

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022

TOWN of RIPTON, VERMONT



Photo credit: Jeannie Cash

Town Meeting: March 6, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Ripton Community House

Please bring this Report with you to Town Meeting
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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Monday, March 6, 2023

7:00 p.m. Ripton Community House

**Babysitting for children in pre-K through 6th grade at
Ripton Elementary School from 6:00 p.m. until the meeting ends**

Call the School at 388-2208 for more information.

ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Community House

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



Photo credit: Jeannie Cash

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/>

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Warning – Town of Ripton Annual Meeting

The legal voters of the Town of Ripton are warned to meet at the Ripton Community House, 1283 VT Route 125, Monday, March 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. to transact the following business:

- Article 1:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$735,923 to pay General Fund and Highway Fund expenses for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, divided as follows:
- General Fund \$257,933
Highway Fund \$477,990
- Article 2:** Will the Town vote that the \$35,000 approved May 9, 2022 for the Ripton School District be used to reduce taxes?
- Article 3:** Will the Town vote to have current property taxes collected by the Treasurer with a tax due date of November 1, 2023; payments due in the Town Office by 5:00 p.m.?
- Article 4:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$44,840 to the Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department to pay expenses for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024?
- Article 5:** Will the Town vote the sum of \$6,000 to the Ripton Cemetery Commission to pay expenses for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024?
- Article 6:** Will the Town vote to spend an amount not to exceed \$75,000 from American Rescue Plan Act funds for a solar installation to provide electricity for the Town buildings and streetlights?
- Article 7:** Other business: Discussion items
- Interest group meetings and ways to be involved in the community
 - Ripton Elementary School update
 - Announcements

Adjourn the Floor 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 7, 2023, 8:00 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 7th.

Article 8: Will the Town elect the following Officers?

Selector 3-year term
Moderator 1-year term
Delinquent Tax Collector 1-year term
Constable 1-year term
Lister 3-year term
Cemetery Commissioner 5-year term

Article 9: Will the Town approve the following funding requests?

Addison County Home Health and Hospice \$750
Addison County Parent/Child Center \$600
Addison County Restorative Justice Services \$170
Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative \$400
Age Well \$750
Counseling Service of Addison County \$1,400
Elderly Services \$600
Green Up Vermont \$50
Homeward Bound \$750
HOPE - Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects \$3,000
John Graham Housing & Services \$1,600
Middlebury Regional Emergency & Medical Services \$5,880
NeighborWorks of Western Vermont \$300
Open Door Clinic \$1,500
Otter Creek Child Care Center \$1,000
Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District \$50
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) \$475
The Teen Center \$1,900
Tri-Valley Transit \$1,901
Turning Point Center of Addison County \$1,000
Vermont Adult Learning \$300
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 23, 2023

Timothy Hanson

Giles Hoyler

Town Officers

Office	Name (term expires)	Phone (802)	
Elected			
Selectboard	Laureen Cox, Chair (23) Timothy Hanson (25) Giles Hoyler (24) Bonnie Swan (10/21-5/22)	388-7820 388-2546 388-3449	lcx@riptonvt.org thanson@riptonvt.org ghoyler@riptonvt.org
Justices of the Peace	Alex Cox (24) Jenna Hunsinger (24) Richard "Kim" Kimler (24) Tammy Snyder (24) Norman Tjossem (24)		Justices 2020-2022 Anza Armstrong Perry Hanson Timothy Hanson Richard "Kim" Kimler Warren King
Board of Listers	Alison Joseph Dickinson (23) Erik Eriksen (25) Beth Eliason (24)	388-2266	listers@riptonvt.org
Cemetery Commission	Elizabeth Walker, Chair (27) Carole Cummings (26) Samantha Smith Lau (23) Bonnie Swan (24) Karen Heppell (25)	Chair: 388-1634	
Moderator	Timothy O'Leary (23)	388-2266	
Delinquent Tax Collector	Carolyn Smith (23)	388-2266	
Constable	Chris Smith (23)	388-0337	
2022 Ripton School District Directors	Steve Cash, Joanna Doria, Wendy Harlin, Jane Phinney, Molly Witters		
Appointed & Other			
Animal Control	Chris Smith	388-0337	
Animal Control Asst.	Bill Hunsinger	232-2698	
Emergency Mgt. Coord	Erik Eriksen	388-3629	
Emergency Shelter	Mark Nelson	388-2857	
Energy Coordinator	Warren King	388-4082	
Fire Chief	Chris Pike	388-0789	pike.riptonfd@gmail.com
Fire Warden	Erik Eriksen	388-3629	
Health Officer	Timothy Hanson	388-2546	thanson@riptonvt.org
Road Commissioner	Timothy Hanson	388-2546	thanson@riptonvt.org
Town Admin/Clerk	Alison Joseph Dickinson	388-2266	ajdickinson@riptonvt.org
Asst. Clerk/Treasurer	Paula Scott	388-2266	pscott@riptonvt.org
Treasurer	Carolyn Smith	388-2266	csmith@riptonvt.org
Tree Warden	Selectboard	388-2266	
Zoning Administrator	Jonathan Heppell	388-2266	zoning@riptonvt.org

Office	Name (term expires)	Phone (802)	
Conservation Commission	Mark Nelson, Chair (24), Zapata Courage (23), Warren King (24), Judy Kowalczyk (23), Barry King (25), Jay Harrington (25)	Chair 388-2857	
Recycling Committee	Warren King, Barry King, Mac Cox, Mark Nelson, Steve Zwicky	388-4082	
Regional Planning Delegates	Jeremy Grip Jonathan Heppell (alternate)		
Regional Transportation	Norm Tjossem Jonathan Heppell (alternate)		
Solid Waste District Delegates	Jay Harrington Steve Zwicky (alternate)		
Zoning Board of Adjustment, Planning Commission and Historic District	Michael J. Cummings (25) and Carrie Herzog (24) Co-chairs, Mia Allen (25), Jeannie Cash (23), Levi Doria (23)		
Zoning Board, Alternate Members	Jorene Doria, Alison Joseph, Warren King, Marty Kulczyk, Leonard Tiedemann		

Meeting Schedule

All meetings are public. Agenda are posted on bulletin boards and at riptonvermont.org.

Selectboard: 2nd and 4th Mon. of the month, 7:00 p.m., Town Office

Ripton Fire & First Response: General meeting 2nd Tues. of the month, 6:30 p.m., Fire Station

Planning Commission/Zoning Board: 2nd Tues. of the month, 7:00 p.m., Community House

Cemetery Commission: 1st Wed. of the month March-Dec., 7:30 p.m., Town Office

Conservation Commission: 2nd Monday, every other month, as posted

Selectboard Report

The past year began with a difference for Ripton. We held our Town Meeting in early May, rather than the usual March date, based on the continued occurrence of Covid in our area. Thus, our town's "year" began two months later than usual. We met in the dining hall of Silver Towers Camp which provided more space than the Community House plus good ventilation. A good, in-person gathering took place, but we hope that this will not need to be more than a one-time occurrence. Elections for town positions took place the following day. We thank Bonnie Swan for stepping into the Selectboard seat that was left vacant with Ron Wimet's passing, and we welcomed Giles Hoyler onto the Board following the election.

As a part of that Town Meeting, voters agreed to fund the Ripton School District Board the sum of \$35,000. This turned out to not be needed, as they had sufficient funds donated to cover their expenses. There would be no further expenses since the State Board of Education denied Ripton's ability to join another school district, and the voters chose to have the school district rejoin the Addison Central School District. If approved at this year's meeting, the \$35,000 will be returned to the taxpayers through a reduction of the current year's taxes.

Road-related projects: The construction of the new Sand Shed went out to bid this winter, with hopes that construction can take place this spring and early summer. Purchase of the land for the shed, just south of the school, was finally completed. Because the building can come in a few different colors, we hung tarps in the area for the immediate neighbors to weigh in on, and the decision was made to have it be either dark green or dark brown, as those colors were the least obtrusive. Not surprisingly, building costs have gone up since we were awarded the grant, so we applied for additional funding which will, hopefully, make up the difference.

The Peddlers Bridge Road culvert replacement project was delayed due to engineering staff changes and the need for more soil borings. Costs for this project have increased and we will apply for additional funds. Construction is expected for 2024.

At the intersection of Rte. 125 and Natural Turnpike, some additional shaving back of the slope achieved a better line of sight than had been accomplished with the work in 2021.

An extensive study of Old Town Road was funded by a grant from Addison County Regional Planning, scoping what would be needed to make the trail part of this road passable by a broader array of vehicles in the case of an emergency where Rte. 125 was again washed out or otherwise rendered impassable. This study laid out what would be needed to bring it into a more reliable condition as well as what would be needed to make it a fully functional road. Right now, we are looking to only achieve a road that could be used by emergency vehicles or vehicles necessary to provide goods and/or services during an event such as some towns experience during Hurricane Irene which left communities completely isolated for several days. The National Forest Service, Green Mountain Power, First Light Fiber, Consolidated Communications, and Maple Broadband are possible partners in this effort. There will be further information about this project in the future, especially for people who live or own property on Old Town Road. Slightly related, Ripton was the location of a record number of traffic lights this past summer while extensive work was done by the state to stabilize the riverbank on sections of Rte. 125, reminding us all of how much we rely on that road in our daily lives.

Many of the more typical road projects are addressed in the Road Commissioner's Report. At last year's meeting we talked about advertising for the road commissioner position temporarily filled by Tim Hanson. No applications were received, and Tim Hanson agreed to continue.

Town Committees: Many people expressed interest in and signed up to be part of some new town committees which can help us have more voices involved as we look to our town's future. The Social Events committee kicked things off with a community potluck in December, and we look forward to more fun and opportunities to connect with our neighbors. Another committee is focused on energy, with their most

immediate project reflecting the town vote in 2020 for town buildings to become carbon neutral by 2030. Related to this, we propose to use some of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds we received from the federal government to pay for the solar power to make this achievable. Another committee is looking at the possibility of land for a town green, although this would probably not be sited within the town center, while a fourth committee is looking into ways to provide more housing, particularly affordable housing. Other areas that will be pursued include a town/community farm, green burials, and pre-school. These committees are made up of volunteers and are in no way closed as to their membership. If you are interested in any of these areas, let someone at the Town Office or Laurie Cox know what you might like to join, or contact a committee member directly.

National Forest: Chris Mattrick, District Ranger for the Green Mountain National Forest, meets at least annually with the Selectboard. There is a program by which small tracts of land owned by the Forest Service but not adjoining their larger parcels may be sold. We applied to purchase a section of land adjacent to Chandler Hill Road. The process is not speedy but could provide acreage to serve some of the town's future needs. Over the last couple of years, the Forest Service has done considerable work on the Robert Frost Wayside and Interpretive Trails. With the Ripton Historical Society, a sign was installed and clearing done at the Calvin Pier Tavern site, along the Wayside Trail. The Oak Ridge Trail, which begins on the Middlebury section of Rte. 125 and travels up into the Moosalamoo region, has become part of a walking/hiking trail system going across our country from coast to coast.

Town buildings/properties: The surface between the parking area and entrance to the recycling shed was improved, and a platform constructed to make the recycling container more accessible. The area where this shed and current sandpile are located has been surveyed to better delineate boundaries with neighboring properties. Following construction of the new sand shed and replacement of the nearby culvert, we plan to landscape this site.

The Vermont Center for Independent Living evaluated our Town Office and Community House for accessibility and made several recommendations, which we will prioritize and address. Also, at the Town Office, we now have fiber optic internet connection which has increased capacity and stability.

Internet service: This past summer, North Branch Networks closed down as an internet provider in our community. Meanwhile, Consolidated Communications does not have the capacity to add new internet customers. In 2021 Ripton had joined Maple Broadband, the communication union district (CUD) for our area that was set up to bring broadband to all the communities involved. Knowing we were significantly less served than many of the participating towns, we expected to be part of their first construction phase. Thus, we were surprised to read of their plans in the newspaper with no mention of Ripton. A series of meetings and emails revealed that there was considerable misinformation both about our current coverage as well as what would be involved to work in areas adjacent to National Forest lands. We were able to get this straightened out, but their plans for the first phase of construction had already gone out to bid. We were assured that Ripton would be at the head of the second phase of construction, expected for 2024. We were recently informed that Maple Broadband's plans have changed because Fidium Fiber, a division of Consolidated Communications, will provide broadband service in Ripton in 2023.

ARPA funds: The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provided Ripton with a little over \$170,000. We have spent \$25,000 which was provided to Maple Broadband during their initial startup. Other possible uses for these funds will be discussed and possibly voted on during Town Meeting.

Sheriff: This summer the Addison County Sheriff was arrested, no longer allowed to perform law enforcement duties, and refused calls to resign, even from the Governor. We made the decision to terminate our contract with the department. Now that a new sheriff has been elected we will again be hiring law enforcement services. This may be especially useful as we plan to reduce the speed limit on some of the town roads. While we are not hoping to have a lot of people ticketed after this change, reminders may well be needed as we all make the adjustment.

Dogs: All dogs must be licensed. This is state law. The rates are cheaper if you get your dog licensed by the end of March. Bill Hunsinger is a new animal control officer for the town, assisting Chris Smith.

Involvement/Town Meeting: As we go through 2023 together, we hope that many people will look into ways to get involved in the town, school, and community. This helps us be a strong community where we can work – and dream – together to keep our town a great place to live for all its citizens, as well as for those who may join us in the future.

Town Meeting is our time to come together and make decisions for the coming year or years. Please plan to be a part of that meeting. If you cannot attend, consider communicating your ideas and concerns via phone calls, emails, letters, or even face to face. Everyone who lives here is a part of what happens. Everyone gets to weigh in. There are some great ideas percolating out there!

Laurie Cox
Selectboard Chair

Road Commissioner Report

Road Work Transition: The Town continues to transition from Maiden Lane Contractors. Kevin Jackson, Chris Lackard and Chris Poploski continue to do the Town's roadwork, with outside contractors for roadside mowing, crack sealing and paving. Kevin Jackson and Chris Poploski use their tandems for sand and gravel hauling and ditch-spoil removal; their excavator for ditching and culvert work; their dump trucks for plowing and sanding. Kevin and his team also have work outside of Town, and work with Chris Lackard on large projects when they can break away from this other work. Chris Lackard uses his truck for plowing, sanding, and general road duties, and continues to run the grader on our roads. We appreciate Chris Lackard's availability for urgent road-work—he's in town most of the time and available on short notice to take care of fallen trees, frozen culverts, and other emergencies. He is also up early almost every morning to check the bus route to make sure the roads are open and safe. Chris, Chris and Kevin work very long hours when they are plowing or when the wind knocks trees down blocking the roads, and we appreciate their dedication.

Ditching and Culverts: Our road crew completed two large ditching projects last summer: one on Wagon Wheel Road and one on County Cross Road. The cost of the Wagon Wheel Project was partially offset by a State grant. Other smaller ditching projects were done on the Goshen Road and the North Branch. Culverts were replaced on the Wagon Wheel, Goshen Road and the Dugway. The focus was on culverts that had failed, and, in particular, culverts that tended to freeze which allowed ice to accumulate on the roadway. As of this writing (January 2023), the culverts are working as planned. For next year, we hope to replace an undersized 24" culvert on the North end of the North Branch with a 60" culvert and have applied for a structures grant to offset some of the costs. We have already identified several additional smaller culverts that need to be replaced in 2023. Culverts have not been exempt from inflation: a 24" culvert that was about \$500 now costs over \$1,000, and just the cost of purchasing the 60" culvert mentioned above is approximately \$10,000.

Cost Increases: The inflationary trend for culverts is typical for all the costs related to road work, leading to the Board approving two rate increases of 10% each for the hourly costs billed to the Town for the equipment. With fuel costs doubling, and the cost of materials necessary to run and repair the equipment increasing dramatically, the Board felt that the increases were justified.

Baker Bridge: The westerly wing-wall of Baker Bridge (at the intersection of the North Branch, Pearl Lee, and Lincoln Road) is cracked, and in danger of falling into the river. Robert Clark, our engineer from Otter Creek Engineering, has said that though the wing-wall failure is not a structural risk, we will need to do some repairs so that the concrete and gravel doesn't dump into the North Branch River. We would fix the bridge guardrails at the same time. We will apply for a Class 2 Road structures grant for this work. (The Lincoln Road is our only Class 2 road. All the rest are Class 3, except for a few short sections of Class 4.) Though the

bridge itself has been deemed sound, even though it was built soon after the flood of 1927, it does not meet current standards and really ought to be replaced with a two-lane bridge with a better alignment. However, since a project like that would be prohibitively expensive for the Town to undertake on its own, we will have to wait our turn for a major structures grant to become available, which is likely to be many years in the future.

Guardrails: We have not spent significant road funds on guardrails for many years. Some funds were spent this year under the guardrail budget to cut the brush and undergrowth around several of the guardrails, and to shovel the accumulated dirt around the posts, a project that can really only be done by hand—thanks Chris L. We need to do significant guardrail work this year, repairing the damage done to existing rails and ends. The Board is contemplating placing guardrails on the Dugway, on the right (north) as one heads down towards the bridge from the fire station. The large stones that act as guardrails do not meet safety specifications. We are also considering paving that section of the Dugway, from the bridge easterly to just past Selden Mill Road, after building up the gravel base, but the cost to do everything (gravel, rail, paving) at once is estimated at over \$140,000, which is obviously quite a significant sum. Again, we will look into grants to help with the costs.

Roadside Mowing and Tree Cutting: K. A. Bagley did a great deal of mowing in 2022, including use of a boom mower to reach to the edge of the Town's right-of-way. As noted in earlier reports, it's cheaper to pay for mowing than it is to come back later to clear with chainsaws. The regular bush-hogging improves visibility and helps discourage invasive species. We won't need to do as much boom mowing this year but will continue to do a double pass on all the roads with the regular side mower.

Blowing Debris and Leaves: The Town contracted with K. A. Bagley to run a very powerful blower to push leaves and small branches off the roadway and out of the ditches. This removes a great deal of organic debris from the road and ditches so that grading doesn't pull all those leaves into the road, to be incorporated into the gravel. It also prolongs the life of the ditches as they won't fill up as fast. Ron Wimett used to attach a blower to the front of the grader, which did more or less the same thing, but this blower is much more powerful and removed much more material. We do apologize to the landowners who had a bunch of leaves blown onto their lawn.

Apple Trees and Trees/Brush at Road Intersections: We are lucky to have dozens of apple trees thriving on the sides of our roads. The blossoms in the spring are charming, and the fruit feeds the deer and other wildlife. We hope to do some modest hand trimming of some of these trees in the coming years as the branches can extend well into the Town's right-of-way and can scratch vehicles and obscure the line-of-sight. There are a few intersections (Robbins Cross Road and the Lincoln Road come to mind) where trees and brush obscure the line-of-sight. We hope to do some tree and brush trimming this year, with close consultation with the landowners.

Dugway/North Branch Intersection: Vermont Agency of Transportation has awarded the Town a \$40,000 grant to study the drainage and traffic flow at the intersection of the Dugway and North Branch. This site has a complicated water-flow and a site that has failed in past floods, causing washouts on the Dugway. The State engineer says it is preferred to do away with 'Y' intersections and construct a "T" instead. This study hasn't started yet, but we wanted people to be aware of the project.

Winter Work: The experiment with adding chips to the sand has started. It seems the chips add traction, and we hope that the Town is finding that to be true. The chips spread on the gravel roads will add to the road base. We are still discussing the use of straight salt on the paved portions of the roads, but that could only start after the sand shed is built, as the salt needs to be under cover. Several snow and wind storms over Christmas kept the road crew very busy, and the crew worked until after midnight January 12-13 to deal with serious icing.

Paving and Crack Sealing: We used the paving funds designated for 2021 to cut back the hogback at the intersection of the Natural Turnpike and Vermont Route 125, and to do the first crack sealing we have done

in a while. Crack sealing is a practice adopted by almost all road agencies and has been shown to prolong paved-road life. We believe that the vendor we used in 2022 did a good job, but we were, frankly, a little disappointed in how much of the roads were done. We are working on two options for this year: using another vendor (which comes highly recommended by several neighboring towns) or trying to join some of the smaller towns who have purchased a crack seal unit that they use in turn—not sure which option will be the best one for us this year. This year we are considering paving the north end of the Lincoln Road (perhaps all the way to the bridge) and perhaps paving a segment of the Dugway, using newly budgeted funds and possibly some of the Highway Fund budget surplus. We also need to repave a section of the Natural Turnpike from the bridge over the Middle Branch to Billings Farm Road.

Sand Shed, Peddler's Bridge Road culvert; Old Town Road; See Selectboard Report – Road-related Projects.

Tim Hanson

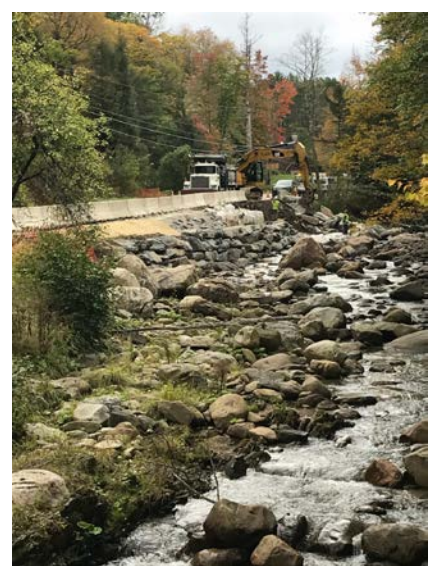


Photo credits: VTrans (Route 125 Streambank Stabilization Project 2021-2022)

Selectboard Budget Narrative

For FY 2022 (Completed) FY 2023 (In Progress) FY 2024 (To be Voted)

This report reviews the fiscal year ending June 2022 (**FY22**); a discussion of the status of the current year's budget July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 (**FY23**) voted at Town Meeting May 9, 2022, and a review of the budget to be voted at Town Meeting March 6, 2023 (**FY24**).

Financial Status: The outside Auditors, Telling and Hillman, P. C., reviewed the Town's **FY 22** financial submissions and concluded the Town's officers have correctly represented the Town's financial status. The full Auditor's report is available at the Town office.

At the end of the fiscal year (**FY22**) the Auditors confirmed that the Town had total revenues of **\$900,227**, with total expenses of **\$757,307**. Revenues increased \$63,500 over **FY 21**, and expenditures increased by \$97,000. The total 'position' of the Town in all categories (including value of land and equipment) as of June 30th 2022 was **\$2,323,033**, an increase of **\$142,920** from **FY21**.

General Fund Income for FY22: Non-tax General Fund income was approximately \$8,000 more than anticipated, mostly due to a larger payment-in-lieu-of-taxes from the College. This payment is tax-rate dependent. Recording fees and vault-search time was lower, as were fines collected from the Sheriff's patrol.

General Fund Expenses for FY22: Actual General Fund expenses for **FY22** tracked \$28,000 lower than budgeted. This was mostly due to a reduced amount spent on the Sheriff's patrol, computer expenses, building maintenance (all buildings combined), and legal fees. Some budget lines were overspent (Selectboard administration, Listers, fuel for Town buildings, Town Clerk, Zoning and a few others). Details of all General Fund spending are in the General Fund Budget spreadsheet that follow this report.

Road Income in FY22: Road Income came in above estimates by approximately \$17,000, due to more State Aid to Roads and an increase in Federal PILOT (payment-in-lieu-of-tax) Funds. Other income lines were essentially as anticipated. An additional \$10,000 was transferred to the Major Project Fund, which now totals \$236,534.

Road Expenses FY22: The total Road Budget for **FY22** was underspent by approximately \$16,500. Winter costs were underspent by \$36,300, mostly due to a reduced amount spent on buying and trucking sand. Summer Work was overspent by \$9,600: increased grading and gravel spreading and paving accounting for most of the increase. Only \$1,000 was spent out of the Major Road Reconstruction Fund line, so \$24,000 was carried over. In general, funds voted for road work but not spent in a fiscal year are carried over and can be spent on roads without a further vote of the Town. This fund now has a balance of approximately \$400,000.00. It is this surplus that the Board is referring to when talking about using road budget surplus to catch up on some road projects (paving, guard rails, gravel spreading, for example).

Current year Budget 2022-2023 (FY23) voted June 30, 2022, Starting July 1, 2022, ending June 30, 2023.

General Fund Income for FY23: As of mid-January 2023, income for **FY 2023** is running close to estimates. Taxes came in as anticipated. Delinquent tax revenue has stayed strong, and there was an increase in Middlebury College's PILOT payment due to its adjustment by the tax rate.

General Fund Expenses for FY23: Expenses for the current year are tracking about as expected, with no unanticipated outlays.

Proposed Budget 2023-2024 (FY24) to be voted March 6, 2023, Starting July 1 2023, ending June 30 2024

Anticipated General Fund Income 2023-2024 (FY 24) Anticipated General fund non-tax revenues for **FY 24** are anticipated to be essentially unchanged from **FY 23**.

Proposed General Fund Expenses FY24: Expected **FY24** expenses are budgeted to increase by approximately \$20,000. Some of the increase is for compensation to the Town staff, due to inflation and the

ever-growing administrative burden on Towns. There is an increase in our insurance premium from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. We anticipate restarting our contract with the Sheriff's department for patrol, which will increase that budget line.

Anticipated Road Income for FY24: The Board anticipates a \$40,000 increase in Road income for the next fiscal year through State Aid to roads, an additional \$7,000 grant for specific road work, adjustments to payments-in-lieu-of-tax, and taxes.

Proposed Road Budget for FY24: Summer work is anticipated to increase by close to \$50,000. This is mostly due to paving projects we hope to get to this year (we hope to pave portions of the Lincoln Road and Natural Turnpike). More money has been allotted to grading, but less to boom mowing as we did so much boom mowing last year. Winter work is essentially level funded, but we will overspend the budget if necessary to keep the roads safe. Funding for the Road Commissioner and Project Manager has been moved to its own section in the budget to keep accounting for actual roadwork separate from administration.

Auditors' Report

Telling & Hillman, P.C. audited the Town's financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2022. 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.

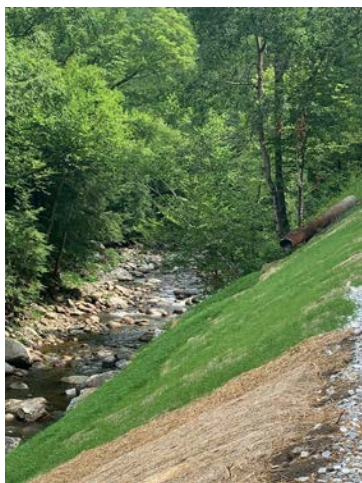


Photo credits: VTrans (Route 125 Streambank Stabilization Project 2021-2022)

General Fund Budget

GENERAL FUND BUDGET	Budget FY22	Actual FY22	Budget FY23	Budget FY24
Expense				
Selectboard Stipend (3 x 750)	2,250.00	1,761.26	2,250.00	2,250.00
Selectboard Admin/Clerk	23,000.00	28,847.07	23,000.00	25,000.00
Town Clerk	17,000.00	17,603.93	18,000.00	19,500.00
Town Treasurer	16,800.00	17,291.71	18,000.00	19,500.00
Asst. Town Clerks & Treasurer	18,000.00	15,876.67	19,000.00	19,000.00
Elections	400.00	294.04	1,200.00	400.00
BCA & BTA Hearings	100.00	182.14	100.00	100.00
Delinquent Tax Collector	4,000.00	5,107.60	4,000.00	5,000.00
Listers	8,500.00	9,797.15	10,000.00	10,500.00
Lister Training	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Planning Commission	1,550.00	1,550.00	1,550.00	1,550.00
Zoning Administrator	3,000.00	2,171.40	3,500.00	3,800.00
Animal Control Officer	500.00	0.00	400.00	400.00
Health Officer	500.00	0.00	400.00	400.00
Officers Training	500.00	114.40	400.00	400.00
Facilities Management	1,000.00	945.39	1,000.00	1,000.00
Emergency Mgmt. Coord.	400.00	400.00	400.00	400.00
Payroll Taxes	8,000.00	8,451.68	9,000.00	9,000.00
Office Supplies	2,000.00	1,133.81	1,500.00	2,000.00
Office Equipment/Furnish	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	500.00
Photocopier	1,500.00	1,607.50	1,550.00	1,550.00
Computer/Technology	5,000.00	1,344.98	2,000.00	3,000.00
Telephone	1,100.00	1,266.62	1,300.00	1,350.00
Internet	2,000.00	1,447.60	2,600.00	1,500.00
Website	800.00	236.00	500.00	500.00
Postage	850.00	937.50	1,000.00	1,000.00
Legal Notices	400.00	561.83	400.00	400.00
Document Preservation	4,000.00	4,206.36	4,000.00	4,000.00
Clerk & Treasurer Dues	100.00	75.00	75.00	190.00
Lister Expenses	400.00	585.10	550.00	550.00
Planning & Zoning Expense	500.00	219.23	500.00	500.00
Property Insurance	14,000.00	13,167.50	14,000.00	20,000.00
Workers Comp Ins	900.00	340.00	500.00	500.00
Town Report	1,500.00	1,787.21	2,400.00	2,400.00
Legal Services	7,500.00	1,491.50	7,000.00	7,000.00
Audit	9,000.00	7,700.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
Generator	400.00	378.00	400.00	420.00
Recycling	12,000.00	12,171.98	12,000.00	15,000.00
Animal Damage	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Bank Fees & Miscellaneous	130.00	30.84	130.00	100.00
Conservation Commission*	200.00	-232.50	200.00	100.00
Grounds Maintenance	1,200.00	1,345.48	1,400.00	1,400.00

GENERAL FUND BUDGET	Budget FY22	Actual FY22	Budget FY23	Budget FY24
Town Office Fuel	1,500.00	2,550.13	2,000.00	3,000.00
Town Office Electric	1,200.00	1,106.93	1,500.00	1,300.00
Town Office Maintenance	6,000.00	384.50	6,000.00	6,000.00
Community House Fuel	3,000.00	4,275.60	3,000.00	4,500.00
Community House Electric	800.00	1,057.58	800.00	1,100.00
Community House Maintenance	5,000.00	362.97	5,000.00	5,000.00
Transfer to Town Buildings Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Public Telephone	600.00	605.00	600.00	650.00
Streetlights	1,100.00	1,075.09	1,000.00	1,000.00
Recycling Shed Electric	600.00	473.07	600.00	500.00
Recycling Shed Maintenance	4,000.00	8.97	2,000.00	2,000.00
Waste Disposal	500.00	226.00	300.00	300.00
VLCT Dues	1,795.00	0.00	1,930.00	2,070.00
Regional Planning Dues	767.00	766.92	997.65	1,000.00
Addison County Sheriff	12,000.00	7,280.69	12,000.00	15,000.00
Addison County Tax	3,619.68	3,619.68	4,221.00	4,403.00
Animal Holding Facility	450.00	450.00	450.00	450.00
Tax Maps	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
NEMRC - programs/fees	7,000.00	7,160.00	7,000.00	7,200.00
Total General Fund Expense	233,211.68	204,599.11	236,903.65	257,933.00
*The \$232.50 is a credit for Conservation Commission calendar sale proceeds.				
Plus Voted Items				
General Fund Sub-Total	233,211.68	204,599.11	236,903.65	257,933.00
Ripton Fire & Rescue Dept	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00	44,840.00
Cemetery Commission	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Funding Requests	26,126.00	26,126.00	27,726.00	25,626.00
Ripton School District Planning	0.00	0.00	35,000.00	0.00
Total Expense	306,337.68	277,725.11	346,629.65	334,399.00
Revenue				
Recording Fees	8,000.00	6,412.00	8,000.00	7,000.00
Copier & Vault Time	1,500.00	938.45	1,500.00	900.00
Dog Licenses	500.00	616.00	550.00	550.00
Liquor Licenses	185.00	185.00	185.00	185.00
Zoning Permit Fees	2,000.00	1,455.00	2,000.00	1,500.00
Compliance & Hearing Fees	400.00	215.00	500.00	250.00
Recycling Donations	2,200.00	3,350.99	2,600.00	3,000.00
Sheriff Fines	2,500.00	588.89	1,500.00	1,500.00
Miscellaneous: Marriage Licenses, Posting, Green Mt Pass	208.00	97.01	210.00	100.00
Current Use Hold Harmless	18,000.00	20,880.00	19,000.00	21,000.00
Interest	500.00	445.45	500.00	1,000.00
Rent: Community House	1,000.00	1,300.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
College PILOT (adjusted by tax rate)	88,000.00	96,477.60	92,000.00	98,000.00
Tax Revenue – current year	131,344.68	133,501.46	162,084.65	113,414.00
Delinquent Tax	50,000.00	68,539.40	50,000.00	50,000.00

GENERAL FUND BUDGET	Budget FY22	Actual FY22	Budget FY23	Budget FY24
GF return to voters	0.00	0.00	0.00	35,000.00
Total Revenue	306,337.68	335,002.25	341,629.65	334,399.00

Highway Fund Budget

HIGHWAY FUND BUDGET	Budget FY22	Actual FY22	Budget FY23	Budget FY24
Summer Work Expense				
Ditching	20,000.00	7,058.70	22,000.00	22,000.00
Grading	16,000.00	24,837.50	18,000.00	24,000.00
Chloride	7,000.00	16,132.08	8,000.00	8,000.00
Culverts	7,000.00	10,293.50	7,000.00	14,000.00
Guardrails	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
Gravel	40,000.00	61,928.58	44,000.00	40,000.00
Summer storm damage	9,000.00	5,239.50	9,000.00	7,000.00
Road Signs	1,000.00	494.65	1,000.00	1,000.00
Cutting brush & trees	10,000.00	790.50	10,000.00	8,000.00
Mowing	5,200.00	7,691.25	6,800.00	7,500.00
Mowing with boom	2,800.00	2,325.00	2,800.00	3,000.00
Training	300.00	292.00	500.00	500.00
Class 4 Road Work	10,000.00	4,852.57	10,000.00	10,000.00
Paving & Intersection Project '22	50,000.00	57,042.86	20,000.00	60,000.00
Crack-seal	0.00	13,500.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Major Road Reconstruction	25,000.00	1,104.18	25,000.00	25,000.00
Misc. Summer Work	1,500.00	1,916.97	2,000.00	2,000.00
Summer Work Total	205,800.00	215,499.84	197,100.00	244,000.00
Winter Work Expense				
Sand and bluestone chips	40,000.00	29,436.42	40,000.00	42,000.00
Trucking sand	20,000.00	6,240.00	20,000.00	18,000.00
Salt	7,000.00	4,928.23	7,000.00	9,000.00
Sanding	40,000.00	35,522.50	42,000.00	42,000.00
Plowing	55,000.00	50,445.50	55,000.00	55,000.00
Winter storm damage	7,000.00	9,288.25	7,000.00	7,000.00
Culvert thawing	4,000.00	612.00	3,000.00	1,000.00
Sweeping roads	8,000.00	6,617.50	8,000.00	8,000.00
Misc. Winter Work	2,000.00	3,838.75	2,000.00	3,000.00
Winter Work Total	183,000.00	146,929.15	184,000.00	185,000.00
Summer/Winter Subtotal	388,800.00	362,428.99	381,100.00	429,000.00
Administration				
Municipal Project Manager	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Road Commissioner	3,600.00	5,167.50	5,000.00	8,000.00
Checking Roads	0.00	1,200.00	3,600.00	3,600.00

HIGHWAY FUND BUDGET	Budget FY22	Actual FY22	Budget FY23	Budget FY24
Administration Total	3,600.00	6,367.50	18,600.00	21,600.00
Other				
Major Project Fund payment	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Municipal Rds State Permit fee	1,750.00	1,350.00	1,350.00	1,990.00
Grant Match	10,000.00	10,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Other Total	21,750.00	21,350.00	26,350.00	26,990.00
Equipment Purchase	0.00	6,000.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expense	414,150.00	396,146.49	426,050.00*	477,590.00
Revenue				
Property Tax - Roads	191,000.00	193,933.76	189,150.00	223,990.00
Overweight Permit Fees	750.00	676.00	600.00	600.00
State Aid to Highways	50,100.00	55,843.90	51,300.00	60,000.00
College PILOT Roads	90,000.00	96,477.59	92,000.00	98,000.00
USFS PILOT Payment	64,300.00	65,133.00	64,000.00	67,000.00
Current Use/Hold Harmless	18,000.00	18,865.00	19,000.00	21,000.00
Grants-in-Aid annual award	0.00	7,820.00	6,700.00	7,000.00
Total Revenue	414,150.00	438,749.25	422,750.00	477,590.00

*Revised Budget FY23

Town Grants

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): Ripton was allocated \$170,129.01 in 5 payments. The remaining balance is \$145,129.01. The Maple Broadband Communications Union District was paid \$25,000 from Ripton's ARPA Funds in FY22. The approved purchase of an OWL labs device to facilitate online meetings for \$998.99 (reported last year) was not deducted from the ARPA funds because it could be paid for out of the General Fund budget. See this year's Town Meeting Warning for a question about spending up to \$75,000 for a solar energy project. If that question is approved and the \$75,000 fully spent, the ARPA fund balance will be \$70,129.01.

DEC Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid: FY21 grant, \$7,820, match \$2,297.84, total project \$10,117.84. Ditching, ditch-lining, and a culvert replacement were done at the east end of the North Branch Rd. Total spent: 10,110.97; reimbursed \$7,820 in FY22.

Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid: FY23 Equipment grant: \$6,000 for a roller compactor, to be purchased.

Forest Service - Old Town Rd/TH25/FR296: The FS awarded \$2,500 for maintenance in FY22 and FY23.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) grant: The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) TAC funded a \$20,000 study grant to look at making Old Town Rd passable for emergency use. Otter Creek Engineering completed the study in Sept. 2022. Information from the study is being used to apply for grants for implementation.

VTrans Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program FY19 STPMM19(18) Sand shed: grant \$356,000, match \$89,000, total project \$445,000, spent to date \$62,430.13. Land acquisition completed in FY22, construction bid advertised Jan. 2023, construction to start FY23, completion FY24. The estimated project cost increased approximately \$120,000 due to inflation. We applied for additional funds.

VTrans Municipal Highway and Stormwater Mitigation Program FY20 STPMM20(1) Peddlers Bridge Road TH#2 culvert project: grant \$627,600, match \$156,900, total project \$784,500, spent to date \$54,667.47; additional \$15,000 for soil borings approved in 2022. This grant is for replacing the culvert on Peddlers Bridge Road near the recycling shed. The project is expected to go out to bid in FY24, with construction in FY24-25. Project costs have increased. The engineer had additional soil borings done in Jan. 2023 and is revising the design and estimate. We will apply for additional funds.

VTrans Town Highway Structures Program grant #BC2170: grant \$43,200, match \$4,320, total project \$47,250, awarded FY23. This grant is for engineering services for the North Branch Rd and Dugway intersection, but we are talking with VTrans about transferring it for work on Baker Bridge (B2) at the intersection of the Lincoln, North Branch, and Pearl Lee Rds.

VTrans Better Roads BR0518 Lincoln and Pearl Lee Roads: ditching, stone-lined ditches, and drainage improvements. This grant was awarded and completed in FY19, grant \$16,607.50, match \$4,151.88, total project \$20,759.38. The grant reimbursement, \$16,464.00 was received in FY22.

VTrans Better Roads BR0887 North Branch Rd: grant \$11,600, match \$2,900, total project \$14,500. For ditching, ditch-lining, and a culvert replacement. Project completed FY22, reimbursement received FY23.

VTrans Grants-in-Aid GA0166: FY22 grant \$6,700, match \$1,675, total project \$8,375, completion deadline Sept. 2022 (FY23). A culvert and ditching project to meet town road standards was completed on Wagon Wheel Rd for \$25,615.14. The \$6,700 grant reimbursement will be applied to this.

VTrans Grants-in-Aid: FY23 grant \$11,000, match \$2,750, total project \$13,750, completion deadline June 2023, sit to be approved. The grants-in-aid are awarded annually by a formula.

Administration of the large VTrans grants is paid from the Municipal Project Manager budget line. Administration of other grants is paid from the Selectboard/Town Administrator line. The Road Commissioner and Treasurer also help with grant administration and audit requirements.



Ripton Volunteer Fire and Rescue

Department Report

2022 was a year of helping our neighbors through emergency response and community service. Call volume was up approximately 40% from 2021 responses, closer to the pre-covid yearly average. Calls included larger events like the Tarkey's Lodge fire in Salisbury where we provided mutual aid with interior-qualified firefighters, as well as using our tanker to shuttle water to the scene. We were also busy during the pre-Christmas storm that brought power outages to parts of Ripton for up to four days. We barricaded and established safety areas around downed power lines, brought generators to residents in need, and opened and staffed the fire station for residents to take a hot shower, fill water jugs, charge electronic devices or just warm up.

In addition to emergency responses, we provided medical and traffic control personnel for the Ripton Ridge Run and Ripton Elementary's Bike for Books event. We also visited with students from the elementary school to talk about fire safety and the importance of smoke detectors. Students from the North Branch School were able to come to the station to practice with a fire extinguisher trainer. And as in previous years, we hosted the annual town picnic.

With the help of a grant we upgraded the Robbins Cross Rd dry hydrant to increase the flow capacity and serviced the in water strainer. All of this work was done by department members. In September we replaced four of our Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). SCBA is an essential piece of personal protective equipment that enables our firefighters to more safely enter a building fire to rescue occupants and extinguish the fire. The new SCBA replaces outdated units, some more than 25 years old. Through regional and department training programs we qualified new drivers, helped our certified firefighter and EMS personnel meet their required continuing education hours, and strengthened current skillsets.

It is always good to be prepared for an emergency, like having bottled water, non-perishable foods, and a source of power such as a generator or battery. But things don't always go as planned. For those cases we have a few small generators available for short term loan and can get residents access to the station for water, charging electronics, etc. Let us know if you have any special considerations you would like us to be aware of that will help us better help you in an emergency. Do you or a family member have restricted mobility or a medical condition you would like our EMS staff to know about? Feel free to reach out to Chief Chris Pike at the contact info below. Any medical information will remain confidential and is protected by privacy laws.

We are sincerely thankful for the town's support that provides us the opportunity to help our friends and neighbors. Thank you!

Ripton Fire and Rescue

Chief Chris Pike

25 Dugway Rd. / PO Box 125 Ripton, Vt. 05766

Station: 802.388.4506 Cell: 802.458.7002 Email: pike.riptonfd@gmail.com

Ripton Volunteer Fire and Rescue - Department Report

Chief: Chris Pike - EMR, FFII

Assistant Chief: Jay Harrington - EMR, FFI

Captains: Mark Nelson - AEMT, Will Mathis - EMR, FFII

Lieutenant: Justin Allen - FFII, Fire Instructor

First Response Head of Service: Mark Nelson - AEMT

Members: Jake Coddington, Levi Doria, Troy Douglas, Ross Elliot, Erik Eriksen - Ret. Chief , Baxter Harrington - Cadet, John Hughes Jr. - FFI, Alison Joseph, Marty Kulczyk, Chris Lacey - EMT, Bobby Lau - EMT, Wendy Leeds, Erica Mathis - FFII, Tomas McElhaney, Laura McIntosh, Reid Peck - FFI, Elias Pike - Cadet, Irene Poole - EMT, Chris Roche, Gary Smith, Jim Zieger - FFI.

EMR-Emergency Medical Responder. EMT-Emergency Medical Technician. AEMT-Advanced EMT. FFI&II-Certified Firefighter

Activity Report 2022	# Calls	Hours
Fire calls*	21	158.5
Medical calls	23	67.25
Motor vehicle crashes	6	57.75
Search & Rescue	2	22
Fire & EMS Training		547.5
Maintenance		131.5
Community service		228
Meetings		102.75
Totals	52	1315.25

*Fire calls include automatic alarms, carbon monoxide calls, wires down, road flooding etc.



RES students see the trucks up close



NBS students practice with a fire extinguisher trainer



Robbins Cross Rd dry hydrant upgrade



Hiker rescue training

Ripton Volunteer Fire and Rescue - Department Report

2022 Vehicle & Major Equipment Inventory	
Pumper. 1993. KME/International 1,000 gal	Ladders. 2-roof, 2-24', 1-8', 2-attic
Tanker. 2005. Freightliner 2,000 gal	Chainsaw. Jonsered
Ford 2020 F-550 4x4 300 gal	(2) Multi gas meters - CO, O2, LPG
Pump, portable. Hale HPX400	Air compressor. Porter Cable, 3 hp
Pump, portable. Hale HPX300	Thermal Imaging Camera - Flir K2
Portable pond. 1,000 gal	Defibrillator. Laerdal Heartstart
Portable pond. 2,000 gal	Defibrillator. Medtronic Lifepak 500
Generator & light, portable. Honda EU1000	Defibrillator. 2 Medtronic Lifepak 1000
Generator, portable. Generac 6250	Defibrillator. Phillips Heartstart



RES students visit the fire station



Town picnic



Asst Chief Jay Harrington at a brush fire

RVFD Budget

RVFD BUDGET	Budget FY22	Actual FY22	Budget FY23	Budget FY24
Expense				
Gear/Tools/Equipment	6,000.00	11,710.23	7,000.00	7,000.00
Vehicle Repair/Maintenance	10,000.00	2,841.98	10,000.00	10,000.00
Fuel	500.00	706.88	500.00	1,000.00
Administration & Office	2,000.00	1,189.14	1,000.00	1,000.00
Stipend - Chief	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Insurance	3,000.00	2,386.00	2,658.00	3,500.00
Field Days to pay RVFD duty pay	200.00	289.00	289.00	200.00
Training	2,000.00	1,366.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Events	800.00	362.61	800.00	800.00
Computer & Internet	1,200.00	285.00	1,000.00	500.00
Dispatch	2,000.00	2,428.49	2,000.00	2,500.00
Electricity	1,200.00	1,214.12	1,200.00	1,200.00
Telephone FY22 & FY23	1,200.00	695.24	1,000.00	0.00
Telephone & Internet FY24	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Heat/Propane	3,000.00	2,839.42	3,000.00	4,000.00
Furniture & Equipment	500.00	747.35	500.00	500.00
Hydrants	500.00	915.97	500.00	500.00
Station maintenance	2,500.00	3,712.01	2,500.00	2,500.00
Plowing hydrants	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
Fundraising expense	400.00	0.00	400.00	400.00
Payment to Vehicle Fund	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Total Expense	44,450.00	41,139.44	43,797.00	46,550.00
Revenue				
Donations & fundraising	2,040.00	4,091.00	2,000.00	1,000.00
Field Days RVFD duty pay	200.00	289.00	289.00	200.00
Grants	1,200.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
Interest	10.00	11.29	8.00	10.00
Town Payment	41,000.00	41,000.00	41,000.00	44,840.00
Total Revenue	44,450.00	45,391.29	43,797.00	46,550.00
Year-end budget balance		4,251.85		
Account Balances 6/30/2022				
Checking	June 30, 2022	Dec. 31, 2022		
	981.85	2,423.44		
Savings	42,976.60	26,979.40		
Vehicle Replacement Fund	50,638.42	50,639.96		

Cemetery Commission Report & Budget

Phase I of headstone restoration and cleaning work was accomplished by Vermont Monuments this year. Repairs, leveling, straightening, and cleaning of many stones was done in the historic sections of both Cook and Galvin Cemeteries. Phase 2 will begin in 2023. Many thanks to the Masterson family who hired Vermont Monuments to install a new foundation and reestablish the “BEAN” memorial at Cook Cemetery. The Cemetery Commission continues to contact families, if they are known, for issues with lots, plantings, and memorials. Knotweed was removed from Cook Cemetery this year and the original 1957 working map of Cook Cemetery was preserved.

The new section of Galvin Cemetery is now established with lots for five families. Karen Heppell researched the feasibility of allowing “Natural” burials that would meet new Vermont laws. We expect to have an area at Galvin Cemetery available for residents in the future. The Cemetery Commission is seeking new bids for fence replacement at the Cook Cemetery and new fencing at the Gee Cemetery. Ripton had five burials this year and sold four cemetery lots. Elizabeth Walker was voted in for another 5-year term in April 2022. Samantha Smith Lau is up for reelection on this year’s ballot.

The Commission is asking Ripton residents for your support in the 2023/24 fiscal year to continue the work of operating, restoring, and improving Ripton’s Town Cemeteries. Funds will pay for grounds maintenance, fencing, and cleaning and restoration projects.

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 at the Ripton Town Office, March through December. Current Commissioners are Carole Cummings, Karen Heppell, Bonnie Swan, Samantha Smith Lau, and Elizabeth Walker. The Commission welcomes volunteers to help clean monuments and clear overgrown shrubs and plantings throughout the year.

Elizabeth Walker, Chair

CEMETERY COMMISSION BUDGET	Budget FY22	Actual FY22	Budget FY23	Budget FY24
Expense				
Dues/Administration	50.00	0.00	25.00	25.00
Stipends	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,650.00	1,650.00
Mowing	2,000.00	1,800.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Tree & brush cut & removal	1,500.00	12.00	500.00	500.00
Fencing	2,000.00	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Trash/grounds clean-up	30.00	422.87	24.00	24.00
Monument cleaning & repair	400.00	4,200.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Development-Cook & Galvin	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Landscaping	500.00	0.00	450.00	450.00
Total Expense	9,130.00	8,084.87	12,149.00	12,149.00
Revenue				
From account balance	2,630.00	1,434.87	5,649.00	5,649.00
Donations	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00
Sale of Plots	500.00	450.00	500.00	500.00
Town Payment	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Total Revenue	9,130.00	8,084.87	12,149.00	12,149.00

2023 Funding Requests

Funding requests will be voted by Australian ballot, Tuesday March 7, 2023. Summary information for organizations, with service to Ripton residents if known, is below.

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.” 13 individuals served by 140 visits in 2022. **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 20 Ripton residents in 2022. **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.” Services were provided to 1 individual for driving with a suspended license. **Request: \$170**

Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative requests funds to support water quality testing. Volunteers tested for E.coli at local swimming holes on the Middlebury River. **Request: \$400**

Age Well provides services and support that allow seniors to stay independent and remain healthy at home. Programs include Meals on Wheels (361), community meals (8), wellness programs, social activities, transportation, and a helpline (27 calls). In 2022 17 residents were served, including 32 hrs. of Care & Service Coordination and 3 hrs. of Option Counseling. 2 Ripton residents volunteered 225 hours. **Request: \$750**

Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) provided 13,840 hours of service to residents of Ripton who had mental health, substance abuse, or developmental disability needs in 2022. **Request: \$1,400**

Elderly Services In 2022 more than 20 residents attended Project Independence and/or participated in the ESI College Lifelong Learning Center. **Request: \$600**

Green Up Vermont coordinates Vermont’s annual spring clean-up on May 6, 2023. **Request: \$50**

Helping Overcome Poverty’s Effects (HOPE) requests funds to help defray the costs of aiding town residents. **Request: \$3,000**

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 2022 7 strays from Ripton were taken in, 6 animals were adopted and 1 stray returned to the owner. **Request: \$750**

John Graham Housing and Services 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 emergency services, including 31 calls in Ripton in FY22; provides COVID vaccinations and flu vaccinations, and provided COVID testing clinics. **Request: \$5,880**

NeighborWorks of Western Vermont funds are utilized to provide affordable housing services, staffing and programming in the areas of financial and homebuyer counseling, down payment assistance lending, home repair and energy efficiency work. **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. In 2022 ODC served 12 residents through 1 medical visit and 1 case management visit while 10 residents received help with insurance navigation. **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 3 children for a cost of \$21,814.41 each. **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. Five 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 120 hours last year. **Request: \$475**

Teen Center “provides a safe and welcoming place for teens to socialize after school and throughout the year.” 7 teens from Ripton were served in 2022. **Request: \$1,900**

Tri Valley Transit provided an average of 721 free Dial-a-Ride trips for Ripton residents during the past four years. In addition, the Snow Bowl Shuttle provided 1,186 rides through Ripton last year. **Request: \$1,901**

Turning Point Center of Addison County assists persons, their families, and their friends in recovery from substance use disorder and addictive behaviors. **Request: \$1,000**

Vermont Adult Learning “provides adults with basic skills instruction in reading, writing and math, GED prep and testing, a H.S. diploma program, and classes for English language learners.” One Ripton resident was served. **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 of at least 1 child; 8 prevention programming presentations to 45 students and 10 adults were held at the elementary school. **Request: \$1,250**



Photo credit: B. Eliason

Financial and Tax Reports

Account Balances

Account Balances June 30, 2022

Intermediate Account: includes General Fund & Highway Fund	\$707,425.60
Municipal Checking	\$14,050.28
Major Project Highway Fund	\$236,246.89
Town Building Fund	\$120,418.42
Reappraisal Fund	\$48,533.85
Document Restoration Fund	\$3,562.00
Fire Department - checking and savings	\$43,958.45
Fire Department - Vehicle Replacement Fund	\$50,638.42
Cemetery Commission	\$19,440.64

Delinquent Tax Report

Total due June 30, 2022: \$6,350.78

FY20 Delinquent Tax: Total tax due for the 2019-2020 tax year as of June 30, 2022: \$40.75.

Due from: Ronald Stevers

FY21 Delinquent Tax: Total tax due for the 2020-2021 tax year as of June 30, 2022: \$865.32

Due from: Ronald Stevers

FY22 Delinquent Tax: Total tax due for the 2021-2022 tax year as of June 30, 2022: \$5,444.71

Due from:

Joseph Charest & Carolyn Malzac

Daniel Coughlan

Anthony Gover

Thomas & Donna Kerr

William Howard & Diana Whitney

Ronald Stevers

Delinquent Tax Warrant Amounts

November 2021 \$61,506.01 tax owed for 25 properties

November 2022 \$53,414.68 tax owed for 20 properties

Statement of Taxes

Tax Calculation for Year Ending June 30, 2022, FY22, from 2021 Billed Grand List

Property Tax Rates FY22	Tax Rate	Grand List	Total Raised
Non-Homestead Education	1.7955	258,254.00	463,695.10
Homestead Education	1.8362	404,766.00	743,231.38
Local Voted Exemption	0.0090	663,020.00	5,967.31
Highway Fund	0.2925	663,020.00	193,933.76
General Fund	0.3000	663,020.00	198,905.59
Total Municipal Rate	0.6015		
Total Non-homestead Rate	2.3970		
Total Homestead Rate	2.4377		
Total Education Tax			1,206,926.40
Total Municipal Tax			398,806.66
Total Tax			1,605,733.14
Total State Payments			199,674.33
State Municipal Payments			5,816.00
State Education Payments			193,858.33

Tax Calculation for Year Ending June 30, 2023, FY23, from 2022 Billed Grand List

Property Tax Rates FY22	Tax Rate	Grand List	Total Raised
Non-Homestead Education	1.7534	272,978.00	478,639.61
Homestead Education	1.8035	398,172.00	718,103.24
Local Voted Exemption	0.0110	671,150.00	7,382.87
Highway Fund	0.2822	671,150.00	189,398.58
General Fund	0.2866	671,150.00	192,351.32
Total Municipal Rate	0.6788		
Total Non-homestead Rate	2.4322		
Total Homestead Rate	2.4823		
Total Education Tax			1,196,742.80
Total Municipal Tax			424,233.98
Total Tax			1,620,976.83
Total State Payments			201,161.75
State Municipal Payments			5,584.84
State Education Payments			195,576.91

Board of Listers Report

Reappraisal: Ripton is among many towns issued an Order to Reappraise. A compliance plan was submitted to the Department of Taxes for a reappraisal to be completed in 2025 by the New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC). The Reappraisal Fund savings will cover the cost.

Reappraisal is required when the common level of appraisal (CLA) is below 85% or the coefficient of dispersion (COD) is above 20%. Ripton's CLA dropped below 85% in 2021 and dropped below 80% for 2022.

Grand List: The listers prepare the grand list, a list of property owners, property descriptions and assessed values as of April 1. Values are based on the last town-wide reappraisal year, 2011. The state adjusts the grand list to an equalized 100% value to set education tax rates. They study three years of property sales and determine a common level of appraisal (CLA) and coefficient of dispersion (COD). 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. Both determine orders to reappraise.

Grand List Summary for FY22 July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022, based on the April 1, 2021, Grand List

- Municipal Grand List (total value/100): 663,020; change from 2020 +12,746
- Education Grand List (total value/100): 666,591; change from 2020 +12,746
- Common Level of Appraisal (CLA): 83.61
- Coefficient of Dispersion (COD): 14.97 %
- Change of Appraisal: Values changed for 26 properties.
- Grievance Hearings: None
- Current Use Program: 41 properties enrolled.
- Homesteads: 193

Grand List Summary for FY23 July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, based on the April 1, 2022, Grand List

- Municipal Grand List (total value/100): 671,150; change from 2021 +8,130
- Education Grand List (total value/100): 675,321; change from 2021 +8,730
- Common Level of Appraisal (CLA): 79.45%
- Coefficient of Dispersion (COD): 20.71 %
- Change of Appraisal: Values changed for 31 properties.
- Grievance Hearings: 3 hearings, values reduced for 2 properties.
- Current Use Program: 42 properties enrolled.
- Homesteads: 193

Homestead Declarations: PLEASE FILE by April 15th.

Lister Education: The lister chair completed the courses required for the VT Property Assessor level 3 designation and did several webinars.

VTPIE: The VT Dept of Taxes is implementing a new grand list software program, the VT Property Information Exchange System, VTPIE, in 2023.

Board of Listers: Alison Joseph Dickinson, Beth Eliason, Erik Eriksen

Sales: The table shows 3-years of sales through April 1, 2022, most of which determined the CLA and COD, and sales from April 1 – Dec. 2023.

Location	Description	Seller/Buyer	Month	Sale	Town
244 Dugway	6.56 ac & SFD	Bortz/Paquette	Nov-22	\$166,000	\$137,100
934 Pearl Lee Rd	0.97 ac & camp	Horton/Keep Movin' LLC	Nov-22	\$39,000	\$27,500
2690 Natural Turnpike	20.2 acres & SFD	McCaughin/Narasimhan & Smithling	July-22	\$480,000	\$266,500
Windfall Lane	6.3 acres	Cox/Cruz	May-22	\$75,600	\$55,300
Windfall Lane	6.2 acres	Cox/Tomlinson	May-22	\$74,400	\$55,000
<i>Grand List Year 2021-2022</i>					
Lincoln Rd	5.9 acres	Sinclair/Rosalli	Dec-21	\$67,500	\$42,400
696 Barrows Rd	10.1 ac & camp	Richardson/Laberge	Dec-21	\$24,000	\$45,200
1897 North Branch Rd	6.6 ac & SFD	Braun/Buhman	Nov-21	\$325,000	\$182,700
4257 Lincoln Rd	0.5 ac & SFD	Larocque/Coughlan	Nov-21	\$15,000	\$22,000
1792 Lincoln Rd	2.4 ac & camp	Winter/Witt	Nov-21	\$65,000	\$40,300
277 Robbins Crossroad	12.12 ac & SFD	Cox/Caron & Sherman	Oct-21	\$422,000	\$385,600
Natural Turnpike	2.13 ac	Plump/Pask	Oct-21	\$48,000	\$26,400
1568 North Branch Rd	6.1 ac & SFD	Town/Waite	Sept-21	\$51,000	\$117,300
Chandler Hill Rd	5 ac	Laroche/Mathis	Aug-21	\$30,000	\$25,600
Pearl Lee Rd	84 ac	A. Johnson/Fleischer	July-21	\$185,000	\$165,800
1494 Lincoln Rd	9.7 ac & SFD	Christiano/Heinrich	June-21	\$351,000	\$245,600
Fire Brook Rd	52 ac	Rogers/Fouts-Clark	June-21	\$150,000	\$134,600
354 Billings Farm Rd	13.08 ac & SFD	Connors/Gallner	June-21	\$315,000	\$214,600
1202 VT Rte. 125	1.66 ac & SFD	Collitt/Ripton Hse LLC	June-21	\$375,000	\$184,400
Lincoln Rd	2.9 ac	Moran/Malzac	May-21	\$1,500	\$29,400
498 Scott Rd	33.56 ac & seasonal dwelling	Sweet Retreat LLC/Wulfman	May-21	\$283,800	\$180,300
564 Eagles Nest Rd	11.26 ac & camp	Harding/Johnson	Apr-21	\$75,000	\$39,600
1378 Lincoln Rd	6.05 ac & SFD	Leduc/Cross	Apr-21	\$255,000	\$145,300
North Branch Rd	9.2 ac	Silver/Rhoads	Apr-21	\$30,000	\$48,500
<i>Grand List Year 2020-2021</i>					
Old Town Rd	10.45 ac	Coeby/Tickner & Schifano	Mar-21	\$53,000	\$39,300
299 County Crossroad	15.31 ac & SFD	Barker/Zieger	Mar-21	\$347,000	\$255,100
2571 North Branch Rd	0.96 ac & camp	Bohnert/Colebaugh	Dec-20	\$84,000	\$74,400
50 Billings Old Town Rd	10.39 ac & SFD	Walker/Baldwin	Nov-20	\$325,000	\$301,200
202 Robbins Crossroad	10.01 ac & SFD	McCarty/Roche	Oct-20	\$316,000	\$247,800
671-3 North Branch Rd	1 ac & SFD & apts	Carney/Frazier	Oct-20	\$171,000	\$162,200
599 Selden Mill Rd	19.1 ac & SFD	Phinney & H /Jattne	Oct-20	\$440,000	\$427,500
1207 Lincoln Rd	17 ac & SFD	Danek/Kilzer	Oct-20	\$260,000	\$191,800
220 Lincoln Rd	3.1 ac & SFD	Smith/Volpe & Conner	Sept-20	\$387,000	\$290,800
669 Maiden Lane	0.45 ac & SFD	Ferland/Vaughn	Sept-20	\$162,000	\$93,700
520 Chandler Hill Rd	10.1 ac	Campbell/Pike	Sept-20	\$50,000	\$48,300
498 Old Town Rd	10.45 ac & SFD	Coeby/Voutchkova & Kostal	Aug-20	\$295,000	\$239,600
1062 North Branch Rd	4.13 ac & SFD	Pfeifer/Shelofsky	July-20	\$290,000	\$247,100
Lincoln Rd	5.55 ac	Stewart/Allen	July-20	\$45,000	\$49,700

Location	Description	Seller/Buyer	Month	Sale	Town
Natural Turnpike	2.09 ac	Woodhams/Plump	June-20	\$39,900	\$26,400
Goshen Rd	53.6 ac	Neilsen/Coburn	June-20	\$150,000	\$143,400
2943 North Branch Rd	2.7 ac & SFD	Groleau/Wisell &	June-20	\$155,000	\$92,400
118 Maiden Lane	37.61 ac & SFD	Weinstein/ Schoelzel	May-20	\$340,000	\$280,100
<i>Grand List Year 2019-2020</i>					
1198 Lincoln Rd	1.2 ac & SFD	Beardsley/Smith	Feb-20	\$40,000	\$89,500
150 Wimett Lane	2.5 ac & SFD	Emilio/DeLaBruere	Jan-20	\$285,000	\$233,800
Lincoln Rd	28 ac	Hunter/Barrett	Nov-19	\$40,000	\$99,600
Old Goshen Rd	0.49 ac	Ross/Webb	Nov-19	\$10,000	\$13,000
27 Robbins Crossroad	5.8 ac & SFD	Stewart/Straus & Allen	Oct-19	\$185,000	\$209,600
58 Peddlers Bridge Rd	7.2 ac & SFD	Brown/Pacz. & Todd	Oct-19	\$275,000	\$249,900
1625 Lincoln Rd	2.5 ac & SFD	Wimett/Gervais	Sept-19	\$185,000	\$144,900
Billings Farm Rd	6.56 ac	Billings/Chesman	July-19	\$34,000	\$32,100
732 Maiden Ln	0.74 ac & SFD	Billings/Thut & Hill	June-19	\$200,000	\$155,300
162 Hemlock Ln	10 ac & camp	White/Brozefsky & Richter	June-19	\$65,000	\$54,800
47 Scott Rd	7.2 ac & camp	Ellis/Lobert	June-19	\$57,000	\$55,200
503 Pearl Lee Rd	30 ac & SFD	Morse/Burke & Caseiro	June-19	\$420,000	\$468,600
371 County Crossroad	13.7 ac & SFD	Kleine/Kerr	May-19	\$140,000	\$141,500
3791 Lincoln Rd	13.63 ac & SFD	Ramsey/Chugg	May-19	\$195,000	\$153,000
1410 Lincoln Rd	1.01 ac & SFD	Prager&Wheeler/Namy	Apr-19	\$235,000	\$186,100

Key: The town value is the assessed value on April 1 of the sales year. SFD = single family dwelling, ac = acres.

Location: if there is no street number, there is no building. Grand List Value: the value in the town grand list as of April 1 of that year.

(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	118	20,615,500	16,600,100	4,015,400	20,615,500
Residential II R2	126	37,056,200	25,259,500	11,796,700	37,056,200
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	13	641,400	0	641,400	641,400
Seasonal II S2	29	2,611,700	93,600	2,518,100	2,611,700
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	1,590,800	0	1,590,800	1,590,800
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	3,188,400	0	3,188,400	3,188,400
Miscellaneous M	66	3,457,800	0	3,457,800	3,457,800
TOTAL LISTED REAL	401	73,233,600	42,861,100	30,372,500	73,233,600
P.P. Cable	0	0		0	0
P.P. Equipment	0	0			
P.P. Inventory	0	0			
TOTAL LISTED P.P.	0	0		0	0
TOTAL LISTED VALUE		73,233,600	42,861,100	30,372,500	73,233,600
EXEMPTIONS					
Veterans 10K	3/3	30,000	20,000	10,000	30,000
Veterans >10K		90,000			
Total Veterans		120,000	20,000	10,000	30,000
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			
Total Contracts	1/1	267,100	0	0	0
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			
Total FarmStabContr	0/0	0	0	0	0
Current Use	41/41	6,544,500	2,304,500	4,240,000	6,544,500
Special Exemptions	0		0	0	0
Partial Statutory	0/0	0	0	0	0
Sub-total Exemptions		6,931,600	2,324,500	4,250,000	6,574,500
Total Exemptions		6,931,600	2,324,500	4,250,000	6,574,500
TOTAL MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST		663,020.00			
TOTAL EDUCATION GRAND LIST			405,366.00	261,225.00	666,591.00
NON-TAX 29 NON-TAX PARCELS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE 411					

(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	120	20,930,100	15,986,000	4,944,100	20,930,100
Residential II R2	129	37,876,600	24,894,700	12,981,900	37,876,600
Mobile Homes-U MHU	2	114,300	53,100	61,200	114,300
Mobile Homes-L MHL	12	994,300	539,500	454,800	994,300
Seasonal I S1	12	571,700	0	571,700	571,700
Seasonal II S2	29	2,665,800	284,800	2,381,000	2,665,800
Commercial C	19	3,051,500	460,900	2,590,600	3,051,500
Commercial Apts CA	0	0	0	0	0
Industrial I	0	0	0	0	0
Utilities-E UE	1	1,478,200	0	1,478,200	1,478,200
Utilities-O UO	0	0	0	0	0
Farm F	0	0	0	0	0
Other O	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland W	8	2,309,100	0	2,309,100	2,309,100
Miscellaneous M	71	4,064,300	15,400	4,048,900	4,064,300
TOTAL LISTED REAL	403	74,055,900	42,234,400	31,821,500	74,055,900
P.P. Cable	0	0		0	0
P.P. Equipment	0	0			
P.P. Inventory	0	0			
TOTAL LISTED P.P.	0	0		0	0
TOTAL LISTED VALUE		74,055,900	42,234,400	31,821,500	74,055,900
EXEMPTIONS					
Veterans 10K	5/5	50,000	40,000	10,000	50,000
Veterans >10K		150,000			
Total Veterans		200,000	40,000	10,000	50,000
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			
Total Contracts	1/1	267,100	0	0	0
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			
Total FarmStabContr	0/0	0	0	0	0
Current Use	42/42	6,473,800	2,257,200	4,216,600	6,473,800
Special Exemptions	0		0	0	0
Partial Statutory	0/0	0	0	0	0
Sub-total Exemptions		6,940,900	2,297,200	4,226,600	6,523,800
Total Exemptions		6,940,900	2,297,200	4,226,600	6,523,800
TOTAL MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST		671,150.00			
TOTAL EDUCATION GRAND LIST			399,372.00	275,949.00	675,321.00
NON-TAX 28 NON-TAX PARCELS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE 411					

Town Clerk Report

Census 2020: Last year we reported Ripton's population leap from 588 to 739 in the 2020 Census. We recently learned that the number included a group count of 171 students at the Bread Loaf Campus. There were no students at Bread Loaf in April 2020. If the group count is removed Ripton's population is 568, a decrease of 20 from 2010. Given that the number of voters and homestead declarations have not changed much over ten years, 568 seems more accurate than 739. It also aligns more closely with the 2021 Census Bureau American Community Survey which shows Ripton's population as 549.

Reapportionment 2022: After the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) opposed the Vermont Legislative Apportionment Board's proposal to move Ripton from the Addison-2 district to a Windsor-Addison district, the Apportionment Board agreed to keep Ripton in the Addison-2 district.

Voting: Full-time legal residents may register to vote at the town office, through the DMV, or online at the Secretary of State's website, <http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>. Voters have a "My Voter Page" at <http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us> with information about voting, poll locations and hours, and voting history.

Town & School District Meetings

Year	# Voters	# Voted
9/2022	429	240 (56%)
5/2022	421	95 (23%)
3/2022	419	190 (45%)
6/2021	417	69 (16.5%)
3/2021	417	184 (44%)
1/2021	421	272 (65%)
3/2020	434	257 (59%)
3/2019	430	145 (33%)
3/2018	408	134 (33%)
3/2017	415	119 (29%)
3/2016	406	216 (53%)

State & Federal Elections

Election	# Voters	# Voted
General 2022	435	330 (76%)
VT Primary 2022	418	206 (49%)
General 2020	422	371 (88%)
VT Primary 2020	418	206 (49%)
Pres Primary 20	434	250 (57%)
General 2018	429	304 (71%)
VT Primary 2018	414	167 (40%)
General 2016	429	313 (73%)
VT Primary 2016	419	128 (31%)
Presidential Primary	406	216 (53%)

Elections 2022

- March 1, 2022, School District Meeting: Australian ballot vote for 3 school district ballots; local ballot, "Shall the voters of the Ripton School District approve to expand the number of school directors from three directors to five directors?" Approved.
- May 9-10, 2022, Town Meeting, Town & School officer election: In-person floor vote - all Articles approved; Australian ballot vote - funding requests approved and officers elected.
- June 13, 2022, Special Town Meeting to validate the May 9th floor meeting. Approved.
- August 9, 2022, Vermont State Primary
- September 21, 2022, Ripton School District Special Election: "Shall the voters of the Ripton School District authorize its Board of Directors, under 16 VSA 562 (9), to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes?" Approved by voice vote.
- September 29, 2022, Ripton School District Special Election: "Shall the Ripton School District request the State Board to reverse its earlier declarations creating a separate Ripton School District, which shall result in Ripton again being a town within (i.e. a "member" of) the Addison Central School District?" Approved: 148, YES; 89 NO.
- November 8, 2022, General Election

Thank you to Paula Scott for handling much of the ballot mailing and other tasks, Carolyn Smith for her help, and the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) members who worked at the polls. Special thanks to the Justices of the Peace who did not run for another term but served through the pandemic - Anza Armstrong, Perry Hanson, Timothy Hanson, and Warren King. Thank you to the Vermont Elks for allowing us to use their Silver Towers Camp for the floor portion of our annual meeting in May.

New tabulators were distributed for the August 9, 2022, state primary. We now have our first tabulator for state elections and presidential primaries. It made counting and reporting easier and faster than a hand count.

Dogs: 118 dogs were licensed in 2022. State law requires dogs to be licensed with a current rabies vaccination certificate by April 1 every year. Licenses are available in January. Dog owners may license a dog by mail or by using the drop box in the town office door, if a current rabies vaccine certificate is on file. If a new rabies certificate is due, drop it off, mail, email, or ask your veterinarian to fax it to us. **Fees are \$9 for neutered or spayed dogs and \$13 for those that are not before April 1, and \$13 and \$17 after April 1.** A list of unlicensed dogs is submitted to the Selectboard at the end of May. State statute authorizes the board to penalize the dog owners. Please license your dog or let us know if you no longer have a dog.

Land Records: In FY22 land records volumes 49-53 were microfilmed. Land records volume 16 was de-acidified and bound. In FY23 land records volume 17 will be preserved. Digitizing all land records volumes and surveys was completed in 2022. Land records are available online at riptonvermont.org.

Land Records	FY22	FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18	2017	2016	2015
Property Transfers	38	45	35	37	45	44	36	35
# Pages Recorded	528	688	602	586	581	589	635	685

Vital records: Birth and death records may be requested from the Vermont Department of Health vital records system at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/stats/vital-records>. Copies of marriage certificates are from town records.

Vital Records	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Births	5	5	5	1	0	6	6	9	5	2	7
Marriages	3	6	5	5	3	4	6	4	1	2	2
Deaths	3	3	5	2	5	4	5	5	5	6	4

In the chart above, birth numbers may not include all children born to Ripton parents. We do not receive notice of out of state births and do not always receive records of births in Vermont hospital towns. Marriages include anyone who was issued a marriage license by our office and returned it. The death numbers do not include those who passed away out of state or town.

Thank you to my co-workers, board, commission, and department members, residents, and non-resident property owners. It is an honor to work with you and for you.

Alison Joseph Dickinson, Town Clerk & Administrator

Zoning Administrator Report

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

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

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.

2022 Summary

For the January through March and June through December meetings, Town Plan review and revision was the primary business for the Planning Commission. Town plans are to be updated within eight years. The current Town Plan was adopted in October 2015; a revised plan is due to be adopted in 2023. Your input is welcome as the Town Plan revision continues. There will be at least two public hearings, the first by the Planning Commission and a second by the Selectboard.

During April & May the Zoning Board of Adjustment held a public hearing for a conditional use permit to use a primitive campsite as a short-term rental. The hearings were well attended. Several conditions were required for the permit.

Conservation Commission Report

Highlights of 2022 activities for the Ripton Conservation Commission:

Invasive Plant Control – The Ripton Conservation Commission continued our work 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 work manually to control or eliminate the invasive plants. In 2022, the Ripton Conservation Commission, along with other community volunteers, pulled Garlic Mustard, Wild Chervil, and Wild Parsnip. The Conservation Commission is always looking for folks to assist in the control of invasive plants in Ripton. If you are interested, contact the Conservation Commission Chair or any other members.

Stream Reclassification Project - The Conservation Commission pursued stream reclassification of three pristine streams in Ripton that meet all of the qualifications for Class A(1). Reclassification to A(1) will enhance their long-term protection. On October 6, 2022, the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules approved the new Vermont Water Quality Standards which include reclassifying Alder Brook, Blue Bank Brook, and Goshen Brook to class A(1) for aquatic biota & wildlife, aquatic habitat, and aesthetics. The new Vermont Water Quality Standards became effective on November 15, 2022.

Ripton Town Plan - The Ripton Conservation Commission began updating the Natural Resources section of the Town Plan. New statewide efforts to identify and protect forests and surface waters are being included. The updated Natural Resources section will be presented to the Planning Commission for inclusion in the updated Ripton Town Plan.

If you are interested in learning more about the Ripton Conservation Commission, contact Mark Nelson at m.a.nelson@live.com.

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 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 2022 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 FY22 the Town paid Casella \$12,171.98 to haul our recycling. FY22 recycling donations amounted to \$3,350.99.

Recyclables are listed on the previous page. Information is also at the Solid Waste District website <https://www.addisoncountyclecyles.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.

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. In 2023 Green Up Day is Saturday, May 6. Contact Steve Zwicky (388-2301) or Warren King (388-4082) to find out how to participate. We thank the Forest Service for providing a trailer and for hauling our Green Up Day collection.



Ripton Energy Assistance Project

The Ripton Energy Assistance Project (REAP) has existed in Ripton since 2008, when the recession was underway. We exist for the purpose of providing fuel assistance to Ripton people who find themselves in difficulty during the winter and in need of heat for their homes. To that end we have a stockpile of firewood (part of which you can see stacked next to our shed that sits beside the Ripton Fire House) and also donated funds with which we can provide fuel oil, kerosene or propane. We are associated at present with HOPE, in Middlebury, and we can provide assistance to anyone in town who is genuinely in need and in an emergency.

because of that need. We do our best to make our assistance confidential. In the past, many of our recipients have been clients of HOPE, but this is not an absolute requirement.

If you are in this position of needing emergency heating, or if you know someone who is, we can be contacted by calling 802-388-7820. Ask for Mac. We will respond at the earliest possible moment.

With appreciation for all of the great people of Ripton who help with this project, we thank you.

REAP Board: Charles Billings, Nathan Billings, Alex Cox, Millard (Mac) Cox, Bill Hunsinger, Patrick Salomon, Tom Smith

Ripton Historical Society Report

Ripton Historical Society 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.

RHS activities for 2022 included five monthly meetings. In August Norm Tjossem presented "Ripton Outdoor Sport and Recreation History" at Ripton Community Church. In September, some RHS members were present when the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, under the supervision of the U.S. Forest Service, cleared the Calvin Pier barn cellar hole, and in November witnessed the construction of a USFS bridge on the handicap accessible trail past Calvin Pier's Tavern site. October provided an opportunity to gather at Jack Brown's historic East Middlebury grist mill to hear Chuck Herrmann describe the mill's owners and the functioning of grist mills.

RHS Webmaster, Nathan Billings, has begun to add archive and other content to the Society's website (<https://www.riptonhistoric.org>). Working with Jerry Shedd and others, Nathan has added some videos and photos and will be working with Paula Scott to add more content from RHS archives. In this process it was discovered that the RHS computer was rendered unusable due to a power surge or lighting strike that fried the motherboard. Nathan has obtained a new/used motherboard and will soon be installing it. Earlier in 2022, Jerry Shedd donated a 1902 map of Vermont to RHS. In need of conservation, it was entrusted to Middlebury Frame Shop who sent it to a restoration studio in Canada for mounting on a stable backing. It is back but there are still some map fragments that need puzzling together and mounting. Paula Scott is looking into acquiring some Plexiglas and a frame for the map, after which the map will hang somewhere in the Town Office.

After consulting with District Ranger Chris Mattrick, new picnic tables will be installed at the Wayside next spring and a bench placed along the Connector Trail. After this, early to mid-June, he suggests that it would be an appropriate time to commemorate the Calvin Pier site and all the connecting trail work that USFS has done over the last two years. In addition to USFS personnel and members of Ripton Historical Society, the gathering will include members of the Ripton Selectboard and other participants from the Ripton community.

RHS will be sending out a postcard in February asking for your donations to help defray the cost of the computer repair, fund more historic events, and to continue the work to present and preserve our history. Your donations to Ripton Historical Society are eligible for Vermont and Federal tax deductions.

Ripton Historical Societies' officers are President-Charles Billings, Secretary-Alison J. Dickinson, Webmaster-Nathan Billings, Curator-Paula Scott, Treasurer-Jerry Shedd, and Vice President-Norm Tjossem. RHS invites anyone interested in Ripton history to attend meetings, join RHS, and be included in the RHS email announcements. For more information, to donate, or to purchase *A History of Ripton, Vermont* from RHS 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.

90 Years Ago. In 1933 Ripton village and many outlying homes reflected the hardships and financial problems created by the Great Recession and World War I. To counteract the gloom of dilapidated buildings a committee was formed to beautify the town. Among the projects the committee accomplished in June that year was the erection of a marker commemorating Ripton's soldiers. For this memorial they chose a rough, six-foot-tall, native stone. Col. Frank A. Scott provided a brass plaque with the inscription, "In grateful memory of the men and women of Ripton who served their country in time of war." William Hazlett Upson provided the base. Walter Kirby, Daniel Dragon, Jason Billings, Clyde Cram, Parker Cram, and Herbert Billings provided the manpower, horses, and wagon necessary to transport and erect the monument at the intersection of Natural Turnpike and Route 125. This reminder of our veterans' service can be viewed where it now stands on the grounds of Ripton Community House.



Commemorative Marker, Installed 1933. Photo courtesy RHS

Report from the Ripton Post Office

Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 9:30/10:00 a.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. I also collect outgoing mail and refill parcel lockers M-F at 4:00-4:20 p.m. If the mail volume is such that I need to stay longer in the morning, I will do so. My hope is to eventually match Laurie's pace and schedule (in addition to her wit and charm) but I have had some long days as I learn the ropes. This should change as I settle in and hit my stride. We are closed for all Federal holidays.

Packages: There are only 14 parcel lockers. We operate on 1st package in, 1st package out, and our goal is that packages will only wait 24 hours before making it to a locker - however, sometimes that doesn't happen. Here is how the system works:

1. A yellow card! - If you find a yellow card in your box, you have a parcel in the Ripton Post Office, awaiting its turn for a locker. LEAVE THE YELLOW CARD IN YOUR PO BOX, OR BRING IT BACK TO ME IF YOU ACCIDENTALLY TAKE IT HOME! When a locker becomes available, I will trade the yellow slip out for a parcel locker key (see below). If the parcel is too large for the lockers, or if you have multiple packages that won't fit in a locker, or if I need you to sign for something, I will make a note of this on the yellow card and you will have to come in during my morning or evening hours to retrieve these packages or leave me a note in the outgoing mail box on the door to take them to East Middlebury if our schedules don't match up. Be sure to include your name and po box number on that note!
2. 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. I try to refill the lockers twice daily to circulate packages out to customers as quickly as possible.
3. 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 M-F 8:30-1:00/2:00-4:30 Sat 8:30-11:30.
4. If you are concerned about a package or wonder if it has arrived in Ripton, you can call the East Middlebury Post Office with a tracking number, and they can look it up in their database or you can call me at 315-825-5952. I will return your call as soon as possible.

PLEASE DUAL ADDRESS AS MUCH OF YOUR MAIL AND PACKAGES AS POSSIBLE! This will save me (and any future substitutes) a lot of time from having to cross reference stacks of physically addressed mail to the correlating PO box. Any physically addressed mail or packages may be delayed as I set them aside and sort them as time allows, at the very end of the morning or the following day. 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 parcel lockers are not tied up.

Post Office Boxes must be renewed once a year. When you receive your renewal paperwork, please bring in the renewal form, a valid photo ID and a piece of mail showing your physical address. If the form is not returned by the end of the month your box will be locked.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your cooperation and patience as I settle into this role!

Jeannie Cash
315-825-5952
Ripton Postmistress in training

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753 • www.acrpc.org • Phone: 802.388.3141

Annual Report –Year End June 30, 2022

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) provided the following technical assistance and planning to the Region during its 2022 fiscal year:

Regional and Municipal Planning and Mapping

- Worked with Cornwall, Salisbury, Orwell and Vergennes on Municipal Planning Grants
- Worked with Bristol, Lincoln and Shoreham on Bylaw Modernization projects focused on housing.
- Represented the Region in Act 250 and Section 248 hearings.
- Assisted municipalities in applying for Village Center Designation: Salisbury, 2021
- Updated and readopted the Population and Housing section of the Regional Plan.

Educational Meetings and Grants

- Hosted educational workshops on planning topics, including housing, planning essentials and community septic.
- Wrote or provided information and support to communities and organizations to secure grant funding.

Emergency Planning

- Worked with Addison County's Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) and Vermont Emergency Management staff to assist with municipal emergency planning and training.
- Assisted communities in completing Local Emergency Management Plans to maintain ERAF status.
- Updated Mutual Aid agreements for Public Works Departments.
- Led an emergency exercise at the Hannaford Career Center
- Received two Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF) grants
- Received one Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant

Energy Planning:

- Assisted Waltham, Whiting, Shoreham, and Starksboro in developing their enhanced energy plans.
- Worked with Ferrisburgh and Vergennes to relaunch local energy committees.
- Worked with Efficiency Vermont and municipalities to implement enhanced energy plans.
- Provided energy scorecards for municipalities to track progress on state and local energy efficiency goals.
- Developed an online map of renewable energy resources and siting.

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 reduce road erosion from local roads.
- Assisted Towns with bike and pedestrian, Better Roads and stormwater grants.
- Served as a Municipal Project Manager for a sidewalk construction projects in Middlebury and Vergennes and a culvert replacement project in Bridport.
- Sponsored town transportation planning studies.
- Conducted traffic and pedestrian studies for towns.
- Hosted the regional Walk/bike council meetings and a statewide Bike/Ped Summit in Middlebury.
- Sponsored a Planning and Environmental Linkages Study for the City of Vergennes and surrounding communities

Natural Resources Planning

- Actively supported the efforts of the Addison County River Watch Collaborative.
- Worked with municipalities to support conservation commissions.
- Prepared to serve as the Clean Water Service Provider for the Otter Creek Basin
- Provided educational outreach supporting the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan update.
- Assisted in stormwater planning projects and Ecosystem Restoration Program grants.

Addison	Bridport	Bristol	Cornwall	Ferrisburgh	Goshen	Leicester
Lincoln	Middlebury	Monkton	New Haven	Orwell	Panton	Ripton
Salisbury	Shoreham	Starksboro	Vergennes	Waltham	Weybridge	Whiting





2022 Annual Report

October 17, 2022

Maple Broadband is a Communications Union District (CUD) based in Addison County. Maple Broadband's mission is to enhance the economic, educational, and medical well-being of the communities it serves by providing a reliable and affordable high-speed fiber internet network, supported by premium-grade customer service, to the households and businesses in its member towns.

Throughout 2022, Maple Broadband's focus has been on preparing to build and launch service on our fiber-optic network, as well as on obtaining the necessary grant funding to pay for the initial portions of the network. Grant funding available through the State of Vermont, while substantial, will not cover all the costs of building fiber throughout Addison County. Every grant dollar raised reduces the amount of loans (and corresponding interest) that Maple Broadband must incur, which results in lower prices for subscribers.

Maple Broadband has also continued building its organizational capacity to deliver on our ambitious goals.

Fundraising

- Applied for and were awarded a construction grant of \$8.7 million from the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB). This grant award will allow Maple Broadband to build approximately 180 miles of fiber network beginning in 2022 and continuing into 2023;
- Applied for and were awarded an additional \$635,000 of pre-construction grant funds from the VCBB;
- Applied for and were awarded \$781,284 from the VCBB for the purchase of materials;
- Applied for and were awarded a \$30,000 USDA grant that will support capacity building efforts; and
- Solicited and received \$165,000 town ARPA contributions in 2022. At its October 3, 2022 meeting, the Vermont Community Broadband Board approved a policy that will match all past and future town ARPA contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis. This will result in \$380,000 of new grant funding based on contributions to date. Every additional dollar raised from town ARPA contributions will increase grant funding to Maple Broadband by an equal amount.

Network Pre-Construction, Construction, and Preparation for Service Launch

- Worked with our engineering firm, Vantage Point Solutions (VPS) to complete a detailed engineering design and construction bid specifications for the initial build area (Phase 1);

- Ordered \$1.2 million of network construction materials in order to begin construction in 2022 and established materials warehousing and management services with network operator Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT);
- Submitted pole applications to Green Mountain Power for the Phase 1 build area. Make-ready work must be performed prior to network installation on telephone poles;
- Performed a competitive bid process and awarded initial construction work to Syracuse Utilities;
- Performed a competitive bid process and awarded construction oversight services to Vantage Point Solutions;
- Initiated development of marketing materials and strategies for service launch in early 2023;
- Procured and configured an online subscriber management system, CrowdFiber, which enables prospective subscribers to register interest; and
- Collaborated with network operator WCVT to refine the customer onboarding process and customization of back-end systems.

Operational Capacity Building

- Held bi-weekly meetings of the Executive Committee, which is composed of members of Maple Broadband's Governing Board who possess expertise in a wide variety of technology and business professions;
- Following a thorough search, hired an Executive Director to support the overall direction of Maple Broadband and to execute Executive Committee initiatives;
- Performed a competitive bid process and awarded marketing services contract to Pivot Group, to help inform the community about Maple Broadband and promote subscriber sign-up; and
- Engaged an auditing firm, Batchelder Associates, PC, and completed Maple Broadband's first audit.

Plans for 2023:

- Complete approximately 200 miles of fiber network construction;
- Prepare a detailed design package for Phase 2 construction;
- Procure materials for Phase 2;
- Add and support subscribers in newly constructed areas.

Construction Sequence

While Maple Broadband would love to deliver high speed broadband service everywhere as soon as possible, the reality is that it will take years to complete Maple Broadband's mission.

As a new organization, Maple Broadband is reliant on grants and donations to fund the network construction. Most of grant funding comes via the VCBB, and this grant funding stipulates that priority must be given to areas that are underserved. Under the constraints of this grant funding, some areas are ineligible for construction. For residents of these areas, this is understandably frustrating, but once Maple Broadband is able to borrow funds to continue construction, it will no longer be bound by grant constraints, and will return to offer broadband service to those previously excluded areas.

Business and Organizational Challenges

In the coming months, Maple Broadband will continue to face significant challenges related to availability and increasing cost of construction labor and materials both related to its own network construction, and upstream with the make-ready work that must happen before we can install our network on telephone poles. This could have a profound effect on construction activities. Maple Broadband aims to anticipate and mitigate these challenges, to the degree possible, wherever encountered as it gains construction management experience.

The energy and time required to manage Maple Broadband necessitates engagement of paid professionals who can complement the hours of work performed by our small group of volunteers. Success in fulfilling our mission depends on support from member towns, through the contributions of delegates' time, energies and expertise, and through town ARPA fund contributions.

Submitted by the Maple Broadband Governing Board:

Executive Committee: Steve Huffaker (Chair), Carl Siebecker (Vice Chair), Nancy Cornell, Shannon Haggett, Dan Sonneborn

Executive Director: Ellie de Villiers (ex officio)

Chief Financial Officer: Magna Dodge (ex officio)

Treasurer: Cy Tall (ex officio)

Clerk: Adam Lougee (ex officio)

Governing Board Delegates: Addison (Paul Nikolich), Bristol (Dan Sonneborn), Bridport (Rick Scott), Cornwall (Magna Dodge), Ferrisburgh (Steve Huffaker), Leicester (vacant), Lincoln (Kate McGowan), Middlebury (Ross Conrad), Monkton (Mark Boltz-Robinson), New Haven (Ellie de Villiers), Orwell (James Robinson), Panton (Howard Hall), Ripton (Billy Sneed), Salisbury (Paul Vaczy), Shoreham (Carl Siebecker), Starksboro (Nancy Cornell), Vergennes (Shannon Haggett), Waltham (Andrew Martin), Weybridge (Spencer Putnam), Whiting (vacant)

About Maple Broadband:

Maple Broadband is composed of 20 member towns in Addison County, forming one of nine tax-exempt Communications Union Districts (CUDs) serving the state of Vermont. CUDs are non-profit, municipal entities formed with the single goal of delivering high-speed fiber broadband service to every unserved and underserved address in their member towns. CUDs cannot tax their member towns or the residents of those towns. A CUD must fund its operations by grants, debt, and donations.

Maple Broadband's Governing Board is comprised of one Delegate from each member town. Representatives are appointed by the town Selectboard and serve for one-year terms. The Executive Committee consists of five voting members and four non-voting ex officio members. Meeting times, agendas and minutes are posted on the [website](#).

Green Mountain National Forest Town Meeting Report

This report has been edited to be specific to Ripton. A full copy of the report is available at <https://usfs-public.app.box.com/s/5ljvjm2guzenh917r1u6v8o89ar8sohb>

The employees of the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) depend heavily on support from many municipalities, volunteers, partners, and contractors. The Forest would like to take this time to 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 our 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 all people -- people in your town as well as all of the visitors who come to Vermont every year. This has been another exciting year for us, and we have worked hard to support new opportunities on the National Forest that benefit the people and communities that we serve.

As mentioned in our Town Report last year, we are in the process of building a new Forest Supervisor's Office in Mendon which we expect to be open for staff and visitors in the coming year. The former Rutland-based headquarters (231 North Main Street) for the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests has transitioned to a full-time virtual work schedule which will continue until our new office is completed on U.S. Route 4 in Mendon, Vermont. While our main phone number (formally for the Rutland Office) will remain the same (802) 747-6700, our mailing address has changed to: USDA Forest Service, Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests, PO Box 220, Rutland, VT 05702. Please use this new mailing address and also visit our website for a current listing of Forest Service employees who can assist you throughout this temporary transition: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3838044.pdf.

The following is a brief summary of what happened in your National Forest throughout the past year:

Land Acquisition

The GMFL [is] currently working on acquisitions located in...towns including Ripton.

Heritage Program

The Vermont Youth Conservation Corps assisted Heritage and Recreation Program staff to clear the overgrown barn cellar hole at the site of the Pier's Tavern in Ripton. Once the trail is finished, the sign and interpretative site will be officially unveiled to the public.

Forest Road Cooperative Aid to Towns

The GMNF completed important road improvement and maintenance projects in...towns [including] Ripton. Projects included road and parking improvements ... to improve access to the Moosalamoo National Recreation Areas.

Forest Road Improvement & Maintenance Projects

The GMNF improved or maintained over 70 miles of National Forest System roads[including] the towns of Goshen, Lincoln, Ripton. Improvement work included the replacement of culverts and gates, stabilization of embankments, repairing storm damage, and the resurfacing of roads.

Recreation Programs

Goshen/Ripton: Resurfaced the Voter Brook Overlook path, parking area, and overlook, installed a panoramic sign, and installed a new picnic table at the overlook. Installed a new lean-to and shed at the Moosalamoo Campground Camphost site. Worked with partner groups, MA and CTA on trail maintenance projects on Stewart Trail, Widow's Clearing, and Wilkinson Trail networks. Began trailhead reconstruction of the Oak Ridge Trailhead. The trailhead reconstruction project is expected to be completed Spring of 2023.

Ripton: Worked with VYCC and the Ripton Historical Society to remove vegetation from the Calvin Pier barn and tavern cellar holes. Worked with Ripton Historical Society to install an interpretive sign at the

Calvin Pier cellar hole. Installed a bridge on the Robert Frost Connector Trail and completed work along the connector trail. Worked with VYCC to install new roadside signs near Breadloaf, and new site signs at the Robert Frost Wayside. Moosalamoo Association installed a pollinator flower bed at the Robert Frost Interpretive Site. Worked with MA to install guard rails on a trail bridge located on the Haystack Trail.

Wilderness

Goshen, Ripton: Visitor encounter monitoring was conducted in the Breadloaf Wilderness to maintain opportunities for solitude.

Botany Program

Botanical inventory for rare plants and non-native invasive plants was completed in support of [many] projects:

[N]on-native invasive plant 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...[including] 0.1 acres of wild chervil, Morrow honeysuckle, and common buckthorn treated by staff in the Widow's Clearing project area..

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 allow our staff to answer questions about the 400,000-acre National Forest by the thousands of people that we typically interact with. It was refreshing to be back out with members of the community in full force this past spring, summer and fall and to have our staff on site at several community events that were held over the past year. Each of these venues are wonderful opportunities for us to discuss GMNF related issues with our partners and gather information from the public.

We are always open to working with local towns and other organizations that may be holding events that Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl and our staff can be a part of...These are fun and exciting events that we love to participate in, so please reach out to us if know of something interesting taking place that we can be a part of.

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 Rochester and Manchester 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

Martina Barnes District Ranger, South Half - Manchester Ranger District 802-362-2307	Christopher Mattrick District Ranger, North Half - Rochester & Middlebury Ranger Districts 802-767-4261
/s/ John A. Sinclair; December 20, 2021 JOHN A. SINCLAIR, Forest Supervisor Rutland -- Supervisor's Office 802-747-6700	

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



Ripton School District Board Report

The Ripton School District existed within its complicated and confusing identity for much of 2022. With the assignment to be our own district by the State Board of Education, the Ripton School District board worked diligently through the spring and summer of 2022, doing all it could to make sense of and take action on this unexpected and impractical assignment.

In June of 2022 the State Board of Education requested a report of preparedness by the board, on which it then worked for countless hours in the early days of summer. The board rejected the notion that it would ever be prepared to run its own school district, but worked deeply in tandem with Lincoln to propose a system that might work for the two towns. In August the State Board of Education deemed the Ripton School District unprepared to stand up its own district by school year 2023. This triggered a series of judicial options from legislation that had been passed in the spring of 2022 with specific attention to the situation in Ripton.

The Ripton School District board then warned a vote within the purview of this new legislation to offer the Town the option to return to the Addison Central School District (ACSD). On Sept 29th, after much debate and soul-searching from members of the town, Ripton voted to return to ACSD by a margin of 148 to 89.

Moving forward, what we as a board hope most for our town is for it to continue to recognize how important this issue is to so many people. For any of you who felt impassioned by the necessity of keeping a school in our town, or emboldened by the opportunities and ideas that came out of this journey, please stay engaged! The school is always in need of volunteers and substitute teachers. Please reach out to Erin Robinson at riptonoffice@acsdt.org or 388-2208 to offer your support. Also consider making practical or financial donations to Friends of Ripton School, which helps augment many opportunities at the school. We hope that a mix of genuine attention, volunteerism, and political advocacy from the strong people of this town can keep our school vibrant for years to come.

Molly Witters

Board Members 2021-2022: Chair - Steve Cash, Joanna Doria, Molly Witters

Board Members May – November 2022:

Chair - Steve Cash, Joanna Doria, Molly Witters, Wendy Harlin, Jane Phinney



Photo credit: Jeannie Cash

Friends of the Ripton School and 2022 Ripton Ridge Run

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 fundraisers and other events at the school and in the community. We exist *because* of our community's involvement and generosity in supporting our fundraisers. We continue to steadily emerge from the challenges that COVID presented us and though we have had to cancel some of our favorite events, such as the Thanksgiving Community Luncheon, we were able to forge ahead with others! Though they may have looked differently to some of our loyal, long standing community members, we are committed to the promise that we will regain a sense of normalcy as quickly as we safely can! For newcomers, some of our favorite fundraisers and events to watch for include our Annual May Day Basket delivery, our Pizza Bakes, Coffee House Bake Sales, the Ripton Ridge Run, High Mowing Seeds and redeemable drop-off at the King Dome. Because of your support and generosity, FORS has been able to fund a variety of activities and events. During the 2021-22 school year, we helped fund RES's Artist in Residency with Jeh Kulu. Students participated in a week-long study of West African drumming and dancing. Other things FORS helped make possible during the 2021-22 school year included a trip to Petracliffs for the 3rd-5th graders, a trip to Get Air for the K-2nd graders, an all-school ice-skating trip, an all-school performance by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, craft supplies for holiday gift making, and more! Thank you ALL for your continued 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. 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*. Our school belongs to the community, and we warmly invite you to experience the happenings at Ripton Elementary. Also, FORS greatly appreciates and thanks all those involved in the Ripton Ridge Run, our biggest fundraiser.

2022 Ripton Ridge Run report: The 35th Annual Ripton Ridge Run was held October 9, 2022. We had about 125 registrants at the school plus another dozen virtual participants. Thanks to registration fees, generous sponsors and especially the help of about 50 community members, the 2022 Ridge Run raised \$7,205.10 for FORS. For information to volunteer or to participate in next year's event Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023, go to <http://www.riptonridgerun.org>, contact Barry King at 388-4082 or Erin Robinson at 388-2208.

For more information about FORS, please contact Erin Robinson at forsincvt@gmail.com.



Photos courtesy of Ripton Ridge Run

Addison Central School District Report

Message from the Superintendent

The development of the FY24 budget is occurring in the midst of the final year of a 3-year influx of federal funding aimed to respond to the effects of the pandemic. Over the last three budget cycles, we have added additional staffing positions, engaged in new professional development, and supported upgrades to our facilities to focus on the individual needs of ACSD students. The focus of this budget is squarely on students and working to accelerate our COVID recovery work while also engaging in systems change to meet our students where they are in their learning.

While many have declared the pandemic over, its impacts are real in the lives of our students, and we continue to gather data to better understand how to respond to the diverse student needs we see across our community. We have built a stronger approach to social and emotional wellness, and are actively rebuilding our system of student services to more effectively respond to students' wellness in ways that help them in their lives both in and out of the classroom. This budget supports both staffing and infrastructure to place holistic student wellbeing at the center of our work.

In addition, the FY24 budget supports many of the services and structures that have enabled our district to grow, now in our 6th year as a unified single learning community. This includes our commitment to a cohesive, district-wide, shared learning framework through the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program that provides students with greater agency in their learning and a focus on engagement and inquiry. Our full IB authorization took place during the pandemic, and our focus during these past three years did not allow for the deeper engagement into how we better engage the IB framework.

As always, schools don't thrive without thriving communities. We look forward to continuing to work together to do what's best for our students and our community. Thank you for your engagement and presence in our schools, which makes such a huge difference in the lives of our students!

With gratitude,

Peter Burrows

Message from the ACSD Board Chair

This past year has seen all of us in ACSD move into the recovery stage of work to address the impacts of the Pandemic. There has been renewed energy in all of our buildings for both students and staff, a returning of old traditions, and the beginning of new ones to fortify connection to our community.

The budget presented aligns with our current priorities as a district: recovery, stability, and community. And with it we are renewing our commitment to provide all students with the necessary tools and resources to be successful. Investments in staffing, behavioral specialists, and student support services continue to be a priority. And additional contingency funds to address emergency facility needs have also been incorporated into the budget to provide time and space for the Board to initiate a bond process for large-scale capital improvements to our schools.

The ACSD 2023–2024 budget sees an increase in education spending of 7.2%. This increase is driven by inflation, a 12.7% increase in health care costs, as well as declining enrollment. Our estimated cost per equalized pupil spending will be \$21,663 – which is up 8.1% over the previous year. While this may seem like a high number, the surplus from the ed fund off-sets the tax impact significantly with some of our towns having lower rates than they did last year. And while the State has paused its equalized pupil spending threshold, we are mindful of the impact that increased education spending has on our taxpayers.

The ACSD continues to benefit from significant federal COVID relief money, which has enabled us to provide additional academic intervention and behavioral support in our schools the past two years. This funding will sunset next year, which will force the District to make difficult choices on which supports are critical and effective enough to be maintained through the District's operational budget in the future. In addition, strategies that emerge from our Strategic Plan for Equity may require realignment of priorities and resources to ensure more equitable support and resources for our most vulnerable students and marginalized populations of our learning community. This is the honest work of providing public education.

Our challenges are many but I believe our strengths are many more. Our costs continue to increase, as do our student and school building needs. As our April 2022 *Report to the Community: Educational and Facilities Planning* concludes, ACSD's current operational configuration is not sustainable over the long run. Hard work is in our future as we grapple with questions about building renovation and maintenance, about where to spend your hard earned dollars to support all students and continue to offer robust learning opportunities to all. It is the Board's responsibility to secure long term financial viability to ensure continued delivery of a

great education for our students. It is with that in mind that we prepare for the work of 2023-2024.

It is with confidence and genuine commitment to our community that we present this budget to you for your support.

There will be many opportunities to be involved in the work of our schools and district in the year to come. Please make an effort to engage with our Strategic Plan for Equity work at <https://www.acsdvt.org/Page/6736>. And stay up-to-date with all aspects of Board and Committee work at <https://www.acsdvt.org/Page/6198>.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Jette
ACSD Board Chair

**WARNING
ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

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

The legal voters of the Addison Central School District are hereby notified of the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 7:00 PM, to discuss Australian Ballot articles warned for vote on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

ARTICLE 1: To elect the following officers: a) A Moderator b) A Treasurer c) A Clerk

ARTICLE 2: To hear and act upon the reports of the school district officers.

ARTICLE 3: 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 4: To do any other business proper to come before said meeting.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION HEARING
FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

The legal voters of the Addison Central School District are hereby warned to meet at the Middlebury Union High School in Middlebury, Vermont on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 7:00 PM, for a Public Information meeting to discuss Australian Ballot articles warned for vote on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Hearing will take place immediately following adjournment of the Annual Meeting of said Addison Central School District.

Linda J. Barrett, ACSD Clerk
Addison Central School District

Victoria Jette, ACSD Board Chair
Addison Central School District

The Addison Central School District Annual Report and FY24 Budget Book will be available in the following manner: <https://www.acsdvt.org/Page/6425> or call 802-382-1274 to request a copy.

**WARNING
ADDISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 7, 2023**

Member Districts are Bridport, Cornwall, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham and Weybridge

The legal voters of the Addison Central School District are hereby warned to meet at the following polling places on March 7, 2023 to vote by Australian Ballot on the following article(s) of business:

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

ARTICLE 1: Shall the voters of the Addison Central School District vote to authorize the ACSD school board to expend \$42,269,305, which is the amount the ACSD school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

ARTICLE 2: Shall the voters of the Addison Central School District vote to authorize the ACSD school board to appropriate \$1,520,974 of the FY 2022 Unassigned Fund Balance to the ACSD Capital Reserve Fund?

ARTICLE 3: Shall the voters of the Addison Central School District vote to approve increasing the board stipend for each board member from \$500 to \$1200 per year?

ARTICLE 4: To elect four (5) 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 Bridport for a three-year term.

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

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

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

Victoria Jette, Chair
Addison Central School District

Year-to-Year Budget Summary

This chart shows all of the anticipated FY24 ACSD Expenditures and their offsetting Revenues. Expenditures other than those associated with the General Fund are color matched to show the link between those expenses and their income source. We have also included actual FY22 numbers for comparison purposes.

In order to perform the calculations which ultimately lead to the District Tax Rate, we subtract Local Revenues from General Fund Expenses to arrive at our Local Education Spending amount. This is the amount which the Vermont Agency of Education will provide to ACSD from the State Education Fund in FY24 and is the amount that the District will contribute to that fund through taxes.

EXPENDITURES	FY22 ACTUAL	FY23 REVISED	FY24 PROPOSED	DIFFERENC E	% DIFF
General Fund:					
Student Instruction, Regular Education	\$22,106,065	\$23,561,931	\$24,581,951	\$1,020,020	4%
Student Services, Special Education	\$4,677,288	\$5,213,829	\$5,594,011	\$380,182	7%
Universal PreK	\$389,718	\$447,860	\$489,320	\$41,460	9%
Technical/Career Center Education	\$1,186,598	\$1,221,482	\$1,392,489	\$171,007	14%
Transportation	\$1,132,821	\$1,253,269	\$1,303,269	\$50,000	4%
Facilities and Maintenance	\$3,587,318	\$3,355,988	\$4,254,272	\$898,284	27%

Technology and IT	\$1,203,504	\$1,131,702	\$1,386,936	\$255,234	23%
School Board and District Administration	\$1,665,615	\$1,983,052	\$2,391,208	\$408,156	21%
Professional Development/Curriculum	\$526,323	\$614,795	\$703,776	\$88,981	14%
Debt Service	\$176,413	\$172,073	\$172,073	\$ -	
GenFund Subtotals	\$36,651,662	\$38,955,982	\$42,269,305	\$3,313,323	8.5%
Other Funds:					
Consolidated Federal Grant Program	\$866,781*	\$883,035	\$856,460	-\$26,575	-3.0%
*amended from eFP actuals to GMS actuals.					
Special Education Federal Grant Expenditures	\$554,583	\$614,922	\$586,106	-\$28,816	-5.0%
ESSER	\$1,109,117	\$3,366,992	\$917,313	-\$2,449,679	-73.0%
Medicaid/MAC	\$229,839	\$222,092	\$191,707	-\$30,385	-14.0%
Special Funds	\$60,165	\$60,165	\$60,165	\$ -	0.0%
Food Service	\$1,196,995	\$1,135,234	\$1,390,698	\$193,702	16.0%
Total Expenditures:	\$40,880,261	\$45,238,422	\$46,338,984	\$1,100,562	2.0%
Separately Warned Articles:					
Undesignated Fund Balance	\$623,744	\$2,323,099	\$1,520,974		
REVENUES	FY22 ACTUAL	FY23 REVISED	FY24 PROPOSED	DIFFERENC E	% DIFF
General Revenues (State and Local)	\$4,629,060	\$4,392,664	\$5,339,299	\$946,635	21.6%
Federal Grant Funds	\$1,421,364	\$1,497,957	\$1,442,566	-\$55,391	-3.7%
ESSER	\$1,109,117	\$3,366,992	\$917,313	-\$2,449,679	-72.8%
Medicaid/MAC	\$229,839	\$222,092	\$191,707	-\$30,385	-13.7%
Special Funds	\$60,165	\$60,165	\$60,165	\$0	0.0%
Food Service	\$1,196,995	\$1,135,234	\$1,288,671	\$153,437	13.5%
Total Revenues	\$8,857,659	\$10,675,104	\$9,239,721	-\$1,435,383	-13.4%
Prior Year Fund Balance	\$1,173,744	\$2,323,099	\$1,520,974		
	FY22 ACTUAL	FY23 REVISED	FY24 PROPOSED	DIFFERENC E	% DIFF
Total General Operating Budget Expenses	\$37,471,386	\$38,908,215	\$42,336,535	\$3,428,320	8.8%
less					
General Revenues (State and Local)	\$4,629,060	\$4,392,664	\$5,339,299	\$477,502	10.9%
Education Spending	\$32,842,326	\$34,515,551	\$36,997,236	\$2,481,686	7.2%

divided by					
Equalized Pupils	1,735.44	1,721.61	1,707.82		
Ed Spending/Eq Pupil	\$18,925	\$20,048	\$21,663	\$1,615	8.1%

FY24 Tax Calculation

Our total Local Education Spending amount of \$36,997,236 is the first and only figure used in calculating our tax rate, and the only one over which we have control. The other components in the formula are supplied by the VT Tax Department or Agency of Education and *are subject to changes by the State Legislature.*

Projected Property Yield: \$ 15,479.00
ACSD Equalized Pupils: 1,707.82

ACSD Tax Rate Calculation

Local Education Spending \$36,997,236.00
Divided by Equalized Pupils $\div 1,707.82$
Education Spending / Equalized Pupil \$21,663.43

Education Spending / Equalized Pupil \$21,663.43
Divided by the Property Yield $\div \$15,479$
Equalized District Tax Rate \$1.40

Equalized District Tax Rate: \$1.40 (*pre CLA adjustment*)
15¢ decrease from current year

The estimated district tax rate is then 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.

Town	ACSD Tax Rate	CLA (FY24)	Est. Town Tax Rate FY24	Town Tax Rate FY23	FY23/FY24 Net Change
Bridport	\$1.40	79.29%	\$1.77	1.71	\$0.06
Cornwall	\$1.40	85.67%	\$1.63	1.72	-\$0.09
Middlebury	\$1.40	83.88%	\$1.67	1.66	\$0.01
Ripton	\$1.40	79.45%	\$1.76	1.85	-\$0.09
Salisbury	\$1.40	75.97%	\$1.84	1.78	\$0.06
Shoreham	\$1.40	82.90%	\$1.69	1.65	\$0.04
Weybridge	\$1.40	84.75%	\$1.65	1.61	\$0.04

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RIPTON

SCHOOL PROFILE

Enrollment	Grade Level	Principal	Classroom Teachers FTE	General Ed Paras FTE
46	K-5	.6	3	1

Classes per grade K/1st: 1 2nd/3rd: 1 4th/5th: 1	Class size Smallest: 13 Largest: 16	FTE allocation for building based staff Nurse: 0.2 Guidance: 0.2 Librarian: 0.4 Interventionist: 0.5 Art: 0.2 Music: 0.2 Spanish: 0.2 Phys Ed: 0.2	• Title 1 School
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Ripton Elementary School continues to pull together with a small, dedicated staff of caring individuals. We started the year with 45 students grades kindergarten through fifth. Our classrooms have two grades in each; K/1st with Mrs. Giroux, 2nd/3rd with Mrs. Holmquist, and 4th/5th with Ms. Ogilvie. In addition to the three full time classroom teachers, we have two paraeducators and a full time administrative assistant . All other staff, including myself, are part time.

The students enjoy working in multi age groups both in their classes and across school settings from recess, to Book Buddies to Friday morning's All School Meeting. Our school-wide expectations are to *Be Safe, Be Kind, Work Hard and Work Together*. Students learn these core expectations the first week of school and they provide a foundation for us to build from throughout the year. Weekly we recite our school pledge at All School Meeting which reminds us of our shared values 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 Ripton Elementary school community demonstrates a willingness to support one another, fosters empathy and believes each of us --students and staff, bring our best selves to school every day.

At Ripton Elementary we take advantage of our natural surroundings as students frequently explore, learn and play outdoors. We are looking forward to cross country skiing at Rikert again starting in late January, downhill skiing at the Snow Bowl in March, welcoming Fua Nacimiento for a five day Capoeira Artist in Residency in mid April, plus Spring into the Arts (SITA) and sending our fifth graders to Keewaydin Environmental Education Center in May. We are grateful to Friends of Ripton School, Inc (FORS), the Middlebury College Gift in Kind, the Addison

Central Educational Endowment Fund (ACEEF), and ACSD for their financial support to make these experiences possible.


It is nice to be planning ahead for next school year knowing we will continue to work closely with the other leaders and staff across ACSD. Our budget for the coming year reflects the same level of staffing and programming, building maintenance and services as it has this year. We have definitely felt the pinch of the staffing shortage this year, from filling in for food services, to covering custodial duties, to juggling teacher and staff absences with substitutes and volunteers. We are incredibly fortunate to have a small group of dedicated substitutes who come in regularly to help out. We are also fortunate to have many veteran teachers and staff who pitch in daily to cover and support students as needed.

We are grateful to the Ripton community as well as surrounding ACSD towns for their ongoing support of our students, staff, and school.

- Tracey Harrington, Principal

Function	FY23 Budgeted	FY24 Proposed	% Difference
Direct Instruction	\$ 473,027.72	\$ 478,104.36	1%
After School Program	\$ 17,379.00	\$ 17,379.00	0%
Guidance	\$ 21,833.03	\$ 22,147.23	1%
Occupational Therapy	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	0%
Nurse	\$ 15,304.92	\$ 14,737.54	-4%
Library Media	\$ 29,458.28	\$ 30,431.64	3%
Administration	\$ 119,107.81	\$ 122,756.87	3%
Transportation - Field Trips	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,178.52	293%
Debt Service	\$ 17,295.97	\$ 17,295.97	0%
Total Budget	\$ 694,206.73	\$ 704,531.14	1%

Notes: LRC at nurse (replacement pending). Added district wide \$25 per pupil field trip funding adjustment.

 MIDDLEBURY UNION MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL PROFILE				
Enrollment	Grade Level	Principal(s)	Classroom Teachers FTE	General Ed Paras FTE
368	6-8	2	23	3
<div> <div> Students per grade 6th: 115 7th: 137 8th: 116 </div> <div> Class size Smallest: 11 Largest: 27 </div> </div> <div> Clubs + Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soccer, field hockey, cross country, winter running, wrestling, gymnastics, basketball, baseball, softball, lacrosse, track & field Art club, D&D Club, Magic Club, GSA, Lego League, Memory Book, Tiger Tennis, Tiger TV, Chess Club </div> <div> FTE Allocation Nurse: 1 Counselors: 3 Librarian: 1 Interventionist: 2 </div> <div> 2 ESSER funded behavior interventionist </div>				

The 2022-2023 School year has brought about a multitude of changes for Middlebury Union Middle School (MUMS). That change has been driven fairly significantly by what we know about the developmental considerations of middle school students and a strong focus on community, access, success and belonging.

During these past few months we have observed staff and students working to find a balance between continuing our focus on the classroom and school community as well as participating in hands-on and engaging academic opportunities. This was all made possible with the support of structured programs as well as our talented staff. Through targeted intervention, responsive classroom approaches, and utilization of trauma informed practices, we are confident that we will close achievement and opportunity gaps within our learning community.

Key positions that include our behavioral interventionists, school-based clinician, Dean of Culture and Climate, intensive needs paraprofessionals, and core team of teachers have helped us to focus on creating equity and access to middle school programming. Additionally, our focus on creating professional development opportunities that are centered on *Responsive Classroom* and universal design for learning have strengthened our staff skill set in better meeting the needs of our students.

One of the priorities of the 22-23 school year was to create a teaming structure and a schedule that centered around access for all students. Our current structure and schedule allows all students to be placed in core classes regardless of individual programmatic needs as well as access to band, choir and clubs regardless of individual programmatic needs. The dynamics of this structure achieved that goal. Our additional priority was to ensure teams were of a size that fostered relationships between staff, students and families. This current teaming structure provided a structure and schedule to build strong collaboration across teams and allowed for

greater teacher, student and family partnerships. We will continue to examine this structure and schedule through a collaborative process in the coming months. Our goal is to better address what we know about sixth through eighth grade learners, build stronger connections across all of our departments and stakeholders and continue to nurture positive peer relationships that are paramount to the development of middle school students.

The proposed budget includes all of the positions that exist in our current budget. This staffing level allows for smaller core teams which is critical for relationships and a sense of belonging for students. Additionally it allows access to a strong Wellness department, robust music department, cohesive Design/STEAM/Art experience and a rich language acquisition department. In short, it prioritizes rich learning opportunities, community and connection. In our FY23 budget, we funded a general educator, two Behavior interventionists and our Dean of Climate and Culture through ESSER funds. In our FY24 budgets we will fund the general educator through our local budget and continue to fund the two Behavior Interventionists through ESSER as well as our Dean of Climate and Culture.


We are incredibly grateful for the continued, and tireless commitment from our staff this year. They show up every day with a smile and a drive to support all students. We believe this commitment is directly connected to the commitment from our District Leadership, School Board and community to the children of ACSD. We look forward to the work ahead and are honored to be a part of this team.

- Michael Dudek & Michaela Wisell, CO Principals

Function	FY23 Budgeted	FY24 Proposed	% Difference
Direct Instruction	\$ 3,012,883	\$ 3,347,209	11%
Art	\$ 4,849	\$ 4,849	0%
Music	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,099	1%
English	\$ 6,400	\$ 6,556	2%
Foreign Language	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400	0%
Physical Education	\$ 6,251	\$ 6,251	0%
Math	\$ 4,400	\$ 4,502	2%
Health Education	\$ 149	\$ 149	0%
Science	\$ 6,400	\$ 6,429	0%
Social Studies	\$ 4,400	\$ 4,473	2%
Summer School	\$ 21,140	\$ 21,148	0%
After School	\$ 2,675	\$ 2,675	0%
Reading Intervention	\$ 800	\$ 817	2%
Design and Technology	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	0%
Athletics	\$ 92,025	\$ 92,025	0%
Co-Curricular	\$ 46,450	\$ 46,450	0%

Guidance	\$ 391,259	\$ 421,026	8%
Nurse	\$ 142,464	\$ 183,396	29%
Other Support Services	\$ 45,500	\$ 45,500	0%
Library Media	\$ 79,414	\$ 82,818	4%
Tech Education	\$ 6,878	\$ 6,878	0%
Administration	\$ 489,230	\$ 680,221	39%
Transportation: Athletic and Co-Curricular	\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000	0%
Debt Service	\$ 86,956	\$ 86,956	0%
Total Budget	\$ 4,492,922	\$ 5,092,826	13%

Notes: Teachers and Nurse were budgeted as partial year in FY23 and full year in FY24. Co-Principal system restructuring in Admin.



MIDDLEBURY UNION HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL PROFILE

Enrollment	Grade Level	Principal(s)	Classroom Teachers FTE	General Ed Paras FTE
521	9-12	2	27	2

Clubs + Activities

- Cross Country, Field Hockey, football, Soccer, Bass Fishing, Golf, Volleyball, Basketball, Hockey, Dance, Gymnastics, Nordic, Wrestling, Baseball, Lacrosse, Tennis, Softball, Track and Field, Unified Basketball, Ultimate
- Art club, BIOME, Drama, Hope Happens Here, Model UN, NHS, Project Graduation, SaGA, Scholar's Bowl, SPARC, Stage management, SCOHR, Student Council

FTE Allocation

Nurse: **2**
Counselors: **3**
Librarian: **1**
Interventionist: **1**

Students per grade

9th: **129**
10th: **145**
11th: **112**
12th: **134**

Class size

Smallest: **4**
Largest: **28**

1 ESSER funded literacy interventionist

The entire Middlebury Union High School (MUHS) staff strives to meet the needs of each individual student. Our top priority is making sure students are succeeding socially, emotionally and academically.

Thankfully, our community provides our school with cutting edge curricular resources, teacher training in researched best practices, and a vast array of connections throughout the United States and abroad. Our incredibly talented educators leverage the power of these resources to make sure all MUHS graduates have the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful whether they move on directly to the workforce or choose to further their education.

Our curriculum is coordinated across the middle and high schools. Our teachers collaborate on designing and tweaking units to offer students an experience that emphasizes transferable understandings, skill development, inquiry, personalization, and criterion-related assessment.

As a culminating experience in Grade 10, all students complete a personal project in which they demonstrate the skills they have learned throughout their education.

- Justin Campbell, Principal

List of example unit inquiries from MUMS and MUHS:

Language & Literature	<i>Ways of Living</i> : Storytelling reveals a variety of belief systems which expand the audience's perspectives on philosophies and ways of living (10th grade).
Language Acquisition	<i>Traveling in the Natural World</i> : A journey can develop empathy and shape our understanding of inequality, difference and privilege in order to imagine a more hopeful future (10th grade Spanish).
Science	<i>Human Impact</i> : When humans interact with the environment, we can change the environment resulting in positive and negative consequences (6th grade).
Design	<i>Artificial Intelligence Chatbot Programming</i> : How communication can be a catalyst for inventive methods of learning (8th grade).
Math	<i>2D Geometry</i> : Form can be used to scale measurement and space (7th grade)
PE/Health	<i>Target Sports</i> : Refinement and interactions during competitive and cooperative activities can build strong relationships (9th grade).
Individuals & Societies	<i>Intro to Civics</i> : An inquiry into how government systems divide power (6th grade).
Arts	<i>Music in Advertising</i> : Effective communication requires an understanding of one's audience (8th grade General Music).

In grades 11 and 12, MUHS students can pursue a wide variety of options including: a range of programs at the Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center, Early College, the International Baccalaureate Diploma program, Vermont Adult Learning, MUHS courses, and many more.

20% of the Class of 2023 is enrolled in the IB Diploma Program (DP) as full diploma candidates. These students have recently completed their individual extended essay which is a demanding research/writing experience on a topic of their choice. An additional 20% of our grade 12 students are 'certificate candidates', meaning they will also sit for the IB exams in May in individual subjects of their choice. This means that 41% of our seniors will be taking the IB exams in May. Many of the certificate candidates plan to earn certificates in three or more subjects. Currently 17% of our Grade 11 students are also full diploma candidates. Juniors who are not full diploma candidates will communicate their desire to earn certificates in various subjects in the fall of their senior year.

In May of 2022, 91% of our full diploma candidates successfully earned the IB diploma. This was our first cohort to take the May exams. Their average total score was 33, students must earn at least 24 points to be eligible for the diploma. Additionally, their average score in each subject was a 5.13, on a 1 - 7 point scale.

There were 119 students in the Class of 2022 at MUHS; 62% are attending four-year colleges and universities, and an additional 4% are enrolled in two-year colleges. Of those pursuing higher education, 13 were first-generation college bound. 9% of the class enrolled in apprenticeships or career education, approximately 22% sought employment, and 3% took a gap year Below is a matriculation list for the class of 2022.

Amherst College, MA	Oregon State University, OR
Bard College, NY	Pace University, NY
Berklee College of Music, MA	Regis College, MA
Brigham Young University, UT	Rochester Institute of Technology, NY
Carleton College, MN	Roger Williams University, RI
Carnegie Mellon University, PA	St. Michael's College, VT (3)
Castleton University, VT (3)	Sarah Lawrence College, NY
Colby Sawyer College, NH	Scripps College, CA
Colgate University, NY (2)	Skidmore College, NY (2)
Community College of Vermont (2)	Springfield College, MA (2)
Dartmouth College, NH	St. Olaf College, MN
Dean College, MA	SUNY Canton, NY
Duke University, NC	SUNY Morrisville, NY
Elon University, NC	University of Buffalo, NY
Endicott College, MA	University of Maine, Orono
Hamilton College, NY	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Ithaca College, NY	University of New Hampshire
Landmark College, VT	University of Pennsylvania
Lincoln Technical Institute, CT	University of Rochester, NY
Maine College of Art and Design, ME	University of Vermont (9)
Middlebury College, VT (4)	University of Washington (Seattle) WA
Montana State University, MT (2)	Vermont Technical College, VT (3)
Mount Holyoke College, MA	Virginia Polytechnic Institute, VA (2)
North County Community College, NY	Wells College, NY
Northern Vermont University (VT)	West Virginia University, WV
Norwich University, VT (2)	Wheaton College, MA
Oberlin College, OH	White Mountains Comm. College, NH

Function	FY24		
	FY23 Budgeted	Proposed	% Difference
Direct Instruction	\$ 4,626,548	\$ 4,703,687	2%
Art	\$ 14,728	\$ 14,763	0%
Music - Choir	\$ 10,200	\$ 11,134	9%
Music - Band	\$ 24,900	\$ 25,044	1%
English	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,324	3%
Foreign Language	\$ 17,930	\$ 18,003	0%
Driver Education	\$ 9,538	\$ 9,613	1%
Physical Education	\$ 11,700	\$ 8,700	-26%
Diploma Program	\$ 66,500	\$ 61,636	-7%
Tech Education	\$ 13,850	\$ 13,850	0%
Math	\$ 12,475	\$ 12,795	3%
Science	\$ 42,061	\$ 37,371	-11%
Social Studies	\$ 8,336	\$ 8,495	2%
Community Service	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	0%
Summer School	\$ 24,750	\$ 24,760	0%
Interdisciplinary	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,008	0%
Business Education	\$ 7,300	\$ 7,300	0%
Living Arts/Health	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,104	0%
Middle Years Program	\$ 3,325	\$ 3,325	0%
Learning Lab	\$ 4,420	\$ 4,420	0%
Alternative Education	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	0%
Athletics	\$ 681,441	\$ 936,781	37%
Co-Curricular	\$ 116,125	\$ 116,134	0%
Guidance	\$ 729,646	\$ 692,970	-5%
School to Career	\$ 800	\$ 800	0%
Prevention	\$ 13,400	\$ 13,400	0%
Nurse	\$ 163,146	\$ 174,699	7%
Occupational Therapy	\$ 90	\$ 90	0%
Library Media	\$ 187,130	\$ 195,577	5%
Tech Ed & Data Management	\$ 97,635	\$ 102,109	5%
Administration	\$ 640,892	\$ 578,241	-10%
Transportation: Athletics and Co-Curricular	\$ 82,400	\$ 82,400	0%
Debt Service	\$ 27,949	\$ 27,949	0%
Total Budget	\$ 7,743,414	\$ 7,990,582	3%

Notes: Usage based non personnel adjustments in PE, DP, and Science. Coding correction for coaches and Asst. Principal. LRC in guidance.

WARNING – February 28, 2023 & March 7, 2023

PATRICIA A. HANNAFORD REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 28, 2023 & MARCH 7, 2023

Member Towns: 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 the Hannaford Career Center, Middlebury, Vermont in said district on February 28, 2023 at 5:00 P.M., to transact and vote on the following business:

ARTICLE 1: To elect the following officers:

a) A Moderator b) A Treasurer c) A Clerk

ARTICLE 2: To hear and act upon the reports of the Treasurer and Auditors of the District.

ARTICLE 3: 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 4: To see if the voters of said District will vote to authorize its Board of Directors to assign Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) of the school district's FY22 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 allocate its remaining FY22 fund balance as follows: assign Two Hundred and Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$275,000) of the school district's FY22 fund balance as revenue for the 2023-2024 operating budget.

ARTICLE 6: To do any other business proper to come before said meeting.

The meeting will then be recessed to March 7, 2023 on which date member district voters are further warned to vote on the articles listed below by Australian ballot at their respective polling places:

ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters of the Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District approve the school board to expend \$4,829,146 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? This budget represents a **17.66%** increase 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 **\$26,910** per full-time equivalent student on a 6-semester trailing average. This projected spending per full-time equivalent student is 10.41% higher than spending for the current year.

Dated this 19th day of January, 2023 at Middlebury, Vermont.



Suzanne S. Buck, Chair
PAHRTSD

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting

Due to COVID-19, the in-person floor portion of the Annual Meeting was moved to a space with more room and better ventilation than the Ripton Community House. The Vermont Elks graciously allowed us to meet at the Silver Towers Camp Dining Hall. Approximately sixty people attended on Monday, May 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. to vote on Articles 1-6 of the Town Meeting Warning and discuss Other Business under Article 7. Representative Peter Conlon sent regrets that he was unable to attend because the legislature was in session.

Call to Order: Moderator Molly Witters welcomed voters for a lively, healthy debate and reviewed procedures. She noted the remembrances in the Town Report for Joan Bullock, Dick Collitt, Mar Harrison, Willem Jewett, Peter Karpak, and Road Commissioner and Selectboard member Ron Wimett. Moderator Witters remarked on our particularly devastating year and asked for a moment of silence to remember the devotion to our town and good work done by those we'd lost. After the moment of silence, all Articles were read, moved, discussed, and approved.

Article 1: Will the Town vote the sum of \$662,954 to pay General Fund and Highway Fund expenses for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023, divided as follows: General Fund \$246,90 Highway Fund \$416,050

Motion by Carol Ford / 2nd Erik Eriksen

Selectboard Chair Laureen Cox explained that the General Fund budget did not change much from the prior year. On the income side more was donated for recycling than anticipated, which is good because it is voluntary. Speeding fine revenue was down, which is not necessarily a bad thing. In the proposed budget, there is a new line for municipal project manager. It is for grant project management and will apply to grant expenses most of which are for road work. The budget for the listers increased to prepare for a reappraisal. The last two appraisals were done in-house. This time we will use an outside firm, but not in the next year because firms are not available.

Acting Road Commissioner and Selector Timothy Hanson explained the Highway Fund budget. The amount for road commissioner increased. Ron Wimett incorporated road commissioner tasks into his other work. We don't really know the amount that will be needed. The budget for paving is down because we plan to do crack sealing rather than paving this year. The grant match is up from \$10,000 to \$15,000 because we have several grants with a 20% town match. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are not in the budget. Infrastructure bill funds are expected. Alison Joseph has brought in about 1 million in grants (applause). We anticipate that the sand shed project will go out to bid and be built this year.

It was noted that the 2020 census shows Ripton with its highest population ever. At 739 it exceeds the 1880 peak of 672. (Note: This was later found to include a group count of 171 students at Bread Loaf, who weren't here. Removing them puts the population at 568.)

The Moderator asked for questions. Bill Ford asked if we have to build the sand shed this summer; good contractors already have their work. Laurie Cox responded that we would keep moving ahead. The grant deadline is December 2022, though an extension is possible. Mark Nelson asked for clarification of the \$10,000 for municipal project manager. Laurie Cox and Alison J. Dickinson responded. The work was paid from the selectboard administrator line in the past. The VTrans projects require a municipal project manager who meets their qualifications, which Alison has. This line will allow us to track the item better and hire someone else if needed.

Article 1 APPROVED by voice vote.

Article 2: Will the Town vote a sum not to exceed \$100,000 to purchase road building and maintenance equipment, the funds for this purchase to come from the Highway Fund account? (Balance of this account is \$555,352) Likely purchases to include a backhoe.

Motion by Erik Eriksen / 2nd Giles Hoyler

Selector and Acting Road Commissioner Timothy Hanson described that when Ron Wimett died, we were left without a plan or system. The selectboard had some discussion about the future of road work while Ron was alive, but there was no plan in place. Several emergency and special meetings were held last fall to discuss how to move forward. People with road equipment and experience attended and stepped up to help. Kevin Jackson, Chris Lackard, and Chris Poploski, all who had worked with Ron, carried on the work of Ron's contract. They were out plowing on Christmas and New Year's Eve and got us through the winter.

The Road Commissioner position was advertised in April. No applications were received. Tim noted his lack of qualifications, joking that his forty years as a registered nurse prepared him for this. Ron Wimett had it all in his head and made it happen. Mr. Hanson is trying to come up with a system in lieu of Ron's near fifty years of experience. Some work was not getting done which is why we have a surplus in the Highway Fund. Gravel spreading, guardrail work, ledge removal, there is work to get to.

In the 1950s-1960s the town debated having a town road crew versus hiring a contractor. The contractor contingent won. For a town crew there is the cost of a shed, siting it - finding land for the sand shed was a nightmare, towns are having trouble hiring, and we do not have full-time work for a crew. The contractor system works. For federal and state funded projects the government did not like that our road commissioner was also the road work contractor, and on the selectboard. We have elected to separate the roles.

Things we have not done before but are thinking about are use of salt on paved roads versus sand, adding bluestone chips to winter sand for better traction, increasing crack sealing so paving lasts longer. We are adjusting to the new normal of winters. In December we had to close roads due to thawing. The roads are high and dry now. The mud was worse this year than Mr. Hanson has seen but it wasn't awful.

Ron Wimett left a legacy of decent roads. It is hoped that someone with real training will step in to be road commissioner. Tim Hanson gave thanks to the team of Chris Lackard, Chris Poploski, and Kevin Jackson. They were applauded.

Mr. Hanson explained that the selectboard identified the backhoe as a critical piece of equipment for diverting water off roads and preventing washouts during storms. When this Article was written we had access to just one backhoe through a contractor. We now have access to two, so do not feel the need to purchase one. We do need to buy some equipment that only the town needs, such as a sand screen. Mr. Hanson didn't know that we need the \$100,000 in the Article and offered that voters amend the Article. Discussion followed and no amendments were proposed.

Participating in discussion were Tim Hanson, Chris Lackard, Marty Kulczyk, Mike Hussey, Jim Zieger, Laurie Cox, and Bill Ford. Topics included: that equipment may not be stored at the sand shed; that if salt is used on paved roads, it would preclude the need for a sweeper; was the \$100,000 for a building and equipment, answered no; the process for spending the \$100,000 and keeping the voters involved. Mr. Hanson repeated that the Article could be amended, a lower amount may be in order, a special town meeting could be held if something came up. The Moderator asked for an amendment. None was offered.

Article 2 APPROVED by voice vote.

Article 3: Will the Town vote to have current property taxes collected by the Treasurer with a tax due date of November 1, 2022; payments due in the Town Office by 6:00 p.m.?

Motion by Mark Nelson / 2nd Erik Eriksen

Laureen Cox explained that we must vote this annually. There was no discussion.

Article 3 APPROVED by voice vote.

Article 4: Will the Town vote the sum of \$41,000 to the Ripton Volunteer Fire and First Response Department to pay expenses for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023?

Motion by Norm Tjossem / 2nd Mark Nelson

Chief Chris Pike remarked that this is the first town meeting since Chief Erik Eriksen retired. As shown in the town report, Erik Eriksen dedicated his life to the service of others. Mr. Eriksen was applauded.

Chief Pike recognized Jay Harrington for his life saving actions at the Rikert Nordic Center in December. Jay saw an individual collapse and began CPR, described on page 20 of the town report. The patient is doing very well. Norm Tjossem stood to announce that he was the patient and he wished to personally thank Jay Harrington and Mark Nelson for saving his life. That's incredible and why we do this responded Chief Pike.

Chief Pike thanked the town for its support, named dates of events such as the July 30th picnic, and explained the RVFD budget and activities. The department is upgrading personal protective equipment. Members did hazardous materials training, medical training, state search and rescue training, and attended the county fire school. An automatic standby generator was installed at the station by Taylor Rental, who has been a great friend to the department.

Anza Armstrong asked the number of and names of EMTs and was answered. She replied, so 6 first responders - amazing.

Moderator Witters noted this is the feel-good Article of the evening and asked for a vote.

Article 4 APPROVED by voice vote.

Article 5: Will the Town vote the sum of \$6,000 to the Ripton Cemetery Commission to pay expenses for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023?

Motion by James Zieger / 2nd Erik Eriksen

The Cemetery Commission Chair, Elizabeth Walker, typically speaks about the Commission's work and budget. She was not present; Commissioner Bonnie Swan answered questions. Anza Armstrong asked if the Commission had considered green burials. They have but made no firm plans; Bonnie would bring it up at their meeting the following night.

Article 5 APPROVED by voice vote.

Because Ripton students are remaining in the Addison Central School District (ACSD) for the 2022-2023 academic year, there is not a typical school budget. Article 6 is to provide a budget for a transitional planning year. Molly Witters turned the role of Moderator over to Timothy Hanson, so she could speak about the Article as a School Director. The Ripton School Directors, Chair Steve Cash, Vice-Chair Molly Witters, and Clerk Joanna Doria replaced the Selectboard members at the front table to present Article 6 to voters. A 2-page "Ripton Town School District Board Town Report Addendum, May 9th, 2022" was provided to voters at the entrance to the meeting.

Article 6: Will the Town vote the sum of \$35,000 to the Ripton School District to pay expenses for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023?

Motion by Erik Eriksen / 2nd Giles Hoyler

After introductions, Steve Cash outlined what each member would explain about some of their work since their election June 30, 2021. He would give a legislative update; Molly Witters would give a Lincoln & ACSD update; Joanna Doria would present budget and staffing; and Steve would present closing remarks.

Mr. Cash began with Vermont House bill H727 being debated tonight. It includes provisions to specifically address Ripton's withdrawal from ACSD, and the withdrawal of Lincoln, Starksboro, and Stowe from their districts. A school closure moratorium, a town vote on closure, timing to align Ripton and Lincoln, and a provision for Ripton to stay in ACSD are components of the bill. Steve Cash and Molly Witters testified at hearings on H727.

Molly Witters spoke of work atypical for a school board - their four meetings with the State Board of Education (SBE). In January 2022 the SBE assigned Ripton to be its own supervisory district, meaning in addition to running its school, it is responsible for supervisory services. This is not feasible. Lincoln's withdrawal from its district offers a chance to share services. The school board is looking thoroughly and deeply at this, while looking at staying with ACSD. As Steve Cash indicated, new legislation offers an off-ramp from withdrawal. Ms. Witters hopes that as a board they can represent the town and make decisions.

Joanna Doria referred to the May 9th handout. Page 2 summarized highlights of a budget draft worked on with a consultant. Conversations have been had with Ripton Elementary School staff. Joanna noted they are a competent and loyal group. She spoke of maintaining educational standards while being responsible to taxpayers. The board is working on their fourth budget draft and will collect questions from voters tonight to work on answers.

Steve Cash encouraged people to engage with the school board and stated the two paths forward for Ripton: 1) to join with Lincoln, and 2) to return to ACSD. The funds requested tonight are for understanding the path ahead; it would be helpful to hear from the town.

Moderator Timothy Hanson asked for questions. Participating in discussion were Jim Zieger, Bonnie DeGray, Mark Nelson, Richard Ruane, Tom McElhaney, Anza Armstrong, Giles Hoyler, and the School Directors. Discussion included: Friends of the Ripton School (FORS) funds versus the requested funds, whether ACSD can still shut the school down if we rejoin ACSD; where the budget is shown; the school closure moratorium; tuitioning students; pre-K; being a supervisory union making or breaking the plan; and including Starksboro in a district with Ripton and Lincoln. Giles Hoyler thanked the board for its efforts. The audience applauded.

Article 6 APPROVED by voice vote.

Article 7: Other business: Discussion items to include: Ways to be involved in the community and Energy efforts.

Laurie Cox pointed to sign-up sheets for an email list used for town-only messages and for interest topic areas. She stated there are people on boards who hear a lot of ideas, but there are lots of people with lots of ideas most of which could take a whole meeting on their own. At the last in-person town meeting we voted specifically about town energy. We planned to do a brainstorming meeting but couldn't hold it due to COVID. Ms Cox has an idea about solar energy for town building use. She introduced the following possibilities for getting involved and asked for ideas from others:

- solar energy
- state-wide ideas for more housing
- Planning Commission's Town Plan revision currently underway
- Town green, a park at the sand site after it is moved
- more social events
- pre-school back in the community
- getting involved with fire and rescue

Anza Armstrong asked for a show of hands for interest in a green burial space. Several hands were raised. Cemetery Commissioner Bonnie Swan said the Cemetery Commission is looking into this. Marty Kulczyk asked for a Maple Broadband Communications District update. Ripton's representative on the board, Billy Sneed answered that Maple Broadband received two million dollars in state funding and has engineering firms working on pole testing. They are focusing on areas that are not served at all and expect to begin service in 2023. Jim Zieger gave a shout-out to North Branch Networks (NBN) to thank Jeremy Grip for the service NBN provides. He described it as a great option with a small group trying to keep it going. Mr. Zieger also thanked everyone who participated in Green-Up Day, described where he cleaned, and reminded people we don't have to wait until Green Up Day to pick up litter. Mike Hussey announced that the trails at Rikert are open to the public after the ski season for hiking and biking. Nora Croll spoke of ideas for community spaces other than our wild world. She would like a publicly owned space for activities such as shared meals and greenhouses. She asked for help to make it happen. Gary Wisell mentioned our frequent power outages and suggested wind turbines along with solar and was referred to Mia Allen and Lyle Webb who have experience with wind turbines. Joanna Doria announced a May 22nd workday at the school community garden. Norm Tjossem, our delegate on the ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee, said Bridge #15 on Rte 125 may be up for replacement within the next five years. Ms. Cox pointed to the table with the sign-up sheets. Signing up is not a commitment for regular meetings but may be a commitment for brainstorming and a way to get involved in the community.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion by Erik Eriksen / 2nd Norm Tjossem, Approved 8:50 p.m.

Voters were warned to vote for officers and funding requests by Australian ballot at the Ripton Community House, Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Ninety-five voters, 23% of the voter checklist cast ballots.

Article 8: Will the Town elect the following Officers?

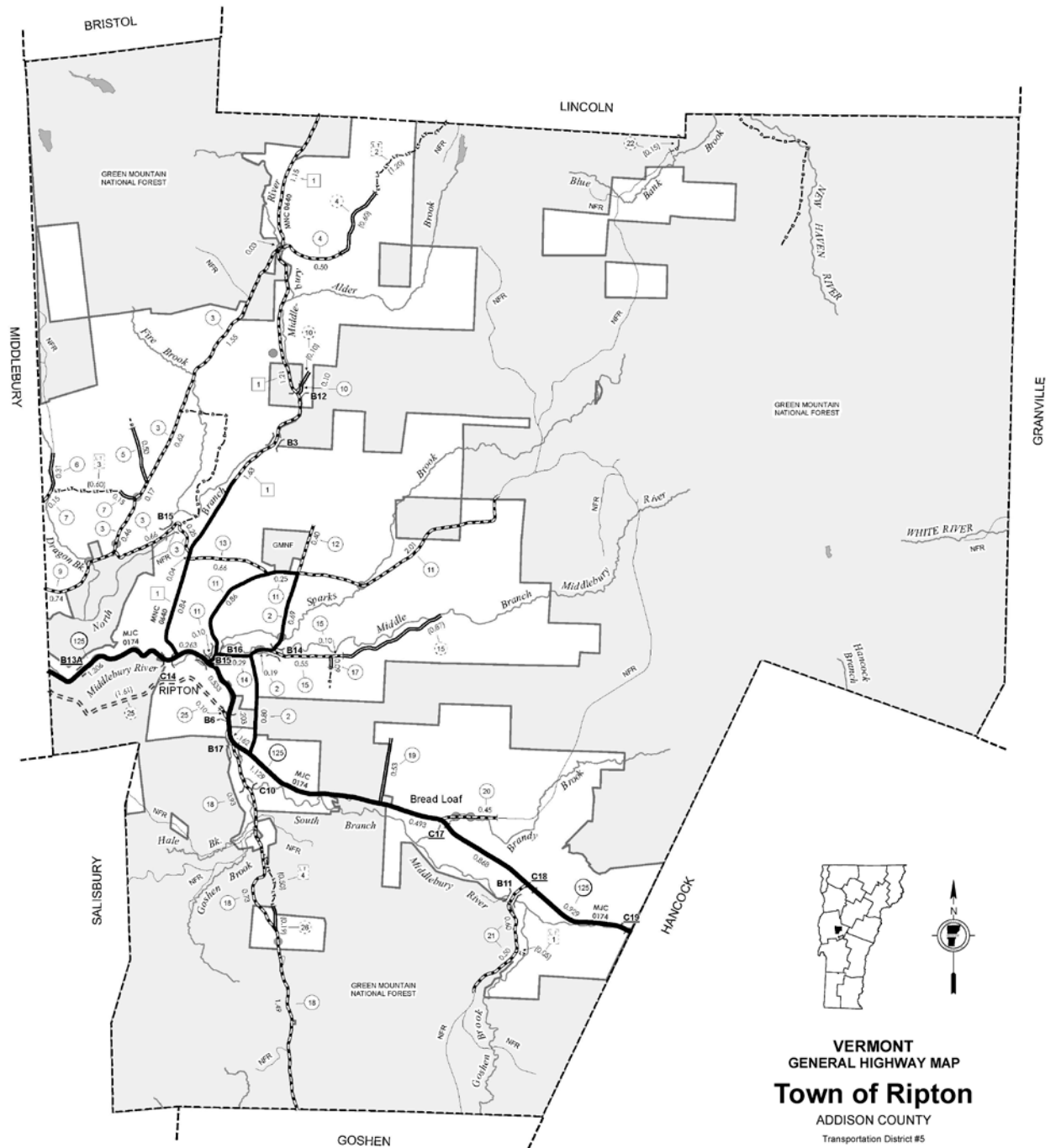
Selector 3-year term: elected Timothy Hanson
Selector 2-year term: elected Giles Hoyler
Moderator 1-year term: elected Tim O’Leary
Delinquent Tax Collector 1-year term: elected Carolyn Smith
Constable 1-year term: elected Chris Smith
Lister 3-year term: elected Erik Eriksen
Cemetery Commissioner 5-year term: elected Elizabeth Walker
School Director 1-year term: elected Jane Phinney
School Director 2-year term: elected Wendy Harlin
School Director 3-year term: elected Molly Witters
School Moderator 1-year term: elected Timothy O’Leary

Article 9: Will the Town approve the following funding requests? All were approved.

Addison Central Teens (ACT) \$1,900
Addison County Home Health and Hospice \$750
Addison County Parent/Child Center \$600
Addison County Restorative Justice Services \$170
Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative \$400
Age Well \$750
Charter House Coalition \$1,600
Counseling Service of Addison County \$1,400
Elderly Services \$600
Friends of the Ripton School \$500
Green Up Vermont \$50
Homeward Bound \$750
HOPE - Helping Overcome Poverty’s Effects \$3,000
John Graham Housing & Services \$1,600
Middlebury Regional Emergency & Medical Services \$5,880
NeighborWorks of Western Vermont \$300
Open Door Clinic \$1,500
Otter Creek Child Care Center \$1,000
Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District \$50
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) \$475
Tri-Valley Transit (formerly ACTR) \$1,901
Turning Point Center of Addison County \$1,000
Vermont Adult Learning \$300
Women Safe Inc \$1,250

Submitted by Alison Joseph Dickinson, Clerk

Ripton Town Highway Map



VERMONT
GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP
Town of Ripton
 ADDISON COUNTY
 Transportation District #5
 Prepared by the
 Vermont Agency of Transportation
 Division of Policy, Planning and Intermodal Development
 in cooperation with
 U.S. Department of Transportation
 Federal Highway Administration
 Map as of February 10, 2021
 Map prepared June 30, 2021

Town Directory

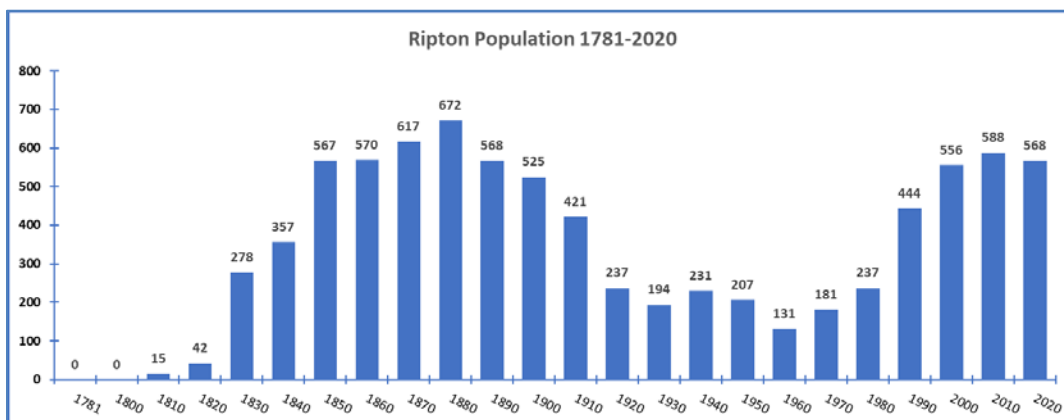
EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

www.ripton.vt.org

Town Office	(802) 388-2266
Elementary School	(802) 388-2208
Fire Station (non-emergency)	(802) 388-4506
Burn Permits: Erik Eriksen	(802) 388-3629
Road Commissioner: Tim Hanson	(802) 388-2546
Zoning Administrator, Jonathan Heppell	zoning@ripton.org
Animal Control: Chris Smith Bill Hunsinger	(802) 388-0337 (802) 232-2698
Recycling	(802) 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: 739 (based on 2020 U.S. Census)
Density: 15 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 (excludes Class IV and Legal Trail Mileage)
 Class I (State Rte 125): 5.786 miles Class II (Lincoln Rd): 4.9 miles
 Class III: 18.48 miles Class IV: 3.52 miles
 Legal Trail: 2.35 miles



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