currently working on acquisitions located in the towns of Chittenden, Killington, Mendon, Dorset, Lincoln, Warren, Ripton and Wallingford. We have been supported by each of the town select boards for these parcels. The addition of these public lands would not be possible without the assistance of The Trust for Public Land, The Conservation Fund, and the support of our local communities.

### Heritage Program

- Heritage Program staff and retired Forest Archaeologist assisted the Ripton Historical Society in creating an interpretive sign for the Pier's Tavern historic site. The sign will be installed at the culmination of the Frost Wayside Connector Trail.
- Retired Forest Service personnel and volunteers visited a number of cemeteries within the Forest Proclamation Boundary to maintain and preserve them. In addition, volunteers assisted with the identification and testing of cultural resources for upcoming projects.
- An upcoming volunteer opportunity with the Vermont Archaeological Society (VAS) is underway to provide members the chance to monitor and record historic sites on the Forest.
- The Heritage Program seasonal archaeological technicians located four previously unknown historic sites this field season, adding to the ever-expanding inventory of sites on the Forest.

### Road, Dam, & Facility Construction & Maintenance

**Forest Road Cooperative Aid to Towns:** Completed important road improvement and maintenance projects in the Towns of Goshen, Ripton, Rochester and Brandon.

**Forest Road Improvement Projects:** Improved 3.73 miles of National Forest System roads in the Towns of Chittenden, Goshen, Granville, Hancock, Manchester, Mount Tabor, Peru, Readsboro, Ripton, Rochester, Somerset, Stamford, Stratton and Woodford. This work included the replacement of culverts, stabilization of embankments, repairing storm damage, and the resurfacing of roads.

**Forest Road Maintenance:** Maintained 88.68 miles of National Forest System roads in the Towns of Ripton, Rochester, Chittenden, Goshen, Hancock, Mount Tabor, Peru, Readsboro, Somerset, Stamford, Sunderland, Wallingford, Winhall and Woodford. This work included grading, culvert cleaning, mowing and brushing.

### Recreation Programs

The GMNF provides a great diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities, connecting people with nature in a variety of settings. Outdoor recreation is valued as both an important part of Vermont's economy and a crucial component of many Vermonters' and visitors' physical and mental well-being. The value and importance of recreation became increasingly evident in 2020 as recreation use increased exponentially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recreation staff

on the GMNF worked closely with partners and volunteers to balance the requirements of public health with the growing demand, and impacts, associated with increased visitation. The Forest Service encourages participation in outdoor recreational activities and asks users to recreate responsibly by: packing out all trash you bring in; adhering to site or trail closures; seeking alternative locations when encountering packed parking lots or sites; and following Center For Disease Control (CDC), local and state guidelines for public health and safety.

### **Forest-wide Activity**

In partnership with the Velomont Trail Collective and Vermont Huts Association, the Forest Service continues to analyze opportunities to construct an end-to-end mountain biking trail and hut network in Vermont. Partner efforts to secure over \$500,000 will enable construction of approximately 10 miles of the Velomont Trail on National Forest System land in the towns of Chittenden, Rochester and Hancock, as well as contribute towards funding a proposed year-round ADA accessible backcountry hut in Chittenden, if approved. The long-term vision for the Velomont Trail and Vermont Hut network is to connect 23 communities from Canada to Massachusetts with huts strategically located along the trail for overnight use.

The following accomplishments highlight 2020 Recreation and Trail Program successes in acknowledgement of the outstanding collaborative effort exhibited between Forest Service employees, partner organizations, volunteers, State and local government representatives, and local businesses. The Forest Service relies on a community of collaboration and wishes to thank all of our partners, such as: Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST), Vermont All-terrain Vehicle Sportsman's Association (VASA), Vermont Forests, Parks and Recreation, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC), Rochester / Randolph Area Sports Trail Alliance (RASTA), Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA), Green Mountain Club (GMC), Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Town of Killington and the Killington Mountain Bike Club, Vermont Huts Association, Addison County Bike Club, Catamount Trail Association (CTA), Counseling Service of Addison County, Middlebury High School Diversified Occupations Program, Moosalamoo Association (MA), Blueberry Hill Outdoor Center (BHOC) Vermont Trail Trotters (VTT), Vermont Horse Council, and many more – including our dedicated campground hosts.

With the help of the many hard-working volunteers and organizations we are able to provide a quality recreation experience in alignment with a strong environmental stewardship ethic. The following highlights capture large program accomplishments but represent only a portion of the annual work that is completed to develop, improve and maintain recreational opportunities on the GMNF.

### **Local Efforts**

Goshen / Ripton: Campsite re-inventory (approximately a 5-year cycle) was completed for the Joseph Battell Wilderness.

Lincoln / Ripton: Campsite re-inventory (approximately a 5-year cycle) was completed for the Breadloaf Wilderness. Social / User developed trails were recorded on surveys in the Breadloaf Wilderness.

Ripton: Robert Frost Phase II renovations were completed adding nearly 1 mile of accessible trail to the site, improved accessible parking, new benches, expanding the boardwalk in the wetland area, rerouting sections of the trail away from the river where erosion was occurring. This work has made this trail the second longest accessible trail in the state.

Provided funding to install a gate and replace a culvert on Old Town Road. Re-graveled and graded Chatfield and Widow's Clearing parking lots. Installed new interpretive signs at Widow's Clearing.

In partnership with Moosalamoo Association, ACBC and the VMBA made significant improvements and relocations to the Mount Moosalamoo and Oak Ridge Trails including fords for stream crossings, bridge replacements and redesigning the trail to make it more mountain bike friendly while maintaining a high-quality hiking experience. This work was completed by L&D Trailworks with support from the Addison County Bike Club (ACBC).

The Moosalamoo Association and Addison County Bike Club replaced the bridge on the Oak Ridge Trail 0.1 mile north of FR92A.

Visitor encounter monitoring zone data was completed for weekday use in the Breadloaf Wilderness on the Skylight Pond Trail area and in the Cooley Glen / Emily Proctor Trail Loop.



USFS photo

### **Wilderness**

Throughout 2020 the Green Mountain National Forest has experienced increased visitor use on the eight designated Wildernesses due to the pandemic. Americans have flocked to outdoor recreation amid COVID 19 restrictions, as the Wilderness encounter monitoring data indicates. This year the Wilderness Stewardship Performance (WSP) scores on the GMNF increased significantly across all eight designated Wildernesses. WSP places heightened emphasis on the interdisciplinary responsibilities of wilderness stewardship and the potential linkages with other program areas. It seeks to foster improved integration and communication between program areas, to accurately reflect the collaboration required to steward our wilderness resource. In 2019 the GMNF had a total WSP score of 290 including all eight Wildernesses, in 2020 our efforts increased the stewardship scores by 112 points to 402 out of a possible 800 points (100 points per Wilderness).

Bristol / Brandon / Ripton: A Wilderness Watershed Report has been completed by a Society of Wilderness Stewardship Fellow including the Breadloaf, Bristol Cliffs and Joseph Battell Wilderness.

Bristol / Brandon / Ripton: Our Air Quality Specialist, completed the Critical Load Document to accompany the 2020 Wilderness Air Quality Value Monitoring Plan for the Breadloaf, Bristol Cliffs and Joseph Battell Wilderness.

### **Special Uses**

The GMNF administered 108 Land Special Use Permits to standard along with 8 proposals and applications processed to a decision. 28 Recreation Special Use Permits were administered to standard, with 8 proposals and applications being processed to a decision. 11 Recreation Special Use Permits were placed in a Non-Use status due to COVID-19.

### **Botany Program**

Botanical inventory for rare plants and non-native invasive plants was completed as part of the following projects, [including]:

A group of 8 volunteers found 3 new subpopulations and monitored 11 known populations of Appalachian Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium vanbruntiae*) in Ripton and Lincoln, including some populations just off National Forest lands. As a result of this monitoring, staff and state partners have a better understanding of habitat and distribution of this state-listed species.

In addition to infestations controlled within the Upper White River Cooperative Weed Management Association boundary, many other small infestations were controlled by staff, contractors, volunteers, and partner organizations, including Green Mountain Club and Appalachian Trail Conservancy. While these infestations represent only a fraction of known infestations and many more are unmapped, they were chosen because they are in strategic locations or because they are relatively more feasible to control than others. A total of over 114 acres of the following species were

controlled, [including] 2.4 acres of wild chervil along FR54, 1.2 acres along FR59, 0.03 acres on the Robert Frost Trail, and 6.1 acres on FR67, stretching across Ripton, Goshen, and Hancock.

### **Forest Vegetation Management**

Below is a [partial] list of accomplishments for calendar year 2020.

- Our staff cooperated with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation and Middlebury College in the maintenance of Butternut Seed Orchards in Brandon and Middlebury. Seedlings were cultured from disease resistant trees found on state, private, and National Forest locations and were cross pollinated to further research and efforts to develop disease resistance.
- The Forest provided maple tapping opportunities to six permit and contract holders for almost 9,000 taps in the towns of Lincoln, Stockbridge, Pomfret, Wilmington and Mount Tabor.
- Staff sold one timber sale and prepared two additional sales as part of the Robinson Integrated Resource Project. This project includes restoration activities and timber harvest on nearly 10,000 acres in Rochester, Hancock, Goshen, Pittsfield and Chittenden.
- Permits were sold for approximately 67 cords of firewood, 750 (estimated) Christmas trees, and 840 pounds of wild apples. Additionally, over 200 cords of firewood were made available through free use permits as part of COVID-19 pandemic relief.
- Staff continued work in restoring native trees (including butternut, American chestnut and beech) with research partners. GMNF employees located “challenged” beech trees that appeared to be resistant to beech scale insect in order to test their resistance.

### **Environmental Planning**

In calendar year 2020, Forest staff completed 28 site-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decision and analysis documents for multiple resource projects designed to implement the Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). Highlights include:

- Goshen Blueberry Opening Management project located in the town of Goshen designed to restore overgrown areas that were once productive low-bush blueberry forage that will improve wildlife habitat and increase recreation opportunities.
- Frost Wayside Connector and Accessibility Trail Upgrade project located in the town of Ripton designed to address user safety and universal accessibility, streambank erosion and sedimentation, and respond to public feedback to provide recreation opportunities with the improvement of existing trails, and establishment of a connector trail between the existing Robert Frost wayside and interpretive trail/trailhead sites.
- White Pine, Oak and Hickory Timber Stand Improvement project located in the towns of Leicester, Ripton, Peru and Winhall designed to improve the growth and health of selected white pine, oak, and hickory trees by non-commercially cutting competing vegetation.
- Multiple special use permits issued for use of National Forest System lands such as utility right of way, private land access, and various recreation events and outfitter guide operations across the Forest.

### **Wildlife Habitat Improvement and Monitoring**

Wildlife habitat was improved and maintained through the creation and maintenance of early successional habitat. Approximately 200 acres of permanent upland openings were maintained by mowing, or mastication in the towns of East Dorset, Goshen, Granville, Hancock, Hartford, Lincoln, Manchester, Mount Holly, Mount Tabor, Pittsfield, Pomfret, Ripton, Rochester, Warren, Stockbridge, Salisbury, Readsboro, Weston, Stratton, Woodford, and Winhall.

### **Soil / Water Monitoring**

Best Management Practice (BMP’s) monitoring took place throughout the Forest in 2020. The National BMP Program integrates water resources protection into management activities across the landscape. The program is intended to demonstrate compliance with the Clean Water Act, which is required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by the states, through rules and regulations, including Vermont’s Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs) for logging jobs, and Vermont water quality standards. Forest Soil Disturbance Monitoring was conducted on 40 timber sale units throughout the Forest to estimate forest management effects on soil and water resources.

### **Research Activities**

The following research was approved and conducted on the GMNF during 2020:

- Lauren Ash, Graduate Student at the University of Vermont continued a survey for the presence of Ranaviruses and other amphibian disease in green frogs (*Lithobates clamitans*), wood frogs (*Lithobates sylvaticus*), spring peepers (*Pseudacris crucifer*), spotted salamanders (*Ambystoma maculatum*), and Eastern newts (*Notophthalmus viridescens*), in the vicinity of Abbey Pond in the towns of Bristol and Ripton.
- Matthew Hecking from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and Jordon Tourville from the University of Michigan completed understory vegetation surveys along pre-established sites within the GMNF in the towns of Lincoln, Mendon, and Shrewsbury. Their data collection also involved establishing temperature monitoring sensors, seedling collection, soil core collection, and canopy foliage sampling.

**Public Outreach / Conservation Education**

Employees of the GMNF typically spend a significant amount of time each year at the Forestry building at both the Addison County Fair in Addison and the Rutland State Fair in Rutland. These events were not held in 2020 so we were unable to answer questions about the 400,000-acre National Forest by the thousands of people that we typically interact with. We hope that these events and the several parades that we participate in will be held in 2021 as they are a wonderful venue to discuss GMNF related issues with our partners and gather information from the public.

Another critical program that we are proud to support is the Vermont Envirothon. The Vermont Envirothon originally planned for May 19, 2020 was cancelled after Vermont schools were permanently closed for the 2019-2020 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The NCF-Envirothon International event, planned for July 2020, was also cancelled. While this outcome was of course disappointing, we are optimistic that the program will continue to move forward when in-person events are again able to be held. The Vermont Envirothon Steering Committee has begun looking into ways to adapt both trainings and tests to an online format.

Again, thank you for your support of your National Forest. Together, we will continue to maintain and improve this valuable treasure for generations to come. Our offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that people call ahead of time (see office phone numbers below) to make an appointment for in-person services. You can also visit us and learn more about the GMNF at our website online: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/gmfl>. Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GreenMountainFingerLakesNF/> and follow us on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/gmfl\\_nfs](https://twitter.com/gmfl_nfs)

<p>Martina Barnes District Ranger, South Half - Manchester Ranger District 802-362-2307</p>	<p>Christopher Matrick District Ranger, North Half - Rochester &amp; Middlebury Ranger Districts 802-767-4261</p>
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Photo credit: B. Eliason

# Vermont League of Cities and Towns

*Serving and Strengthening Vermont Local Government*

**About the League.** 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. The most recent audited financial statements are posted on our website, [vlct.org/about/audit-reports](http://vlct.org/about/audit-reports), and show that our positive net position continues.

**Member Benefits.** All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, as are 139 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, consulting, and education services**, including prompt responses to member questions that often involve how to comply with state and federal requirements. In 2020, VLCT's timely legal and technical assistance included answering more than 4,000 legal questions and publishing guidance, templates, research reports, and several new groups of FAQs explaining how municipalities can implement the state's COVID-19 requirements. To support Vermont's towns and cities in responding to the pandemic, VLCT quickly researched, assembled, and distributed important information about fiscal impacts, grant opportunities, and how to adapt town operations, hold public meetings remotely.
- **Trainings and timely communications on topics of specific concern to officials** who carry out their duties required by state law, as well as pertinent statewide topics. In response to the pandemic, the League provided online trainings, a virtual week-long conference, and timely announcements and information from state officials about how to comply with requirements and access to funding and assistance.
- **Representation before the state legislature and state agencies**, ensuring that municipal voices are heard collectively and as a single, united voice. VLCT's recent legislative efforts have helped provide cities and towns additional resources to achieve tangible results on pressing issues such as responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, road and bridge repair, cybersecurity, housing and economic growth, renewable energy, emergency medical services, equity and inclusion, and ensuring the quality of our drinking water. Members are also represented at the federal level to Vermont's Congressional delegation and through our partner, the National League of Cities.
- **Access to two exceptional 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 Employment Resource and Benefits (VERB) Trust provides unemployment insurance, life, disability, dental, and vision insurance products to members at a competitive price. Both programs offer coverage and products that members need and ask for, help Vermont municipalities stretch their budgets, and are *only* available to VLCT members.
- **Access to a host of educational and informative materials and member conferences**, including a news magazine, handbooks, reports, articles, and events that all focus on the needs of local government and provide additional educational and networking opportunities.

At the heart of all these activities is VLCT's commitment to serving as a good steward of member assets, and we are proud of the progress we continue to make in that effort. Members are welcome to contact VLCT anytime to ask questions, and to access resources that can help each official and employee carry out the important work of local government. For a comprehensive list of member benefits and services, please visit [vlct.org/memberguide](http://vlct.org/memberguide) to download the VLCT Member Guide.

**To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, visit the VLCT website at [vlct.org](http://vlct.org).**

## Minutes of the 2020 Town of Ripton Annual Meeting

Approximately ninety-five Ripton voters met at the Ripton Community House, Monday, March 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to act on Articles 1-5 of the Town Meeting Warning and to discuss other business under Article 6. Moderator Molly Witters called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She described her role and procedures for discussion. Moderator Witters asked if voters would give Senator Chris Bray the floor before considering Article 1, and they did.

Senator Bray thanked the voters and said listening to Vermonters is the heart of his work. As chair of the Natural Resources Committee, he is addressing environmental challenges related to energy, clean water, and toxins. He acknowledged the need to pick up the pace of addressing climate change and highlighted the accomplishments of Efficiency Vermont. He expressed optimism at what Vermonters can do when they get together, look at a problem, and talk it through. With thanks for the opportunity to serve, and no questions, he left the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

**Article 1:** Will the Town vote the sum of **\$656,692** to pay General Fund and Highway Fund expenses for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, divided as follows: General Fund \$235,642, Highway Fund \$421,050?

Moved/Seconded: Barry King/Norm Tjossem

Selectboard Chair Laurie Cox described the General Fund budget highlights listed below.

- Recycling revenue does not offset costs, consider increasing your donation.
- The increase in the selectboard stipend from \$650 to \$750 was not suggested by them, but the stipend has not changed since 1998.
- An increase in the website budget is for help with management. Ms. Cox asked for people with website skills to contact the Board or Clerk.
- Community House expenses reflect improvements made to the building after last year's water damage. A security system was installed in the current year budget.
- Recycling shed doors were installed last year. New wiring and a camera system were installed in the current year.
- The VT Bond Bank loan, along with FEMA aid, funded 2008 flood damage repair. The loan is paid in full in the current fiscal year.

Chairperson Cox reported Highway Fund increases to:

- plowing and sanding budget lines due to winter weather,
- brush cutting in the town right-of-way to address predicted emerald ash borer infestation.

Barry King explained the Conservation Commission's inventory of ash trees in the town right-of-way. No infected trees have been identified. Questions and answers about emerald ash borer spread and management followed. Ms. King, Andy McIntosh, Charles Billings, Tree Warden Bruce Danek, Gary Wisell, and Laurie Cox participated in the discussion. The Conservation Commission sponsored an informational event last fall, and Barry encouraged all to attend if they hold another. In addition to trees in the road right-of-way, ash trees behind the town buildings may need to be cut.

Laurie Cox noted a \$10,000 increase in the budget line for class 4 roadwork. This is to start making a section of Old Town Road passable for emergency use. The Selectboard will meet with Green Mountain Power (GMP) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), who share use of the road, to discuss upgrades and maintenance. Charles Billings asked what will be done with 10,000? Ron Wimett responded that a 4' diameter washed out culvert will be reset, and a gate will be installed.

Laurie Cox brought attention to highlights not shown in the budget.

An engineering study for a plan to improve visibility and safety at the Rte. 125/Natural Turnpike intersection is underway. Bonnie DeGray asked about another problematic intersection - Natural Turnpike and Peddlers Bridge Road. All Selectboard members participated in discussion about signs, speed, and the slope.

A \$627,600 grant for replacement of the culvert east of the recycling shed was awarded to the Town. It requires a 20% local match. All Selectboard members participated in discussion of the history of flooding at the site and attempts to fund repair or replacement of the culvert. Marty Kulczyk asked who does the grant work. Laurie responded that Alison does; applause followed. Nico Rottstaedt asked the Board to explain why a bridge is proposed rather than a culvert. Ron Wimett said it may be a culvert; the engineering and design is not done. Ron described how the current culvert clogs with debris, floods the shed area, washes away 400-500 yards of sand, and that we need something larger.

With no further discussion, the Moderator moved to vote Article 1.  
Article 1 was approved.

**Article 2:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$41,000 to the Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department to pay expenses for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021?

Moved/Seconded: Norm Tjossem/Carol Ford

Chief Erik Eriksen thanked all for donations to the mini-pumper campaign. Tim Hanson and Dick Collitt participated in the discussion. More than \$100,000 was raised and will be used to purchase a new utility vehicle that is expected to be here in April. Chief Eriksen described the details. He noted that Chris Pike led the effort but could not be here tonight. The Chief pointed to a defibrillator Dr. Carrie Wulfman donated for use in the Community House. At the fire station, two heaters in the bay area were repaired, and medical items are being moved to a new cabinet and location. Bonnie DeGray asked, how many fires were responded to this year? She was referred to the town report which listed 15 fire calls.

With no further discussion, the Moderator moved to vote Article 2.  
Article 2 was approved.

**Article 3:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$6,000 to the Ripton Cemetery Commission to pay expenses for July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021?

Moved/Seconded: Carol Ford/Richard Ruane

Cemetery Commission Chair Liz Walker said the Commission is making slow but steady progress improving the town cemeteries. The work is not very visible, such as depth probing at Galvin Cemetery to determine if there is enough soil depth for lots. Fencing at Gee Cemetery is planned for 2021. The Commission is also measuring grounds and updating maps. Last year there were 5 burials, 1 lot sold, and interest in 4 others. Tim Hanson asked how much lots cost? It depends on the size. A 4' x 12' lot is \$500, but there are discounts for multiple lot purchases by families.

With no further discussion, the Moderator moved to vote Article 3.  
Article 3 was approved.

**Break for State Representative:** Voters gave State Representative Peter Conlon the floor from 7:55 to 8:14 p.m. Representative Conlon explained that the legislature is in the second half of the second year of the two-year biennium, a time when a lot of legislation is pushed through. He spoke about bills related to paid family leave, minimum wage, the environment (Global Warming Solutions Act), marijuana, renter rebates, and mosquito control funds. Rep. Conlon referred to his town meeting newsletter, and took questions from Jorene Doria, Charles Billings, John Wetzell, and Bruce Danek. Topics included work of the education committee, climate goals, school repair versus new construction moratorium, the marijuana bill and road safety.

**Article 4:** Will the Town vote to have current property taxes collected by the Treasurer with a tax due date of November 1, 2020; payments due in the Town Office by 6:00 p.m. Monday November 2, 2020 because November 1 is a Sunday, postmarks not accepted?

Moved/Seconded: Mark Nelson/Barry King

Tim Hanson explained that this is a housekeeping article. David Harple asked if this means postmarks are not accepted, and was answered, yes. The Moderator suggested to amend the syntax. The article was voted as written.

With no further discussion, the Moderator moved to vote Article 4.  
Article 4 was approved.

**Article 5:** Will the Town vote to declare the following:

- that we are in a time of climate crisis
- that a goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2030 should be set
- that the Energy Committee shall convene a public meeting of local citizens to brainstorm, make recommendations and action plans to achieve this goal
- that we urge our State and Federal governments to take immediate action through legislation?

Moved/Seconded: Susan Hanson/Kim Kimler

Giles Hoyler introduced the Article, saying it speaks for itself, to accept the reality and act. He cited the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) statement of the need for transformational change. Mr. Hoyler said we can control what to do in this town, and that the Energy Committee has already done a ton of work towards these goals. Joining Giles Hoyler in discussion were Andy McIntosh, Emily Hoyler, Charles Billings, Bill McKibben, Bruce Danek, Monica Fillipenko, Kim Kimler, Laurie Cox, Marty Kulczyk, Jaime Cammack, Tim Hanson, Jeremy Grip, Steve Cash, Gary Wisell, and Willem Jewett. Topics and statements included: wood burning, wood donations, carbon emissions; aligning with state goals of 2050 rather than 2030; political realism, Paris goals, negotiation between humans and physics, physics is not compromising, small shove from town meeting to show what we think; speaking against this and the Global Warming Solutions Act, it harms hard-working Vermonters, works for those who can afford incentives, predictions that don't happen; low income Vermonter supports this, need to think bigger, push government; what "declare" means; direction setting, importance of bullet 3 - brainstorming, may be things that work for all and do not cost individuals, possible - some towns made 100% renewable energy happen; an upcoming hearing on the Town Energy Plan; ACRPC energy committee work, concerns about a 10-year goal, figuring out what is 100% renewable is hard; question of gallons of gasoline burned working on roads, cost of chloride from production to application; chloride use, gravel use; that this is progress not perfection, try for transformation by 2030, whether or not that is met we want to tell our children we tried; 3,500 - 4,000 gallons of gas sold monthly at the Ripton Country Store, most for local use; long journey but start with a step, talk about steps at brainstorming meeting.

Perry Hanson moved to call the question.

Article 5 was approved. A small number of nay (neigh) votes were heard.

**Article 6:** Other Business: Discussion items

The Moderator explained that Article 6 is for discussion items with no binding votes. Selectboard Chair Laurie Cox began discussion.

**Town Office building** – renovate, build a replica, or relocate the office?

The need to do something about the Town Office building has been discussed in the past. Laurie Cox presented three scenarios. The selectboard members, Gary Wisell, Giles Hoyler, Andy McIntosh, Chris Cammack, and Jeremy Grip participated in discussion about the building. Laurie Cox asked for a straw (non-binding) vote with a show of hands for each of the options. Twenty-plus hands went up for the first alternative, to renovate the existing structure. Thirty-plus hands were raised in favor of the second option, to demolish and build a replica. There was at least one hand for the relocate option.

### **Sand shed project**

All Selectboard members reported the progress of the grant project to relocate the winter road sand from an uncovered pile on Peddlers Bridge Road, to an enclosed shed proposed for a Lincoln Road parcel south of the Ripton Elementary School. In response to a question from Becky Purdum, the Board confirmed that the King Dome recycling shed will remain on Peddlers Bridge Road. Wendy Harlin asked the Board to state the size and height of the shed, to describe the proposed screening, and if it is similar to the Hinesburg Town Shed. The proposed shed is 75' x 140', like the Hinesburg shed in size and height. The screening will likely be white cedars. Willem Jewett asked if the plan includes remediation of the Peddlers Bridge Rd site. It does not. The grant will not cover that, but the Board agreed remediation is a good idea. Laurie Cox remarked on the decrease in dumping at the recycling shed since locked doors were installed, and time saved for Mac Cox and Mark Nelson who formerly did a lot of clean-up. Wendy Harlin asked that if in the current school climate had there been consideration of the aesthetics of putting the shed in a prime area next to the elementary school. Tim Hanson responded, yes, and explained other location options - at this point only possible by eminent domain. Bill Ford, Laurie Cox, Charles Billings, Barry King, and Jaimie Cammack participated in discussion of the distance of the fire station from the school, versus the distance of the shed, that the times of use are limited, and it will not be noisy, the land transfer from the school district to the town for the fire station, waiting for an ACSD decision about the elementary school, the need to move forward, and the approximately \$25,000 spent on the project to date. Andrea Chesman lives downstream of the current sand pile and described how the riverbank moves as sand washes downstream every year. She urged to move ahead with a viable, not beautiful, but practical plan. Laurie Cox noted the project is going along with no further vote, tonight's discussion is an update. Marty Kulczyk stated that there will be a warned Planning Commission/Zoning Board hearing about the project.

**Petitioned Articles to be voted by Australian ballot** – Will the Town request the Board of the Addison Central School District be directed to amend Charter Articles 8 and 14 of the Agreement? (see ballots)

ACSD Board Director Amy McGlashan spoke of the facilities master plan materials to be released soon, her role on the Board representing the entire district, the cost and enrollment challenges ACSD faces, achievement gaps, 6 schools for less than 350 kids, equity and service delivery, vision, Act 46, trade-offs (with an analogy for Red Sox fans - like Mookie Betts to the Dodgers). She disputed accusations of lack of transparency, social capital and community assets, and criticism of Board members doing their jobs. Regarding Article 10, Amy McGlashan and former ACSD Director Perry Hanson described that the Board followed the advice of legal counsel. They thought it was unconstitutional to vote representation by the town, and that doing so interfered with school directors' performance of their duties.

Making comments in favor of the non-binding Articles to be voted on Tuesday, or about keeping a school in the community, were Laura McIntosh, Mac Cox, Bill McKibben, Bruce Danek, Aaron Coburn, Wendy Harlin, Emily Hoyler, John Wetzell, Jaime Cammack, Michelle Fay, Bonnie DeGray, Laurel Coburn, Laurie Cox, and Wendy Leeds.

Jerry Shedd and Roland McGlashan spoke in support of ACSD and board members. Jeremy Grip asked if there is a lawyer in the room who could explain representation - a confusing topic.

Amy McGlashan explained that the ACSD Board has not named any schools to close, and that the board is discussing school choice within the district and redistricting.

Kim Kimler, who spent 30+ years as a public-school teacher, commended all for doing a good job discussing tough things.

**Other Business:** Charles Billings presented the Ripton Historical Society proposal to designate the Calvin Pier Tavern location, on USFS property along Rte. 125, a cultural heritage site.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Paula Scott moved to adjourn the floor portion of the Annual Meeting. All approved 10:15 p.m.

The Meeting recessed until 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2020, with polls in the Ripton Community House open 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2020 to vote by Australian ballot - Article 7: Officers, Article 8: Funding Requests, Articles: 9 & 10 to Amend ACSD Charter.

**Australian Ballot Voting Results**

**Article 7:** All officers were uncontested and were elected - Selector Laureen (Laurie) Cox, Moderator Molly Witters, Delinquent Tax Collector Kathleen B. Sullivan, Constable Perry Hanson, Lister Alison Joseph Dickinson, Cemetery Commissioner Karen Heppell, Town Agent Wendy Harlin

**Article 8: Mark YES or NO with a check or X to approve or disapprove the following allocations from the General Fund, total \$29,226. All APPROVED**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Addison Central Teens (ACT) \$1,900               | Homeward Bound \$750                              |
| Addison County Home Health and Hospice \$750      | HOPE - Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects \$3,000 |
| Addison County Parent/Child Center \$600          | John W. Graham Emergency Shelter \$1,600          |
| Addison County Restorative Justice Services \$170 | Middlebury Regional EMS \$5,880                   |
| Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative \$400     | NeighborWorks of Western Vermont \$300            |
| Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) \$1,901   | Open Door Clinic \$1,500                          |
| Age Well \$750                                    | Otter Creek Child Care Center \$1,000             |
| Champlain Valley OEO \$1,500                      | Otter Creek NRCD \$50                             |
| Charter House Coalition \$1,600                   | Retired and Senior Volunteer Program \$475        |
| Counseling Service of Addison County \$1,400      | Turning Point Center of Addison County \$1,000    |
| Elderly Services \$600                            | Vermont Adult Learning \$300                      |
| End of Life Services \$500                        | Women Safe Inc \$1,250                            |
| Green Up Vermont \$50                             |   |

**Article 9: Approved**    Yes 216    No 27    Blank 5

Will the Town request the Board of the Addison Central School District be directed to amend the Charter Articles of the Agreement, which was approved by District voters March 1, 2016, as follows?

Article 8: "Directors shall be elected by the voters of all forming towns of the district" shall be amended to read, *Each director shall be elected by the voters of the District town in which the director lives?*

**Article 10: Approved**    Yes 196    No 32    Blank 20

Will the Town request the Board of the Addison Central School District be directed to amend the Charter Articles of the Agreement, which was approved by District voters March 1, 2016, as follows?

Article 14: This sentence shall be added: *No District elementary school shall be closed unless a majority of the registered voters at a duly warned special meeting of the town in which the school is located vote to close the school.*

Alison Joseph Dickinson, Clerk                  Molly Witters, Moderator    Laureen Cox, Selectboard Chair

## **RIPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

Ripton Elementary School continues to focus on the well-being and growth of every student. Given all that has happened this year, I commend the students and staff for their flexibility, positivity and patience. Our school-wide expectations to *Be Safe, Be Kind, Work Hard and Work Together* have been as relevant as ever. We routinely recite our school pledge together (albeit virtually) which helps us to stay grounded in our priorities and agreements as a learning community: "At Ripton Elementary School, we come to learn new things, think creatively and work with others. I will practice being brave, try again when I make mistakes, and show respect and kindness towards others. I will do my best to make my school, my community, and the world a better and more peaceful place for all."

The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program is aligned with these priorities in how it keeps students at the center of their learning --teachers work to guide students' thinking and encourage questioning and inquiry to build understanding and self-awareness. The six transdisciplinary units of inquiry within the International Baccalaureate framework encourage us to think broadly about important concepts from perspective, to change, to connection, to cause and effect. The IB Learner Profile Attributes provide explicit guidance and instruction on students' social-emotional growth and development. This year, we have tried to maintain connections across the grades through virtual All School Meeting videos and shared experiences around the holidays and familiar traditions. We have taken full advantage of our beautiful surroundings and students are frequently exploring and learning in outdoor classrooms and spaces. We are hopeful the second half of the year will include many valuable learning experiences related to exploring the outdoors and working together as a community.

The Ripton Elementary School community has been grappling with difficult decisions around the future of our school, from reconfiguring our classes next year, to reducing our teaching staff, discontinuing our pre-kindergarten program, and facing the prospect of closing the school as part of the larger ACSD Facilities Master Plan. I have nothing but gratitude and respect for the parents and community members deeply committed to finding alternatives to the proposed plans. This year has provided many opportunities for the adults to model the character traits we are working to foster in our students --communicators, thinkers, inquirers, reflective, open-minded and caring. I am grateful for the opportunity to engage in this difficult work with such a group of committed and thoughtful citizens.

I look at the months ahead with much anticipation, but also optimism about what the future holds. This community of amazing students, staff, families, and friends will continue to support one another, learn together, and show kindness and respect towards others. In the aftermath of a pandemic, and in the face of much uncertainty, I believe these are the things that matter the most.

Tracey Harrington, Principal

## RIPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FY22 Budget Summary

<b>Account</b>	<b>FY21 Budget</b>	<b>FY22 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>% Difference</b>
Direct Instruction	504,299	484,267	-3.97%
PreK Program	27,208	0	-100.00%
After School Program	17,377	17,379	0.01%
Guidance	17,670	20,503	16.03%
Nurse	17,886	14,829	-17.09%
Occupational Therapy	500	500	0.00%
Library Media	39,202	39,675	1.21%
Administration	112,234	118,640	5.71%
Transportation-Field Trips	300	300	0.00%
Debt Service	18,047	17,690	-1.98%
Fund Transfers to Food Service	7,500	7,500	0.00%
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>762,223</b>	<b>721,283</b>	<b>-5.37%</b>

**Notes:**

Direct Instruction - Reduction of 1.0 FTE due to 6th grade move

PreK- not offered in FY22 at Ripton

Guidance - No change in FTE - reflects wages and benefits of staff

Nurse - No change in FTE, reflects shifts between grant funding and general fund

## Friends of the Ripton School

Friends of the Ripton School (FORS) is a group of volunteers who work together to make the Ripton Elementary School the best it can be. We offer our assistance to the school when needed and organize fundraising and other events at the school and in the community. We exist because of our community's involvement and generosity in supporting our fundraisers. This past year has been a challenging one, and we had to cancel some of our favorite fundraisers and events, such as our May Day Basket delivery, our Pizza Bakes, our Coffee House Bake Sales, and the Thanksgiving Community Luncheon. We sure missed seeing you! But we are so grateful for the support you have shown during the events we could hold, such as the ongoing collection of redeemable bottles and cans at the King Dome, the Virtual Ripton Ridge Run and Ripton Hat Sale. Because of your support and generosity, FORS has been able to fund a variety of activities and events fully or partially. During the 2019-20 school year, prior to remote learning, we were able help fund RES's Artist in Residency with François Clemmons and Kate Gridley. This opportunity enabled students to explore the oral tradition of African American spirituals, to experience the art of singing together in one voice, and to learn how beliefs, values, and identity are expressed through visual and performing arts. Other things FORS helped make possible during the '19-'20 school year were field trips for all students to attend the Flynn Theater, a trip to Petracliffs for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade, an all-school ice-skating trip, an all-school performance by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, craft supplies for holiday gift making, an afternoon fruit or veggie snack and more. Once COVID-19 hit in the spring and school went remote, FORS was able to redirect fruit and veggie snack funds to help provide food for Ripton Elementary School families who were learning from home. Thank you all for your support.

**FORS mission statement:** The Friends of Ripton School provide the Ripton Elementary School support through volunteering and funding to enhance and enrich the school environment by facilitating academic programs, extracurricular activities, events, and materials, which are designed to meet the expectations and changing needs of the school throughout and beyond the academic school year.

FORS is a 501(c)(3) and our official name is FORS Incorporated. We meet every 4-8 weeks during the school year to plan events, approve funding requests, and discuss a variety of issues. Attendance at meetings is not required to be part of FORS. Members are typically parents of Ripton Elementary School students; **however, we cordially invite all interested community members to join us.** We know Ripton is rich with diversely talented people who might be interested in helping. We welcome your interest and involvement at any level. The school belongs to the community, and we warmly invite you to experience the happenings at Ripton Elementary (within the current confines of COVID-19 restrictions). **Also, FORS greatly appreciates and thanks all those involved in the Ripton Ridge Run, our biggest fundraiser.** For more information, please contact Laura McIntosh at [forsincvt@gmail.com](mailto:forsincvt@gmail.com)

## 2020 Ripton Ridge Run

The Ripton Ridge Run was a Virtual Race in 2020 meaning that participants ran a 5K or 10K course wherever they wanted on either of two days and timed themselves. Our many loyal volunteers got a year off! There were no prizes; t-shirts cost extra yet still we had over 100 people register. Thanks to them and our generous local sponsors, we managed to raise \$6,000 for FORS. For information to volunteer or participate in the 2021 event Sunday, Oct. 10, go to <http://www.riptonridgerun.org>, contact Barry King at 388-4082 or Wendy Leeds at the school.

## **ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

The conditions within which we have built the FY22 budget have been unprecedented, both regarding the impact of the pandemic and the fiscal challenges we face as a community. This is our first unified budget that exceeds the excess spending threshold, and much of our work on this FY22 budget has been focused on stabilizing resources and looking at ways to meet the challenges ahead as we expect our yearly staffing and health care costs to outpace increases in the threshold. The objective with this budget has been to maintain vital services and provide time to consider how we face the fiscal challenges in FY23 and beyond. We expect much work at the state and federal levels focused on recovery and education funding over the next year to address fiscal challenges brought on by the pandemic.

This budget represents the culmination of work that began many years ago, with our initial study of creating a 6-8th grade middle school. Over the last 18 months, MUMS teams and staff have been looking at all facets of this change, including how to maintain key aspects of what makes MUMS such a strong experience for students. Throughout this process, we have remained firm in our belief that we will see consistent student enrollment numbers after a steady decline over the last 10 years. We are excited to welcome our 6th grade students to a three-year experience at MUMS that will provide them with access to all of the great opportunities of the middle school experience.

We couldn't have gotten through this year without the support of our community. Meeting the challenges of this budget - and the challenges we'll face in the future - will continue to require the commitment to our students and their success that we've always carried in supporting our schools and each other. Thank you for being an active part of the ACSD community.

Sincerely,  
Peter Burrows, Superintendent  
Addison Central School District

## **ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF THE BOARD CHAIR**

As our district continues to focus on meeting the needs of all students, our 2021–2022 school budget reflects the ongoing challenges we face with decreasing enrollment and increasing costs. Our work to stabilize our financial foundation remains critical, as it affords us the opportunity to meet our challenges head-on and provide the necessary services and resources to our entire learning community.

The ACSD 2021–2022 budget sees a decrease in education spending of 0.59% from the prior year. This brings our estimated per pupil spending to \$18,936.57, representing a 0.34% increase over the prior year. For the first time, the ACSD Board has decided to use reserve funds to bring our budget under the spending threshold. Included in general fund revenues is \$550,000 of unassigned reserve funds. Without use of these funds, ACSD's education spending per equalized pupil threshold would have been \$19,254.39, which exceeds the spending threshold by \$309 per pupil after exemptions. Unfortunately, such an overage would cause significant additional tax burdens on our community. While this use of fund balance provides a short-term solution, use of reserve funds in this capacity provides one-time revenue to address ongoing costs. We will need to remain focused on bringing our costs in line with available funding.

The ACSD Board is committed to providing an outstanding education to all students. We are also committed to doing so in a fiscally responsible manner. Our socio-economic diversity, our commitment to responsible leadership and our commitment to our community fuels both intentions. The Facilities Master Planning process of the past four years demonstrates the complexity of our challenges, but also the opportunity for sustainable solutions. The Board wants to thank our community members who have shared their perspectives, frustrations, and ideas. Civil discourse is at the root of our democracy and more important now, than ever. Please know, your inputs continue to inform our decisions as we move ahead, and we look forward to working together as we finalize the plan.

Our education system is the root of our strength as a state and as a local community. We encourage you to voice your concerns not only locally, but at the state level as well. No one institution can solve the challenges we face. Health care costs, increasing tax burdens, declining populations are foundational issues that must be addressed at national and state levels. Your voice matters, and we are committed to working together to be part of the solution.

This past year, we have once again demonstrated our strength. Efforts from our community partners who have helped us deal with the unfathomable challenges caused by the pandemic, our educators, service providers and support staff who have had to re-engineer classroom instruction and find new ways to support the development of our children, and our families and friends who have had to deal with profound pressures and uncertainty, each done so with determination and purpose. For this, and so much more, the Board thanks you for your commitment to education and for providing hope as we move forward.

Mary Cullinane, Board Chair  
Addison Central School District

**ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Year to Year Budget Summary**

<b>Expenditures</b>		<b>FY21 Revised Budget</b>	<b>FY22 Proposed</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	Student Instruction/Support, Regular Education	22,269,766	22,853,852	2.62%
	Student Instruction/Support, Special Education	5,519,553	5,118,343	-7.27%
	Universal Pre-K	496,080	523,328	5.49%
	Technical/Career Center Education	1,246,668	1,189,696	-4.57%
	Transportation	925,509	1,064,286	14.99%
	Facilities	3,264,353	3,279,782	0.47%
	Technology	1,116,957	1,138,035	1.89%
	Board and District Administration	1,949,298	2,001,456	2.68%
	Professional Development/Curriculum	627,476	603,976	-3.75%
	Debt Service	333,405	176,413	-47.09%
<b>Other Funds</b>	Consolidated Federal Program	1,395,768	1,519,600	8.87%
	Special Education Federal Grant Expenditures	580,337	625,694	7.82%
	Medicaid/MAC	183,907	198,315	7.83%
	Special Funds	60,165	60,165	0.00%
	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>39,969,243</b>	<b>40,352,941</b>	<b>0.96%</b>
<b>Separately Warned Articles</b>	Special Article - Ed Reserve Fund	1,282,303	0	
	Special Article - Capital Reserve Fund	0	623,744	
<b>Revenues</b>	General Fund	4,784,896	5,179,060	8.24%
	Federal Grant Funds	1,976,105	2,145,294	8.56%
	Other Funds	183,907	198,315	7.83%
	Special Funds	60,165	60,165	0.00%
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>7,005,073</b>	<b>7,582,833</b>	<b>8.25%</b>
	Prior Year Fund Balance	1,282,303	1,173,744	
<b>Total Local Education Spending</b>	Education Spending	32,964,170	32,770,107	-0.59%
	Equalized Pupils	1,746.74	1,730.52	-0.93%
	Education Spending/Equalized Pupil	18,871.82	18,936.57	0.34%

## ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FY22 Tax Calculation

Our total Local Education Spending amount of \$32,770,107 is the first and only figure used in calculating our tax rate that we have control over. The other components in the formula are supplied by the Tax Department or Agency of Education.

*\*\*All figures are subject to changes by the State Legislature\*\**

Projected Property Yield:	\$11,385
Projected Income Yield:	\$13,572
Projected Non-residential rate:	\$ 1.64
Projected Spending Threshold:	\$18,789
ACSD Equalized pupils:	1,730.52

### ACSD Tax Rate Calculation

Local Education Spending	\$32,770,107
Divided by Equalized Pupils	<u>÷ 1,730.52</u>
Education Spending/Equalized Pupil	\$18,936.57

Education Spending / Equalized Pupil	\$18,936.57
Divided by the Property Tax Yield	<u>÷ \$11,385</u>
Equalized District tax rate	\$1.66

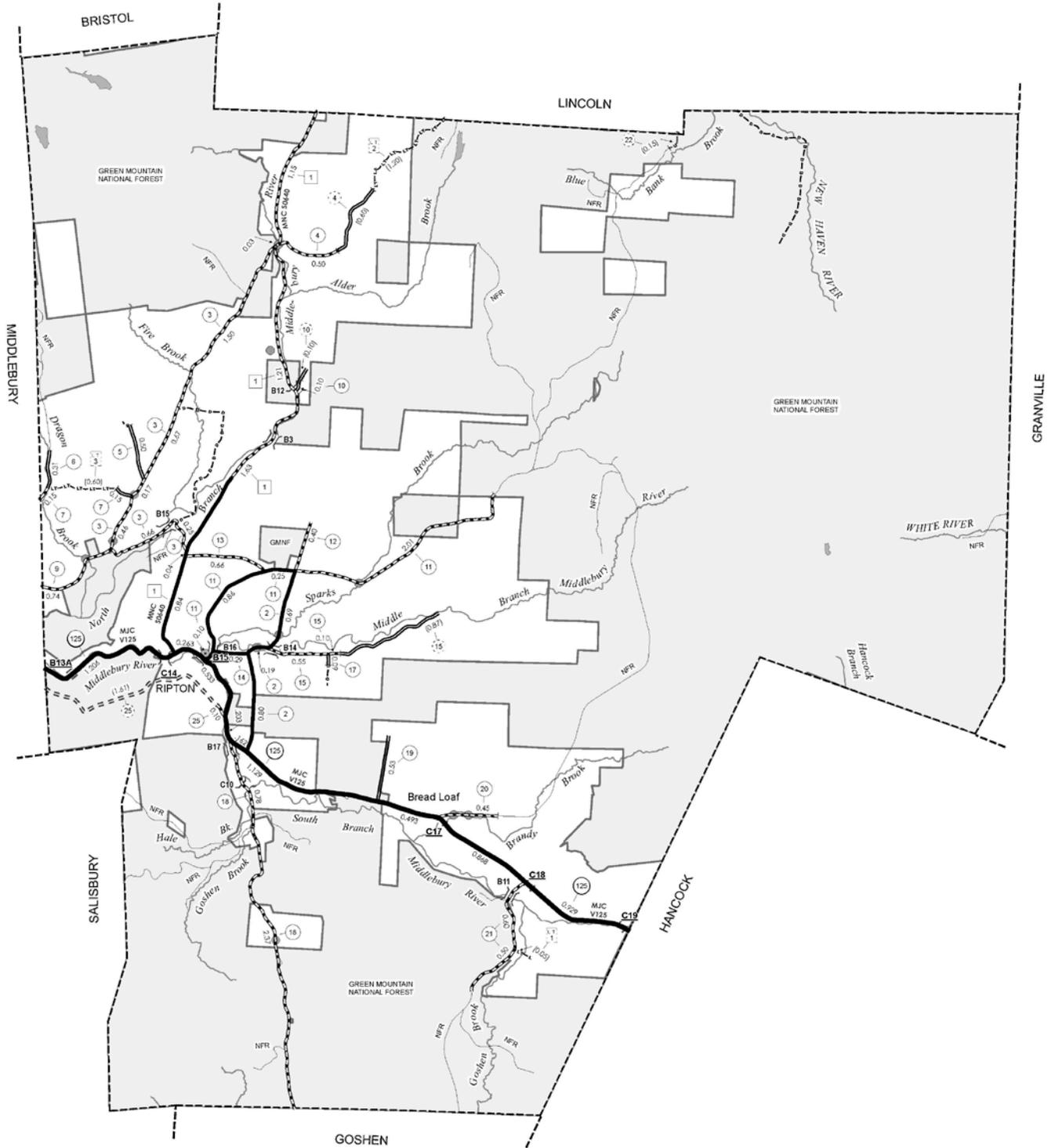
Equalized District tax rate	\$1.66	
Less the consolidation incentive	<u>- \$0.02*</u>	*incentive decreases \$.02 each year*
Estimated District tax rate	\$1.64	(pre CLA adjustment)

**.03 decrease from current year**

The estimated District tax rate is divided by each Town's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) as set by the VT Department of Taxes to determine each Town's estimated tax rate.

<u>Town</u>	<u>ACSD Tax Rate</u>	<u>CLA (FY22)</u>	<u>Estimated Town Tax Rate</u>	<u>Change</u>
Bridport	\$1.64	92.13%	\$1.78	+0.04
Cornwall	\$1.64	93.59%	\$1.76	+0.03
Middlebury	\$1.64	100.00%	\$1.64	+0.02
Ripton	\$1.64	89.78%	\$1.83	-0.04
Salisbury	\$1.64	87.88%	\$1.87	+0.07
Shoreham	\$1.64	98.30%	\$1.67	-0.04
Weybridge	\$1.64	96.62%	\$1.70	-0.04

# Ripton Town Highway Map



# Town Directory

EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

[www.ripton.vt.org](http://www.ripton.vt.org)

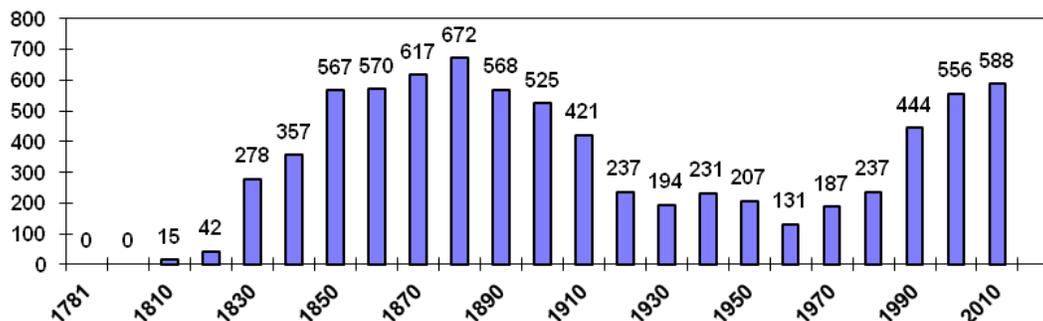
Town Office	388-2266
Elementary School	388-2208
Fire Station (non-emergency)	388-4506
Burn Permits: Erik Eriksen	388-3629
Road Commissioner: Ron Wimett	388-7346
Zoning Administrator, Jonathan Heppell	<a href="mailto:zoning@ripton.org">zoning@ripton.org</a>
Animal Control: Alex Cox	<a href="mailto:riptonac@gmail.com">riptonac@gmail.com</a>
Recycling	388-4082

## Ripton Facts

**Chartered:** April 13, 1781  
**Organized:** 1828  
**Total Land Area:** 32,704 acres  
**National Forest:** 22,201 acres (68% of total land area)  
**Middlebury College:** 2,308 acres (7% of total land area)  
**Population:** 588 (based on 2010 U.S. Census)  
**Density:** 12 people per square mile  
**Altitude:** 1,025 feet (village)  
**Mountains:** Battell Mountain 3,482'  
 Bread Loaf Mountain 3,835'  
 Boyce Mountain 3,062'  
 Mount Roosevelt 3,323'  
 Robert Frost Mountain 2,513'  
 Wilson Mountain 3,780'

**Town Highways:** 29.166 miles total  
 Class I (State Rte 125): 5.786 miles      Class II (Lincoln Rd): 4.9 miles  
 Class III: 18.48 miles                      Class IV: 3.33 miles  
 Legal Trail: 1.85 miles

Ripton Population 1781-2010



Back cover