

TOWN OF CALAIS

VERMONT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020



ELECTION ~ TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021

7 AM TO 7 PM

CALAIS TOWN HALL

1662 KENT HILL ROAD

Most Frequently Requested Contacts

Town Clerk	Judy Fitch Robert	456-8720	Calais.TownClerk@gmail.com
Treasurer / Tax Collector	Sandra Ferver	456-8720	TreasurerCalais@gmail.com
Assistant Town Clerk	Barbara Butler	456-8720	CalaisVTAssistantTownClerk@gmail.com
Garage / Road Crew		456-7466	CalaisRoadCommissioner@myfairpoint.net
Zoning Administrator	Robert 'Bob' Martin	456-8870	CalaisZoning@gmail.com
Lister	Jan Ohlsson	232-1028	CalaisListers@gmail.com
Lister	Wilson Hughes	456-7442	CalaisListers@gmail.com
Lister	John McCullough	223-1658	CalaisListers@gmail.com
Animal Control Officer 1st	Wilson Hughes	456-7442	Wilson.Hughes@yahoo.com
Animal Control Officer 2nd	Elizabeth Perry	225-6308	CalaisaCo@gmail.com
Fire Warden	Greg Pelchuck	454-7377	brcoal@myfairpoint.net
E-911 Coordinator	Anne Winchester	456-7488	AnneWinchester7@gmail.com
Selectboard Chair	Denise Wheeler	456-8730	CalaisSBdenise@gmail.com
Selectboard Vice Chair	Sharon Winn Fannon	454-1173	CalaisSBsharon@gmail.com
Selectboard	John Brabant	229-9870	CalaisSBjohn@gmail.com
Selectboard	Clif Emmons	225-6308	CalaisSBelif@gmail.com

For a more complete listing, see pages 14-15

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Public Informational Hearing Prior to March 2, 2021 Election Day

NOTICE AND AGENDA Town of Calais Annual Meeting Public Informational Hearing Saturday, February 20, 2021

The legal voters of the Town of Calais are hereby notified and warned that the Selectboard for the Town of Calais will hold a public informational hearing on Saturday, February 20th at 1 pm.

The purpose of this public informational hearing is to review and discuss Articles 3 -12 as presented on the 2021 Town of Calais Annual Meeting Warning. Voting on all Articles presented on the Warning, including the election of officers, will take place by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. For information on the Annual Meeting and Australian ballot voting, please see the Warning and Notice to Voters posted herewith.

This public informational hearing will be conducted remotely via electronic means. Instructions for online connection are below the Agenda.

AGENDA

Call to order.

Article 3. Shall the voters approve total highway and general fund expenditures of \$1,710,976 of which \$1,402,071 shall be raised by taxes and \$308,905 by non-tax revenue?

Article 4. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$49,400 for the operation and maintenance of the cemeteries?

Article 5. Shall the voters appropriate \$27,132 for the Kellogg Hubbard Library?

Article 6. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$30,110 as requested by the following organizations in the Calais and the Central Vermont area:

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education	\$1,000
Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$1,400

Public Informational Hearing (continued)

Central Vermont Economic Development Corp.	\$ 500
Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice	\$3,600
Central Vermont Memorial Civic Center	\$ 800
Circle (formerly Battered Women's Shelter)	\$ 700
Community Connections	\$1,000
Family Center of Washington County	\$ 500
Friends of the Calais Town Hall	\$3,000
Friends of the Winooski River	\$ 300
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont	\$ 300
Good Samaritan Haven	\$ 500
Green Mountain Transit	\$ 859
Green Up Vermont	\$ 100
Montpelier Senior Activity Center	\$4,900
Mosaic Vermont (formerly Sexual Assault Crisis Team)	\$ 200
Old West Church Association	\$ 200
People's Health and Wellness Clinic	\$2,000
Rural Community Transportation	\$ 975
Twin Valley Senior Center	\$3,000
VT Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$ 650
Vermont Center for Independent Living	\$ 800
Washington County Diversion Program	\$ 300
Washington County Mental Health Services	\$1,400
Washington County Youth Service Bureau / Boys & Girls Club	\$ 500
Woodbury/Calais Food Shelf	\$ 626
TOTAL	\$30,110

Article 7. Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes in two equal installments, with the due date of the first installment on or before 4 pm on a date that falls not less than 30 days after the tax bills are mailed, but not earlier than September 1, 2021 and due date of the second installment shall be on or before 4 pm on Monday, November 15, 2021?

Article 8. Shall each property tax installment payment be made via one of the following options:

- 1) by delivery to the Treasurer by 4 pm on or before the due dates as set forth in Article 7
- 2) by U.S. Postal Service, with postmark on or before the due dates as set forth in Article 7; or

Public Informational Hearing (continued)

3) by credit card payment via www.calaisvermont.gov by 4 pm on or before the due dates as set forth in Article 7?

Article 9. Shall interest in the amount of 0.5% per month or any part of a month, be charged on unpaid taxes?

Article 10. Shall the Town allow an interest-free grace period of seven (7) calendar days following each due date as set forth in Article 7 during which no interest shall be charged?

Article 11. Shall a delinquent tax penalty be set at 3% of the total amount of the 2021 delinquent tax?

Article 12. Shall the town allow a penalty-free grace period of seven (7) calendar days after Monday, November 15, 2021 during which no delinquent tax penalty shall be charged?

HOW TO CONNECT:

Topic: Calais Town Meeting - Public Informational Hearing

Time: Feb 20, 2021 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please test your software in advance of the meeting to ensure a proper connection.

Join Zoom Meeting Connecting by Computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84595752414?pwd=aTd0Y2x2KzlUUVZObVVCRCkZQQ0ZFQkT09>

Meeting ID: 845 9575 2414

Passcode: 644521

By Phone:

+1 929 205 6099 US

Meeting ID: 845 9575 2414

Passcode: 644521

If calling from another location, find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84595752414?pwd=aTd0Y2x2KzlUUVZObVVCRCkZQQ0ZFQkT09>

Town Meeting Information

Due to Covid-10, there will be no public Town Meeting or Town Lunch in 2021.

Voting Day

Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Time: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

Location: Calais Town Hall
1662 Kent Hill Road
Gospel Hollow



Photo credit: John Lazenby

Calais Town Warning

Town of Calais Annual Meeting Tuesday, March 2, 2021

The legal voters of the Town of Calais are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Calais Town Hall, 1662 Kent Hill Road in Calais, on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, to transact the following business by Australian ballot. Polls will be open from 7 am to 7 pm.

Legal voters are further warned that a public informational hearing on Articles 3 through 12 will take place via electronic means on Saturday, February 20, 2021, at 1 pm. For information on how to participate in this public informational hearing, please see the Public Informational Hearing Notice and Agenda posted herewith.

Article 1. To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.

Article 2. To elect the following town officials:

Selectboard Member	3-year term
Selectboard Member	2-year term
Lister	3-year term
Trustee of Public Funds	3-year term
Cemetery Commissioner	5-year term

Article 3. Shall the voters approve total highway and general fund expenditures of \$1,710,976 of which \$1,402,071 shall be raised by taxes and \$308,905 by non-tax revenue?

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Central Vermont Economic Development Corp.	\$ 500

Calais Town Warning (continued)

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Family Center of Washington County	\$ 500
Friends of the Calais Town Hall	\$3,000
Friends of the Winooski River	\$ 300
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont	\$ 300
Good Samaritan Haven	\$ 500
Green Mountain Transit	\$ 859
Green Up Vermont	\$ 100
Montpelier Senior Activity Center	\$4,900
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Old West Church Association	\$ 200
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Rural Community Transportation	\$ 975
Twin Valley Senior Center	\$3,000
VT Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired	\$ 650
Vermont Center for Independent Living	\$ 800
Washington County Diversion Program	\$ 300
Washington County Mental Health Services	\$1,400
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- 3) by credit card payment via www.calaisvermont.gov by 4 pm on or before the due dates as set forth in Article 7?

Calais Town Warning (continued)

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Article 12. Shall the town allow a penalty-free grace period of seven (7) calendar days after Monday, November 15, 2021 during which no delinquent tax penalty shall be charged?

Dated at Calais, Vermont the 18th day of January 2021 by the Calais Selectboard.

Denise Wheeler, Chair

Sharon Winn Fannon, Vice Chair

John Brabant

Clif Emmons

Rose Pelchuck

Denise Wheeler
Sharon M. Winn Fannon
John Brabant
Clif Emmons
Rose Pelchuck

Received for record January 25, 2021
 Attest, Judge Peter Poter
 Town Clerk



*Sharon Winn Fannon,
 Rose Pelchuck,
 Clif Emmons,
 Denise Wheeler,
 John Brabant, and
 moderator Gus Seelig
 at the 2020 Town
 Meeting*

Voting Information

NOTICE TO VOTERS For March 2, 2021 Election

ALL REGISTERED CALAIS VOTERS WILL BE MAILED A TOWN AND SCHOOL BALLOT WITHOUT A REQUEST FORM. VOTERS CAN STILL VOTE IN PERSON AT THE TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021 7 AM TO 7 PM, 1662 KENT HILL RD.

VOTER CHECKLIST POSTED on the website at calaisvermont.gov and at Calais Town Office by January 31, 2021. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. **SAMPLE BALLOTS** will be posted by February 10, 2021.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE: There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by contacting the Calais Town Office 456-8720 or going online to olvr.sec.state.vt.us.

WAYS TO VOTE YOUR EARLY BALLOT:

- ❖ Due to COVID, you may NOT vote in the Calais Town Office before the deadline.
- ❖ Voter will have ballots mailed to them automatically, and voters should mail or deliver ballots back to the Calais Town Office before Town Meeting Day or to the polling place before 7:00 p.m. on Town Meeting Day.
- ❖ If you are sick or disabled, you may request an electronically delivered ballot before Town Meeting Day or ask the town clerk to have two justices of the peace bring a ballot to you at your home only if it is possible to comply with COVID protocol. (Ballots can be delivered on any of the eight days preceding the day of the election or on the day of election.)

ON ELECTION DAY:

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

- ❖ If the clerk or Board of Civil Authority does not add your name, you

Voting Information (continued)

can appeal the decision to a superior court judge, who will settle the matter on Election Day. Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683) for more information.

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

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

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

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

NO PERSON SHALL:

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

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

Voting Information (continued)

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

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

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

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VOTERS using Australian Ballots

Voting in-person at Calais Town Hall 1662 Kent Hill Road on Tuesday, March 2, 2021

IF YOU WERE MAILED A BALLOT, BRING IT WITH YOU. IF YOU LOST THE BALLOT, ALERT THE ELECTION OFFICIAL. CHECK-IN AND RECEIVE BALLOTS:

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

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

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

CHECK OUT:

CAST YOUR VOTE by depositing your voted ballot in "Voted Ballots" box or tabulator.

LEAVE the voting area immediately and exit the building.

Candidates for Election

Offices filed for:

Selectboard, 2-year term
Selectboard, 3-year term
Lister, 3-year term
Moderator, 1-year term
Cemetery Commissioner, 5-year term
Trustee of Public Funds, 3-year term

Richard Kehne
Denise Wheeler
Wilson Hughes
Gus Seelig
Laura Dailey
Scott Grzankowski

Tribute to Rose Pelchuck



Selectboard Member Rose Pelchuck

This year we pay special tribute to Rose Pelchuck who is stepping down from the Selectboard. Rose served on the Selectboard for three terms, totaling eight years. She started her community service as Recording Secretary for the Selectboard in 2003, equaling eighteen years of meetings. We commend Rose for her cheerful can-do attitude, her in-depth experience and knowledge of town governance, and her generous commitment to Calais. Thank you, Rose!

Important Contact Information

Calais Town Office – 456-8720

3120 Pekin Brook Road, East Calais, VT 05650

Office Hours Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

www.calaisvermont.gov

Calais.TownClerk@gmail.com

Town Garage 456-7466

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Calais Town Office is closed to the public, except by appointment. However, Town Office staff are available to assist via phone, email and online Monday – Thursday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

911 Address Assignments, Anne Winchester	456-7488
Animal Control Officer 1st, Wilson Hughes	456-7442
Animal Control Officer 2nd, Elizabeth Perry	225-6308
Calais Elementary School	454-7777
Cemetery Sexton, Joe Mangan	426-3121
Constable, 1st, Wilson Hughes	456-7442
Constable, 2nd, vacant	
East Montpelier Fire and Ambulance emergency calls	911
East Montpelier Fire and Ambulance non-emergency calls	225-6247
Emergency Management Director, Nick Emlen	229-4919
Fire Warden, Greg Pelchuck	454-7377
Fire Warden Assistant, Chris Tuller	456-1317
Fireworks Permits (EMFD)	225-6247
Game Warden, Dustin Circe	793-6629
Green Up Coordinator, Janet Pocerobba	223-0717
Health Officer, Jay Copping	456-1169
Listers	
Wilson Hughes	456-7442
John McCullough	223-1658
Jan Ohlsson	232-1028

Important Contact Information (continued)

Representative to State Legislature, Janet Ancel	249-1660
Road Commissioner, Alfred Larrabee	Town Garage 456-7466;
.....	cell 793-5175
Selectboard:	
Denise Wheeler, Chair	456-8730
Sharon Winn Fannon, Vice Chair	454-1173
John Brabant	229-9870
Clif Emmons	225-6308
Open Seat, to be elected March 2, 2021	
Town Hall.....	456-1110
Tree Warden, Neal Maker	229-9757
Tree Warden Assistant, Drew Lamb	456-8192
U32 High School.....	229-0321
Vermont State Police, Middlesex Station, non-emergency.....	229-9191
Washington Central Unified Union School District.....	229-0553
Zoning Administrator, Robert Martin	456-8870
Zoning Administrator Assistant, vacant.....	

Highway Department

Alfred Larrabee, Road Commissioner

Toby Talbot, Operations Manager

Bruce Campbell

Ed Rowell

Jacob Earle

Deepest gratitude and best wishes go to former Road Crew member,
Paul Stecker, for his 3 years of service!

Town Officials

Gus Seelig Town Moderator
Judy Fitch Robert Town Clerk, Term expires 2023
Barbara Butler Assistant Town Clerk and Assistant Treasurer
Sandra Ferver Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector

Selectboard

John Brabant (2-year term) Term expires 2022
Clif Emmons (3-year term) Term expires 2022
Sharon Winn Fannon (3-year term) Term expires 2023
Denise Wheeler (3-year term) Term expires 2021
Open Seat, to be elected March 2, 2021 (2-year term) Term expires 2023

Listers (3-year terms)

Wilson Hughes, incumbent; Seat up for election 3/2/21 Term expires 2024
John McCullough Term expires 2022
Janice Ohlsson Term expires 2023

Justices of the Peace (2-year terms – Expire 2023)

Scott Bassage	Barbara Butler
Charlotte Hanna Bassage	Michael Loignon
Kristina Bielenberg	Janet Pocarobba
Dillon Burns	

Trustees of Public Funds (3-year terms)

Rodney A. Buck Term expires 2023
Steve Killoran Term expires 2022
Open Seat, to be elected March 2, 2021 Term expires 2024

Cemetery Commissioners (5-year terms)

Fletcher Dean Term expires 2022
Randy Koch Term expires 2025
Juanita Nunn Term expires 2023
John Simanskas Term expires 2024
Open Seat, to be elected March 2, 2021 Term expires 2026

Appointed Town Officials - One Year Terms

Animal Control Officer Wilson Hughes
Animal Control Officer, Assistant Elizabeth Perry
Auditor New England Municipal Resource Center
Constable 1st Wilson Hughes
Constable 2nd Vacant
Delinquent Tax Collector Sandra Ferver
E-911 Coordinator Anne Winchester
Emergency Management Director Nick Emlen
Emergency Management Coordinator Toby Talbot
Emergency Management Public Information Officer Elizabeth O'Casey
Energy Coordinator William Powell
Gospel Hollow Warden Andy Felice
Health Officer Jay Copping
Highway Operations Manager Toby Talbot
Inspector of Lumber Greg Pelchuck
Road Commissioner Alfred Larrabee
Selectboard Recording Secretary Katie Lane-Karnas
Tree Warden Neal Maker
Tree Warden, Assistant Drew Lamb
Truant Officer, Elementary School Principal Cat Fair
Weigher of Coal Peter Harvey

Zoning

Administrator Robert Martin
Assistant Administrator Vacant

Regional Delegates

CVFiber Delegate David Healy
CVFiber 1st Alternate Jared Thomas
CVFiber 2nd Alternate Scott Bassage
CVRPC Delegate John Brabant
CVRPC Alternate Jan Ohlsson
CVRPC-TAC Delegate David Ellenbogen
CVRPC-TAC Alternate Karin McNeill
CVRPC Clean Water Advisory John Brabant
CVSWMD Delegate William Powell
CVSWMD Alternate John Brabant

Town Committees and Commissions - Appointed

Conservation Commission (4-year terms)

Stephanie Kaplan, Chair	Term expires 2023
Mark Brown	Term expires 2022
Larry Bush	Term expires 2023
Julie Hand	Term expires 2020
Pat Knoerl Johnson	Term expires 2022
Neal Maker.....	Term expires 2021
Vacant.....	Term expires 2021
Vacant.....	Term expires 2022
Vacant.....	Term expires 2022

Design Advisory Board (4-year terms)

Ryan Edwards	Term expires 2023
Kurt Janson	Term expires 2022
David Schütz	Term expires 2023
Vacant.....	Term expires 2023
Vacant.....	Term expires 2024

Development Review Board (3-year terms)

Margaret “Peg” Bowen, Chair	Term expires 2021
Art Edelstein	Term expires 2022
Ryan Edwards	Term expires 2022
Stephanie Kaplan	Term expires 2021
Ruth Porter	Term expires 2023
Barbara Weedon.....	Term expires 2021
Jan Ohlsson, Alternate	Term expires 2022
Denise Wheeler, Alternate	Term expires 2023
Anne Winchester, Alternate	Term expires 2021
Vacant.....	Term expires 2022

Fire Wardens (5-year terms)

Greg Pelchuck	Term expires 2021
Chris Tuller	Term expires 2021

Town Committees and Commissions - Appointed (continued)

Historic Preservation Commission (3-year terms)

David Schütz, Chair	Term expires 2022
Tobin Anderson.....	Term expires 2020
Scott Bassage	Term expires 2022
Susannah Blachly.....	Term expires 2020
Larry Bush	Term expires 2021
Karen Lane.....	Term expires 2021
Kate Phillips.....	Term expires 2023
Mary Alice Proffitt	Term expires 2023
Dirk Van Susteren	Term expires 2023

Planning Commission (4-year terms)

Janice Ohlsson, Chair.....	Term expires 2023
Melanie Kehne	Term expires 2020
John McCullough.....	Term expires 2022
Gary Root.....	Term expires 2021
Vacant.....	Term expires 2023

Swim Program

Daniel Keeney.....	Term expires 2020
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Trails Committee (3-year terms)

Tom Blachly, Chair	Term expires 2022
Charlotte Hanna Bassage	Term expires 2021
Michael Fullerton.....	Term expires 2020
Gail Graham.....	Term expires 2021
Toni Kaeding.....	Term expires 2020
Steve Killoran	Term expires 2021
Peter Livaditis	Term expires 2022
Walter Opuszynski	Term expires 2022
Denise Wilder.....	Term expires 2020

Community Buildings to Rent

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the following sites are closed to the public and are not available to rent or use for meetings or events, until further notice.

We hope the following sites will be open by mid to late 2021.

Adamant Community Club	Rick Winston	454-7103
East Calais Community Center	Scott Bassage	456-8971
Maple Corner Community Center	Jamie Moorby	595-9525
Old West Church	Barbara McAndrew	229-0384
Town Hall	Town Office	456-8720

Public WiFi Hotspots

In an effort to help Calais connect in a digitally-based world, we have installed several WiFi hotspots geographically dispersed around town. These WiFi hotspots provide free internet access to any townspeople, guest or tourist needing access to the internet. This free service is publicly available as a resource for information, communications, remote learning, and working from home.

These sites are accessible at all hours from a parked vehicle in each site's parking lot. All Covid-19 safety precautions must be strictly adhered to, as well as good neighbor behavior.

Calais WiFi Hotspots:

- ❖ Calais Town Office parking lot
- ❖ Calais Town Hall parking lot
- ❖ Maple Corner Community Center parking lot
- ❖ East Calais General Store parking lot

Schedule of Meetings

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all Town-related meetings are held via Zoom until further notice.

Meetings are posted on the Town of Calais calendar at calaisvermont.gov, and on bulletin boards at the Town Office, Maple Corner Store, and East Calais Post Office. All meetings are open to the public.

Recurring meetings that have a regular, ongoing meeting schedule are listed below, yet are subject to change. Therefore, we recommend you check the website calendar, as noted above.

Cemetery Commission	4th Wednesdays, as announced
Conservation Commission	1st Wednesday of every month
Development Review Board	As needed
Historic Preservation Commission	2nd Wednesday of every month
Planning Commission	1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month
Selectboard	2nd and 4th Monday of every month, and as needed
Trails Committee	Annually in late Spring, and as needed

Front Porch Forum

Front Porch Forum (FPF) is a highly valuable free online newsletter where you can get important Calais news and connect with your neighbors. Signing up for this e-news is the easiest way to stay informed about town governance meetings, initiatives, and important dates and deadlines. FPF is a free community-building service in Vermont that hosts regional networks of online neighborhood forums. Each town's online forum is open only to the people who live there. It's all about helping neighbors connect.

Studies show that well-connected communities are friendlier places to live, with less crime, healthier residents, higher property values, and better service from local government and public utilities. When people have an easy and safe way to communicate with neighbors, they will! After using FPF, people often report feeling more connected to neighbors, more tuned in to local goings on, and more a part of their community. That's what FPF is all about! Sign up by going to <http://frontporchforum.com> or call 802-540-0069 ext. 2.

Legislative Report

I am writing this in late November after the election but before the 2021 legislative session has begun to take shape. COVID cases are on the rise, new restrictions have just been ordered and we are approaching the holidays with great uncertainty about how our schools, our economy and our health care system will do as fall turns into winter and we await the benefits of expanded testing and distribution of vaccines.

Whatever I write here will be dated long before you read it. 2020 was full of surprises. The year started quietly enough. Then, in mid-March, just after Town Meeting, we were told to leave the State House and in fact we're still not allowed to return to the building. The Legislature had to change the way we conduct the people's business, developing ways to take testimony, draft legislation, and debate and vote remotely. At the same time, we were actively involved in helping Vermonters navigate the UI system and finding answers to the many questions that have arisen about the myriad state and federal programs designed to assist individuals and businesses and schools and health care providers.

When I look back, I'm amazed at all that was accomplished. We adopted a balanced budget which didn't require new revenue or reductions in services. We were able to do this with careful spending of federal money — more than \$1.25 billion — and the economic benefit of supplemental UI payments and the PUA program for the self-employed. We adopted a program to recognize frontline workers. We also passed legislation allowing municipalities to conduct their business remotely, to provide for mail-in voting, and to keep the judicial system functioning.

Although most of our work after March was directly related to adoption of a budget, distributing federal aid and otherwise responding to the pandemic, we also passed an increase in the minimum wage, and we adopted the Global Warming Solutions Act which will set in motion a process to substantially reduce the use of fossil fuels. We adopted - but lost to a Governor's veto - a Family Leave program, a disappointment for many of us. Although there is more to do, we adopted legislation addressing racial justice in the corrections system and police reform.

Legislative Report (continued)

As of this writing, we are planning to meet remotely in January, with new leadership in both House and Senate. We are watching the increase in COVID cases statewide and particularly in Washington County. We are tracking revenue very closely. We are anticipating the arrival of several vaccines, with all the attendant issues around distribution. And we continue to emphasize the importance of keeping children in school, supporting health care providers, and doing what we can to strengthen a fragile economy, with special attention to local businesses. If we do this work well, we can and will emerge stronger.

*Rep. Janet Ancel, WA-6
Vermont State Legislature*



Photo credit: John Lazenby

Selectboard Report

The purpose of this annual report is to inform the residents of Calais and promote a greater understanding of the responsibilities and priorities of operating town government. State and Federal statutory and regulatory requirements create increasingly complex challenges in conducting the Town's business.

The Selectboard seeks to be proactive on behalf of the Town of Calais and its residents. We strive to make local government efficient and cost effective to the best of our ability. We hear from many of you on various issues and thank you for your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions. Our goal is to be open, accountable, and responsive to you. We value and respect your participation and input.

The Selectboard and Town Office Staff would like to sincerely thank the 130+ volunteers who serve in various appointed and elected positions who dedicate countless hours to keep our Town operating. Without these volunteers, we would have to hire additional employees to perform these duties.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Shortly after we adjourned Town Meeting 2020 – the world as we knew it changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our lives have all been transformed during this past year and no doubt, the repercussions will continue well into 2021. We are all coping in different ways and making lifestyle changes.

In partnership with the Selectboard and the emergency management team, the Town Office staff immediately implemented new policies and procedures to continue to serve the Town and abide by State guidelines to help lessen the spread of COVID-19. We appreciate the office staff's dedication and commitment to keep operations and Town government running smoothly. Other towns and organizations praised Calais's quick and responsive actions as providing leadership and a template for other towns to follow.

Members of the Selectboard joined the town's emergency response team in numerous COVID-19 briefings presented by the Governor's response team to stay up-to-date on Executive Orders and other requirements. These weekly briefings, hosted by Vermont State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) with Local Municipal Officials and Chiefs from local law enforcement, fire service, and emergency medical services agencies. These calls provide an overview of the State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and answer questions from municipalities and emergency response agencies.

Selectboard Report (continued)

We all had to adjust to not meeting in person and go "virtual." This brings its own set of challenges and we continue to make improvements to all operating systems to keep our meetings open to the public.

We are fortunate to live in a state and town that took this challenge seriously with everyone stepping up to care about and help others.

We appreciate your continued support and patience. The amazing resilience and creativity of Vermonters has helped us to stand strong.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global tragedy - yet the new sources of connection that we have realized as a community are a positive.

Highlights

Town Hall Renovation (Phase II)

Renovations (Phase II) are complete, including a fresh coat of paint that went on this fall and under budget! The Hall stands proud in all its stately and magnificent glory. Sadly, because of COVID-19, the Selectboard made the incredibly difficult decision to shutter the Hall until the pandemic has passed. We look forward to a glorious grand opening sometime in the future.

Budget Development

The Selectboard takes this role very seriously as we develop the budget each year and take into consideration the spending of our Town's tax dollars. This is not without its challenges as there are many elements beyond our control. A few examples include:

- ❖ the increase in school taxes as a result of Act 46,
- ❖ insurance to protect Town infrastructure and buildings,
- ❖ ongoing equipment maintenance,
- ❖ employer taxes, fees, VMERS, dues, assessments, workers comp, unemployment and liability insurance,
- ❖ public safety (emergency services and sheriff patrols).

We begin the budget process in late fall and dedicate significant hours to this important task. We review and discuss each line item to look for cost savings.

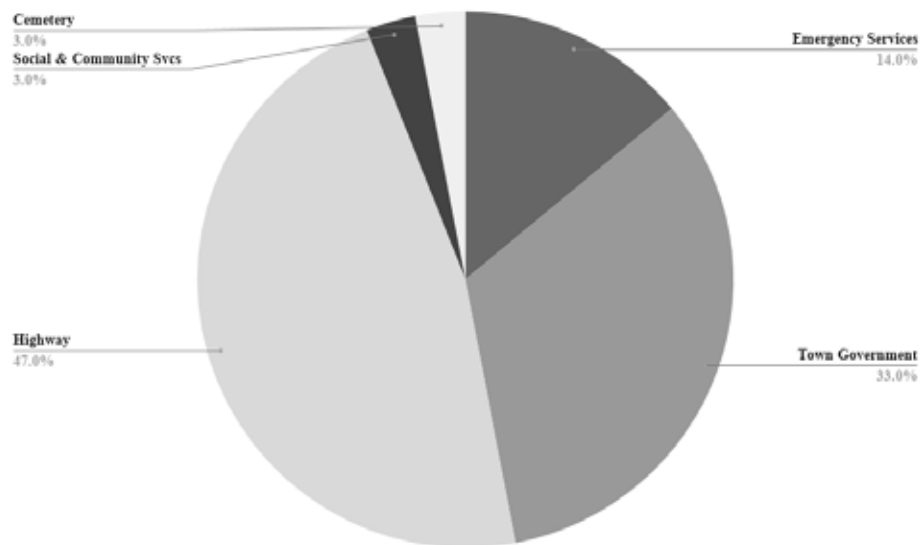
Selectboard Report (continued)

The Town also must provide good employee benefits that will attract and keep valuable, dedicated, committed, experienced, knowledgeable, and responsible staff.

We are very aware that the COVID-19 pandemic has taken its toll on the community at large and we worked diligently to hold the bottom line on the budget.

For FY 2022, we are looking at an overall Town budget decrease of 1 percent. The total highway and general fund budget for FY 2022 is \$1,710,976 (this does not include \$30,110 requested by local service and non-profit organizations). In this context, the Town's budget includes the cost of maintaining our roads, town buildings and staff and the various committees and functions of town government. It does not include the Cemetery Commission, which is a separate entity under state law, the East Montpelier, and Woodbury fire departments, the schools, and the various social and community services the town votes to support at Town Meeting. The pie chart below depicts the Town's highway and government functions, as well as the other functions the citizens of Calais support through their local tax dollars.

Town of Calais Selectboard Proposed FY'22 Budget



Selectboard Report (continued)

Other Highlights and Accomplishments

In addition to the usual assorted considerations of roads, signage, bridges, culverts, curb cuts, right-of-way applications, liquor licenses, Town employee benefits, utility line placements, grants, VTrans projects, ordinances, policies, budget review, and on-going collaboration with Town Commissions/Committees/Boards other significant activities included:

- ❖ Held 45 public meetings to conduct town business.
- ❖ Identified and appointed/reappointed more than 130+ people to positions in town government each year following town meeting, or as needed.
- ❖ Supported Highway Department improvements, including a review of winter plow routes to reduce the time it takes to plow each route.
- ❖ Purchased a used tractor with a mower attachment that will allow us to do roadside mowing on a schedule to help reduce the spread of invasive species.
- ❖ Worked with the Road Crew to improve the town's approach to environmental stewardship. In FY '22, the Town will continue its focus on reducing the spread of invasives.
- ❖ Approved various highway and infrastructure projects and secured Structure Grants to provide cost savings to taxpayers.
- ❖ Supported the efforts of the East Calais Community Trust in applying for a grant to revitalize the historic East Calais General Store building.
- ❖ Renewed our Local Emergency Operations Plan and collaborated with CVRPC to identify ways to make improvements for small towns.
- ❖ Received a favorable management letter from the independent auditing firm of Sullivan and Powers for the 2020 fiscal year audit.
- ❖ Conducted monthly reviews of the Treasurer's Report and Delinquent Tax Report.
- ❖ Maintained a healthy end of FY 20 fund balance and avoided the need for the Town to take a note from the bank in anticipation of tax revenue thus avoiding the payment of interest.

Selectboard Report (continued)

- ❖ Adjusted use of the Curtis Pond Swim Area to allow for COVID-19 safe access to the Pond for swimmers and boaters.
- ❖ Supported the Historic Preservation Committee in applying for a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant to recognize Maple Corner as an historic district and have it added to the National Historic Register.
- ❖ Purchased solar powered, flashing speed limit signs to calm traffic in East Calais and Maple Corner in an effort to raise awareness of the speed of drivers.
- ❖ Received Petition # 19-27, from IBEW Local 300 to unionize the three road crew employees. This process is ongoing and we are looking forward to its conclusion.
- ❖ Received a petition for a reduction in the County Road speed limit (currently 50 mph) to 40 mph. CVRPC will do a traffic study in the spring of 2021; the VT State Police and Sheriff's reports will be included in the study. Following the traffic study, the Selectboard will review the process involved in reducing the speed limit.
- ❖ Planning and thinking ahead for Lister's work in Calais, as state expectations increase and qualified people are difficult to locate. This will result in the need for a paid, professional Assessor in the future.
- ❖ Received approval of a grant to implement the Stormwater Management Plan for East Calais to make repairs by the East Calais Post Office and the gully site off Moscow Woods Road. This project is now in the engineering phase.
- ❖ Supported the Calais Conservation Commission in identifying areas where the invasion of the Emerald Ash Borer may occur.
- ❖ Collaborated with CVRPC staff to create a Stormwater Master Plan along the Kingsbury Branch in coordination with the towns of East Montpelier and Woodbury for flood mitigation to protect resources and infrastructure.

Technology

The Town's investment in digitizing land records proved fortuitous as the COVID-19 pandemic impacted operations at the Town Office. Thanks to our partnership with Cott Systems, land records became accessible via the internet

Selectboard Report (continued)

allowing the virtual handling of record requests and eliminating the need for direct contact with the Town Office staff.

Due to Governor Scott's state of emergency declaration limiting the Town's ability to conduct in person meetings, the Town purchased a Zoom license that allowed Boards, Committees, and Commissions to conduct virtual meetings. While certainly not an ideal solution, the virtual meeting platform did provide these groups a means for continuing operations and presented us with additional opportunities for greater community engagement.

Working in cooperation with the Calais Emergency Management Team and the East Calais Community Trust, the Selectboard was able to take advantage of a generous offer from Microsoft Corporation and RTO Wireless to install a commercial grade public Wi-Fi hotspot in East Calais. The hardware, provided to the Town free of charge, gives residents another point of access to telehealth and remote learning.

With the installation of a new server as approved at last year's Town Meeting, the Town's IT systems are now capable of running all the software necessary to modern day municipal operations. The establishment of a Technology fund, also approved by the voters, provides the means for meeting the Town's hardware needs in the future.

As the necessity of conducting business remotely continued into the latter half of 2020, the Town applied for grant monies made available through the CARES act. These grants paid for laptops for remote use by the office staff and Zoning Administrator. The funds also covered an upgrade to the Town Office phone system and an update to the Town's website.

The Selectboard also looked into the possibility of bringing high-speed internet to the Town Office, as this is now the single greatest factor limiting our ability to maximize efficient operations and provide the Town Office with a robust IT infrastructure. Through the efforts of CVFiber, the hope is that we will be able to achieve this goal before the end of 2021.

Emergency Services (Fire and Ambulance)

The Calais and East Montpelier Selectboards continue to work closely with the East Montpelier/Calais Fire and Ambulance Department (EMFD) and

Selectboard Report (continued)

Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD). We hold meetings with the EMFD to stay informed on operations, budget, revenue, and funding needs.

WVFD has developed a capital plan for truck and equipment replacement and Calais voters approved their annual budget request.

WVFD is moving ahead with plans to create additional space and looking at options for a new building. They received a generous donation of a piece of property in the heart of Woodbury Village along Route 14. This project is currently in the architectural phase.

The Calais and East Montpelier Selectboards met jointly to discuss the need to move toward fully funding 24/7, 2-person staffing for the EMFD ambulance service. As noted over past couple of years, dependence upon volunteer staffing is not sustainable. The expectations of volunteer personnel, both in terms of training and time, are huge, leading to a downward spiral of fewer volunteers trying to constantly meet increasing demands. The goal is to add around 10% staffing capacity in each of the next two years and then fully fund in FY2023.

Emergency Services is a significant and necessary part of our annual budget (approx. 14%). We need to consider and have a discussion to see if Calais can continue to support two fire departments. We welcome your input and suggestions.

Our community is a safer place to live thanks to these dedicated, committed, and professional staff and volunteers. We recognize that fewer people these days are stepping up to the challenge to serve as volunteer firefighters and as EMS personnel. We extend our sincere thanks to members of both departments.

Roads

Road Commissioner Alfred Larrabee and full-time crewmembers Bruce Campbell, Jacob Earle, and Paul Stecker maintain our 79.97 miles of roads. They have a very challenging and often dangerous job. The crew strives to meet the standards of road safety and maintenance while being sensitive to the varying resident views on road maintenance. The crew attends annual trainings to stay up-to-date on the best practices of road maintenance. Members of the road crew are dedicated professionals who sometimes work grueling hours to keep the traveling public safe. When you see them, please remember to thank them – it means a lot!

Selectboard Report (continued)

Winter weather has changed over the past few years with unpredictable conditions making it difficult to maintain the roads. The Winter Operations Plan and Frequently Asked Questions are posted on the Town's website to explain the process of winter road maintenance. We appreciate your respectful input to help us track and identify trouble spots and we happily accept compliments as well.

Reminder: You need to obtain a permit to work in the Town's Right-of-Way before commencing any activities.

In Closing

The Selectboard wishes to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to our committed and dedicated Town Office staff, Judy Robert, Sandra Ferver, and Barbara Butler, who keep the Town running professionally and efficiently especially during this past year of COVID-19. They work tirelessly to provide the best services possible to the residents of the Town.

We also recognize and appreciate all town and school employees, elected officials and volunteers who work countless hours to make Calais a vibrant and caring community.

On behalf of Calais Selectboard, we wish to extend a special and sincere thank you to Rose Pelchuck for her many years of dedicated service to the Town: First as recording secretary then as a Selectboard member. Her longevity on the Board has provided valuable continuity and historical knowledge. She will be greatly missed.

*Denise Wheeler, Chair
Sharon Winn Fannon, Vice Chair
John Brabant
Clif Emmons
Rose Pelchuck*

Town Clerk Report

On March 7, 2020, the weekend after the last Calais Town Meeting, I caught a train to Washington DC for a little R & R. Bernard and I found our seats in the Amtrak car filled with jovial, animated Norwich University cadets headed home for Spring break. We rolled past the late winter Vermont fields and towns, toward warmer weather. One cadet, as he was exiting the train in an urban area, did something very strange: he donned a mask. He was immediately the source of jokes and kidding from his classmates, saying he was paranoid and “listening to his mother.” In early March there were rumors that the virus was spreading, but at that point it seemed far away on the West coast. As the day grew darker, and the train continued on, we were surrounded by the lights of the big cities –New York, Baltimore, Washington.

We spent a day along the cherry blossomed walkways past DC’s monuments and memorials. We moved through the rooms packed with exuberant school children to view the exhibits at the African American museum. But, by the second day, listening to the news reports, it became clear that we had misjudged, that the virus was an urgent and present threat. The subways and crowded museums were the last place we wanted to be when the official pandemic was about to be declared. The world had shifted on its axis. We canceled our train ride home and made a bee-line back to Vermont in a rental car in foggy darkness.

Back home, I quarantined but also remotely went into high gear with the Town Office staff, the Selectboard, and volunteers. An emergency response team was formed, decisions were made, new protocols were put in place. We notified the town of the changes: the office was closed to the public, meetings shifted to Zoom, the website was loaded with new ways to access information. A system for outreach to those in need was established. Staff and road crew had safety protocols and PPE, and collaboration began with other agencies and municipalities as we responded to the Vermont’s State of Emergency.

Assistant Town Clerk Barbara Butler and I also prepared, amidst these changes, for two important elections, the August Primary Election and the November General Election. Suddenly election procedures had to be reinvented to accommodate a dramatic increase of early/absentee ballots and to ensure a safe environment for voting on election days. We tracked all the requests for, mailings of, and returns of voted and unvoted ballots. The Secretary of State Jim Condos and the State election office provided stellar leadership. While elections always entail long checklists to ensure we are following statutes,

Town Clerk Report (continued)

these elections were also high stakes emotionally as we watched the country divide, protests gather force, and violence and discord unfold across the country.

The two elections went smoothly here in Calais, for which we are grateful. We send our sympathy to those election officials and workers who had to count millions of ballots two and three times, even with crowds trying to bang down the doors and threatening their lives. There is a lot to be grateful for living in a small town in Vermont.

Also, the economics of the pandemic quickly began to affect land records and research. While we discouraged people from coming to the office, the demand for title searches for mortgage refinancing and property sales increased. The legal documents to process for recording flooded in. Over the summer we were awarded a grant to have 16,000 pages of land records scanned into the COTT land records system, allowing for remote access. Now researchers can do a 40-year search remotely instead of driving to Calais and spending hours in the vault.

The Selectboard was very responsive in supporting the staff, road crew, and community in relation to the pandemic. Many extra hours in Zoom meetings have been held to solve problems, set up remote working options, to work through COVID-19 grant applications and awards, all in addition to the usual work of maintaining the town’s municipal systems.

Compared to those working in hospitals, nursing homes, busy stores, and other high-risk jobs, town elected and employed staff are indeed very lucky. We have arranged shifts at the office to decrease contact. We are extremely blessed and grateful to still be employed.

Like others, I have been taking long walks and reading more books over the past several months of the lock-down, stay-at-home orders. I happened to pick up one of my father Stan Fitch’s books, Patriots: The Men Who Started the American Revolution by A. J. Langguth. This is not my usual reading. Colonial history was one of those dusty 4th grade topics where you look at old shoe buckles and portraits of stuffy men with grey ponytails. But with Democracy seemingly on the verge of collapse over the past several months, with the country teetering into chaos amidst messages that the core of our

Town Clerk Report (continued)

democratic processes could be breaking down, I was hungry for knowledge of the roots of American democracy.

It has been refreshing to read about the formation of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Samuel and John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, George Washington, Thomas Paine and others were human beings with flaws, insecurities, senses of humor, vanities, noble aspirations and profane hypocrisies. These leaders are not that different from the characters we see on the stage of our current political life, except that they were exclusively white male land owners and some were slave owners. They argued taxes, voting rights, race relations, civil rights, Federal versus State power, peace and war, and ultimately – Authoritarian versus Democratic government. This was only 250 years ago. (Stan Fitch is 97!) America is a young country, and Democracy is fragile.

I know we are all happy to say goodbye to 2020. By the time this is printed there will be a new administration in the White House, a shift in the national mood toward (hopefully!) a more unified vision, and vaccinations will be disseminated, bringing the end to the pandemic within sight. Life may never go back to “normal” as we knew it. Work patterns and structures have changed, and some of those changes may be part of the new normal.

Like you, I imagine all the things I will do when the pandemic is over. I look forward to seeing the smiles of neighbors and strangers again, and hugging loved ones. One item on my bucket list is to return to Washington DC, to the National Mall and the sites that honor all the people and cultures who contribute to the American story. I will see all this with new eyes. I no longer take my health, home, family, friends, work, or community for granted. There’s nothing like a pandemic to make one realize how easily what we cherish can disappear. And our Government—which in the past seemed like a huge impersonal bureaucracy—now feels alive and precious, something to protect, something to be proud of, even down to the day-to-day work of a Town Office in a small town in Vermont-- like Calais.

*Judy Fitch Robert
Town Clerk*

Lister Report

Calais Listers are elected to maintain the Grand List, which is the basis for calculating property taxes. We maintain parcel data, inspect new structures that have been permitted to be built by the Calais Zoning Administrator or DRB, validate Current Use allocation, and monitor property transfers for State Sales Equalization Report that is used to calculate yearly CLA values. We provide data on parcel changes, such as subdivisions, to our mapping company so that the parcel/tax maps are as current as possible.

The Listers work on a different calendar than the rest of the Town. Calais fiscal year is from 1 July – 30 June. Listers calendar year is from 1 April – 31 March. This means that any property transfer transacted, or any new addition or building completed BEFORE 1 April of 2021 will be listed in the 2021 Grand List. Any transfers or new structures completed AFTER 1 April 2021 will not be part of the 2021 Grand List. That is why there can be problems with tax bills being sent to the current property owner. That is also why you might see Listers driving the muddy back roads in March – all to complete inspections for new structures by the first of April! We thank all the residents who allow the Listers to walk their property to inspect new houses and outbuildings. Your permission for us to complete our inspections on your property is vital to correct data, correct Grand List, and correct taxes.

Category	2020	2019
Taxable parcels	974	966
Real Value of parcels	\$219,198,800	\$217,063,400
Parcel with current use allocation	143	143
Value of current use allocation	\$14,930,591	\$14,779,320
Change of Appraisal Notices due to new structures inspected	53	44
Grievances heard	4	0

COVID has changed our work schedule. Listers work Friday mornings in the Town Office, though we may schedule inspections during the week as time permits. We will only inspect exterior, unless asked to do an interior inspection, during which time we wear masks.

Lister Report (continued)

If you believe the value of your property is inaccurate, please email us at calaislisters@gmail.com. We will respond, and if you give us a phone number, we will call you to set up a convenient time for inspection. To affect changes for the 2021 Grand List, these inspections need to take place before or as close to 1 April 2021. Grievance hearings are generally held in the third week of June.

We thank all for their willingness to work with us. And we thank Sandra, Town Treasurer, Judy, Town Clerk, and Barbara, Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer, as we work together to resolve address changes and data issues. Our jobs are made better with a spirit of comradery.

*Janice Ohlsson
Wilson Hughes
John McCullough*



Photo credit: Mary Jacobsen

Zoning Administrator Report

14– additions
8 – accessory structures
0 – boundary adjustments
3 – change-of-use
7 – new dwellings
0 – rebuild/replace
2 – subdivisions
1 – withdrawn

35 Total Permit Applications

4 Applications referred to Development Review Board
1 Development Review Board denial
1 Enforcement incident
1 Pending enforcement

The zoning permit history for 2005 -2018 can be found in the 2017 and 2018 town reports. The Calais Land Use Regulations can be found on the Calais town website.

*Robert R. “Bob” Martin, Zoning Administrator
CalaisZoning@gmail.com
456-8870*

Emergency Management Report

In the spring of 2020 the arrival of Covid-19 in Vermont became the focus of several emergency management initiatives in Calais. In the early phase of the pandemic, the town set up a system for matching volunteers, goods and services with requests for assistance, and developed a file with a running inventory of local resources. One enterprising volunteer sewed cloth face masks for distribution as needed.

The town applied for and received grants from several state and federal sources that support our ability to maintain routine operations safely during the pandemic. A FEMA grant funded the purchase of hand sanitizer, gloves, wipes, face shields, infrared thermometers, and sanitization of the town garage and equipment in compliance with VOSHA mandates. With the town office closed to the public, digitized town land records can now be accessed online. End of the year funding received from the State through the federal CARES Act allowed us to upgrade the phone system at the town office and rebuild the town website. Both of these changes give us expanded options for conveying information and resources in response to the pandemic. They are also designed to support the effective operation of the Calais emergency operations center when it is activated in an emergency. Given the need for staff to work remotely in 2020 and into 2021, we acquired dedicated laptop computers, also purchased through the CARES Act grant. Microsoft/RTO funded the installation of equipment at the East Calais General Store that provides public access to high speed internet, especially needed for telehealth and remote learning during the shutdown.

This year Calais is conducting a five-year update of our Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, with input collected through a town-wide survey. In April we will complete the required annual update of our Local Emergency Management Plan. Together these documents serve as a guide for decision making and resource management to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of emergency situations.

In 2020 Elizabeth O'Casey was appointed by the selectboard to serve as Public Information Officer for the Calais emergency management team. The role of the PIO includes helping to develop a communications strategy, writing press releases, coordinating and providing interviews, and interfacing with the press when the emergency operations center is activated. Elle is currently the Director of Communications and Outreach with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources. We are fortunate to have her skills and experience added to the team.

Various projects are in the wings for 2021 and we welcome your participation. Please contact Emergency Management Director Nick Emlen for more information.

Nick Emlen, Emergency Management Director, 229-4919

Trustees of Public Funds Report

The Trustees of Public Funds continued their ongoing work with the Calais Treasurer to manage the Calais Cemetery Endowment Fund. The primary investment objective of the Cemetery Fund is to increase the income generated by the Fund's investments and to earn a rate of return which exceeds the rate of inflation so that the purchasing power of the fund can keep pace with the rising cost of cemetery maintenance. The Trustees believe that cemetery funds are very similar to long-term endowment funds that allow a portion of the income and earnings on the fund's investments to be spent annually, but the principal is maintained in perpetuity. For cemetery funds the principal provides perpetual care for cemeteries. Historically, many cemetery funds have invested in bank savings accounts and CDs, however banks continue to pay very low rates of interest and in some cases no interest, meanwhile maintenance costs continue to rise.

Most endowments use a long-term, broadly diversified investment management strategy, which helps to manage investment risk. This approach results in the Cemetery Fund's short-term market value moving up and down with changes in financial markets. Over longer-term periods of time, this investment approach should result in investment returns that grow with the economy and reflect the growth in corporate earnings and dividends. The Trustees have gradually transitioned the Calais Cemetery Fund to this kind of investment approach over the last several years. Currently the Calais Cemetery Fund is invested in a broad mix of good quality equity securities (59%), fixed income securities (27%), and short-term investments (14%) using seven separate T. Rowe Price mutual funds. T. Rowe Price is a highly regarded investment manager with a strong investment track record. Going forward the Trustees will look to rebalance the fund so that it's asset allocation reflects the Fund's long-term Investment allocation targets.

Over this past year, the market value of the Cemetery Fund's investments has increased from \$161,448.01 on December 1, 2019 to \$190,830 on December 1, 2020 (the date of this report writing), an increase of 18.2%. This increase in the market value of the Fund is very similar to last year's increase of 18.5%. These returns are well above the long-term average for a diversified endowment fund and unlikely to continue at this rate. At this point, most markets appear relatively expensive compared to historical benchmarks and lower returns appear likely over the next year or two.

*Rodney A. Buck
Steve Killoran*

Trustees of Public Funds - Cemetery Endowment Report

Receipts FY20		
Perpetual Care Income	\$4,840.64	Includes Poplar Hill proceeds
T. Rowe Price Net Change	\$9,766.76	
Total Income	\$14,607.40	
	7/1/19	6/30/20
T. Rowe Price	\$143,954.15	\$161,230.63

Tribute to Jennifer Whitman

We honor Jennifer Whitman who has served on the Cemetery Commission since 2014 and as Cemetery Sexton for the past two years. Jennifer was a champion for the promotion of State legislation for sustainable burial practices and for the establishment of the green burial section of Robinson Cemetery. Jennifer helped modernize the Cemetery Commission systems.



*Cemetery Commissioner and Sexton,
Jennifer Whitman and her dog Odysseus*

She contributed countless hours in her service for the Commission. Jennifer always expressed great respect for the integrity and care of Calais Cemeteries and for the families who needed arrangements for their loved ones. Thank you, Jennifer, for all you have given. We wish her all the best in her new pursuits.

Auditor Letter

Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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VT Lic. #92-000180

January 11, 2021

Selectboard
Town of Calais, Vermont
3120 Pekin Brook Road
East Calais, Vermont 05650

We have audited the financial statements of the Town of Calais, Vermont as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020.

The financial statements and our report thereon are available for public inspection at the Town Office and on their website at www.calaisvermont.gov.

Sullivan, Powers & Company

Members of The American Institute and Vermont Society of Certified Public Accountants

Statement of Assets, Liabilities & Funds

	General Fund	Highway Fund	Cemetery Fund	Non-Major Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
ASSETS					
Cash	707,793	0	0	0	707,793
Investments	6,025	0	161,231	0	167,256
Deposits with Insurance Co.	5,215	0	0	0	5,215
Due from Other Funds	0	0	2,815	275,418	278,233
Total Assets	719,033	0	164,046	275,418	1,158,497
LIABILITIES					
Due to State of Vermont	183	0	0	0	183
Payroll Withholdings Payable	1,414	0	0	0	1,414
Due to Other Funds	252,301	0	0	25,932	278,233
Due to Others	29,032	0	0	0	29,032
Total Liabilities	282,930	0	0	25,932	308,862

Statement of Assets, Liabilities & Funds (continued)

	General Fund	Highway Fund	Cemetery Fund	Non-Major Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES					
Prepaid Property Taxes	44,923	0	0	0	44,923
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	44,923	0	0	0	44,923
FUND BALANCES					
Restricted	0	0	62,590	40,194	102,784
Committed	11,503	0	89,577	151,948	253,028
Assigned	0	0	11,879	83,276	95,155
Unassigned	379,677	0	0	(25,932)	353,745
Total Fund Balances	391,180	0	164,046	249,486	804,712
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balances	719,033	0	164,046	275,418	1,158,497

Proposed Budget & Expenses

Account	Budget FY20	Actual FY20	Budget FY21	Budget FY22
SELECT BOARD				
Select Board Assistant	6,600.00	2,750.00	6,600.00	22,500.00
Select Board Stipends	3,565.00	2,980.00	3,565.00	3,565.00
SB Recording Sec Wages	4,200.00	3,623.34	4,200.00	4,200.00
Bank/Credit Card Fees	300	313	300	300
Professional Fees	500	4,550.00	-	0
Legal Fees	10,000.00	6,458.73	10,000.00	10,000.00
Professional Audit	14,900.00	14,900.00	14,900.00	15,200.00
Town Website	900	950	950	950
Education & Training	400	375	400	400
Copier Maintenance Agreement	1,500.00	540.63	1,100.00	1,100.00
Mileage Reimbursement	300	236.04	200	200
Volunteer/Comm Appreciation	500	-	800	500
Miscellaneous	500	2,307.19	100	100
Total Selectboard	44,165.00	39,983.93	43,115.00	59,015.00
GRANT MATCH				
Invasive Species Grant	250	250	250	0
CLG Fundraising Grant	4,000.00	4,000.00	-	0
Total Grant Match	4,250.00	4,250.00	250	0
TOWN CLERK				
Town Clerk Wages	41,062.00	42,898.36	42,027.00	43,709.00
Assist Town Clrk Wages	19,096.00	20,983.50	19,545.00	20,300.00
Land Record Books	550	572.71	550	580
Digitizing Land Records	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Digitizing Survey Maps	-	-	400	400
Total Town Clerk	70,708.00	74,454.57	72,522.00	74,989.00
TOWN LISTERS				
Lister Wages	12,000.00	6,154.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
Tax Map Revisions	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	3,650.00
Lister Education/Training	400	-	400	400
Software Licenses	-	-	1,348.00	1,181.00
Lister Expenses	815	871.18	100	100
Total Town Listers	15,615.00	9,025.18	15,848.00	17,331.00
TOWN TREASURER				
Town Treasurer Wages	49,733.00	50,102.60	50,902.00	51,971.00

Proposed Budget & Expenses (continued)

Account	Budget FY20	Actual FY20	Budget FY21	Budget FY22
Assist Town Treas Wages	4,600.00	4,268.00	4,708.00	4,782.00
Total Town Treasurer	54,333.00	54,370.60	55,610.00	56,753.00
AUDIT				
Town Auditor	6,000.00	3,082.50	4,000.00	4,000.00
Town Report	3,000.00	2,702.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total Audit	9,000.00	5,784.50	7,000.00	7,000.00
DEL TAX COLLECTOR				
Del Tax Collector Wages	10,000.00	10,005.32	10,000.00	10,000.00
Total Del Tax Collector	10,000.00	10,005.32	10,000.00	10,000.00
ELECTIONS				
Election Workers	300	-	-	-
Election Expenses	1,000.00	585.74	2,900.00	1,500.00
Total Elections	1,300.00	585.74	2,900.00	1,500.00
GENERAL OFFICE				
Contracts/Nemrc/Cott	7,600.00	5,840.09	8,260.00	8,275.00
IT Disaster Recov Cntrt	16,000.00	16,440.37	12,270.00	12,328.00
Maintenance	1,600.00	1,172.15	1,800.00	1,000.00
Generator Maintenance	2,125.00	827	900	900
Facilities Maint Stipnd	2,500.00	2,500.20	2,500.00	2,500.00
Telephone and Internet	2,400.00	2,745.48	2,700.00	2,750.00
Advertising	1,600.00	100	500	500
Postage	2,650.00	2,727.55	2,950.00	2,950.00
Supplies	4,500.00	3,948.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Office Equipment	1,500.00	2,637.72	1,200.00	500
Heat/Electric	4,200.00	2,203.03	4,200.00	3,700.00
Software Licenses	1,600.00	2,220.49	900	1,900.00
COVID-19 Expenses	-	573.55	-	-
Technology Reserve Fund	-	-	8,000.00	8,000.00
Town Office Reserve Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00	-
Total General Office	58,275.00	53,935.63	55,680.00	49,803.00
PAYROLL TAXES/BENEFITS				
FICA & Medi Taxes	12,918.00	11,962.03	12,534.00	12,304.00
VMERS Retirement	5,221.00	5,922.75	6,176.00	5,980.00
Health Insurance	49,992.00	55,320.81	54,077.00	46,780.00

Proposed Budget & Expenses (continued)

Account	Budget FY20	Actual FY20	Budget FY21	Budget FY22
HRA Contribution				10,200.00
Dental Insurance				920
Disability Insurance	812	688.04	692	692
Total Payroll Taxes/Benefits	68,943.00	73,893.63	73,479.00	76,876.00
TAXES, DUES & ASSESSMENT				
CVSWMD	1,600.00	1,600.00	1,601.00	1,604.00
County Tax	16,491.00	16,491.00	16,676.00	16,603.00
CVRPC	1,929.00	1,928.40	1,996.00	2,053.00
VLCT Dues	2,948.00	2,948.00	3,069.00	3,069.00
CVSPAB	100	-	100	100
Total Taxes, Dues, Assessmt	23,068.00	22,967.40	23,442.00	23,429.00
ZONING ADMINISTRATION				
Zoning Admin Stipend	6,000.00	4,800.00	4,800.00	4,800.00
DRB-Secretary Wages	1,000.00	1,500.00	400	400
Zoning Expenses	300	346	300	300
Total Zoning Administration	7,300.00	6,646.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
FIRE & AMBULANCE				
East Montpelier FD	62,219.00	62,218.67	64,898.00	60,977.00
East Montpelier Ambulance	80,891.00	74,891.34	95,120.00	111,468.00
Woodbury FD	32,660.00	32,660.00	33,909.00	34,251.00
Woodbury FD Truck	17,850.00	17,850.00	17,850.00	17,850.00
Rural Fire Protection Prog.	100	-	100	100
WVFD Equip Reserve Fund	-	-	31,000.00	31,000.00
Total Fire & Ambulance	193,720.00	187,620.01	242,877.00	255,646.00
POLICE PATROL				
Constable Stipend	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Sheriff's Patrol	3,000.00	2,806.55	4,000.00	4,000.00
East Calais Street Lights	1,400.00	1,442.74	1,500.00	1,500.00
Total Police Patrol	5,400.00	5,249.29	6,500.00	6,500.00
ANIMAL CONTROL				
Dog Expenses & CVHS	700	333.04	700	700
Total Animal Control	700	333.04	700	700

Proposed Budget & Expenses (continued)

Account	Budget FY20	Actual FY20	Budget FY21	Budget FY22
PLANNING COMMISSION				
PC Assistant Wages	750	-	1,000.00	1,000.00
Planning Maps	1,600.00	-	-	-
PC Education/Training	200	-	200	200
PC Expenses	800	10	800	800
Total Planning Commission	3,350.00	10	2,000.00	2,000.00
CONSERVATION COMMISSION				
CC Rec Secretary Wages	1,000.00	450	600	600
CC Education/Training	200	-	200	200
Green Up	200	104.94	200	200
Conservation Comm Exp.	200	-	250	250
Conservation Fund	8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	5,000.00
Total Conservation Fund	9,600.00	8,554.94	9,250.00	6,250.00
SWIM FUND				
Swim Fund	2,700.00	2,700.00	3,500.00	1,500.00
Total Swim Fund	2,700.00	2,700.00	3,500.00	1,500.00
GO VERMONT GRANT				
Go Vermont Grt Expense	-	500	-	-
Total Go Vermont Grant	-	500	-	-
TOWN HALL				
Maintenance	1,000.00	143.22	1,500.00	1,500.00
Janitorial		-		1,000.00
Utilities	2,500.00	4,876.62	2,500.00	2,500.00
Phone/Internet				1,500.00
CVF Broadband Ext.				10,000.00
Security				
Supplies				1,000.00
Town Hall Reserve Fund	10,000.00	10,000.00	8,000.00	5,000.00
Town Hall Painting	-	-	50,000.00	-
Total Town Hall	13,500.00	15,019.84	62,000.00	22,500.00

Proposed Budget & Expenses (continued)

Account	Budget FY20	Actual FY20	Budget FY21	Budget FY22
INSURANCE				
Bldg & Liability Insurance	9,702.00	11,637.39	11,638.00	9,736.00
Unemployment Insurance	126	371.64	316	554
Workers' Compensation	627	813.04	786	664
Total Insurance	10,455.00	12,822.07	12,740.00	10,954.00
LONG TERM DEBT				
Town Office Bond	9,343.00	10,000.00	9,361.00	9,343.00
Town Office Bond Int	2,710.00	2,052.31	2,233.00	1,750.00
EMFD Station Bond	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00
EMFD Bond Int	18,461.00	18,460.75	17,077.00	15,640.00
T/H Rennov Loan	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
T/H Rennov Int	7,124.00	4,375.06	3,288.00	2,192.00
Reduce FY15/16 Deficit	56,358.00	56,358.00	56,358.00	56,358.00
Reduce FY15/16 Def Int	6,274.00	6,202.13	4,148.00	2,074.00
Server Loan	-	-	6,200.00	6,167.00
Sever Loan Int	-	-	567	401
Total Long Term Debt	175,270.00	172,448.25	174,232.00	168,925.00
TAX ABATEMENT				
Tax Abatement	-	-	-	-
Total Tax Abatement	-	-	-	-
Total GG BUDGETED EXPENSES	781,652.00	761,159.94	879,145.00	857,171.00
GENERAL HIGHWAY				
Highway Wages-CBU	210,290.00	214,744.23	215,232.00	185,000.00
Road Commissioner				66,250.00
Temporary non-CBU				29,000.00
Operations Mngr Wages	16,000.00	15,999.88	16,000.00	16,000.00
FICA & Medi	17,255.00	17,193.14	17,690.00	18,073.00
VMERS Retrmnt-CBU	12,092.00	11,421.22	12,914.00	7,813.00
VMERS Retrmnt-Rd Com				4,141.00
Insurance-Hlth/life CBU	66,908.00	71,083.11	70,297.00	56,706.00
Insur-Hlth/life non-CBU				11,688.00
Education & Training	500	-	-	500
Uniforms	4,800.00	4,967.16	5,000.00	5,500.00
MRGP Fees	1,350.00	1,350.00	1,350.00	1,590.00
Total General Highway	329,195.00	336,758.74	338,483.00	402,261.00

Proposed Budget & Expenses (continued)

Account	Budget FY20	Actual FY20	Budget FY21	Budget FY22
ROAD MAINTENANCE				
Equipment Hired	20,000.00	20,664.70	15,000.00	20,000.00
Roadside Mowing	10,400.00	7,500.00	10,000.00	5,000.00
Miscellaneous	3,000.00	2,555.87	3,000.00	3,000.00
Gravel	95,000.00	75,137.20	95,000.00	76,000.00
Sand	55,000.00	63,844.20	60,000.00	65,000.00
Bridges & Culverts	10,000.00	7,297.80	12,000.00	10,000.00
Pavement Crack Seal	1,000.00	14,707.69	5,000.00	15,000.00
Erosion Stone	6,000.00	171	6,000.00	4,000.00
Road Salt	20,000.00	25,050.58	20,000.00	26,000.00
Magic Salt	2,000.00	625	3,000.00	2,500.00
Chloride	19,000.00	8,835.75	15,000.00	12,000.00
Road Signs	4,000.00	1,248.05	3,000.00	3,000.00
Guard Rails	1,000.00	1,357.00	1,000.00	1,500.00
Line Striping	-	-	-	-
Total Road Maintenance	246,400.00	228,994.84	248,000.00	243,000.00
VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT MAINTEN				
Vehicle/Equipment Repairs	55,000.00	38,820.59	55,000.00	55,000.00
1997 Caterpillar Grader	-	91.27	-	-
1997 John Deere Grader	-	472.24	-	-
2002 Econoline Trailer	-	-	-	-
2009 International Dump	-	8,464.41	-	-
2010 Caterpillar Loader	-	1,440.00	-	-
2012 International Dump	-	-	-	-
2014 Volvo Excavator	-	-	-	-
2015 Ford Dump	-	-	-	-
2016 Ford Pickup	-	154.57	-	-
2016 West Star Dump	-	136.59	-	-
2017 West Star Dump	-	6,975.02	-	-
2017 Talbert Trailer	-	-	-	-
2019 West Star	-	191.25	-	-
2019 International	-	-	-	-
Fuel-Gas, Oil, Diesel	60,000.00	37,801.07	60,000.00	50,000.00
Total Vehicle/Equipment Mainten	115,000.00	94,547.01	115,000.00	105,000.00
TOWN GARAGE				
Trash Removal	500	-	500	500

Proposed Budget & Expenses (continued)

Account	Budget FY20	Actual FY20	Budget FY21	Budget FY22
Tire Recycle	150	-	150	150
Garage Maintenance	2,000.00	15,376.17	2,000.00	2,000.00
Security	-	-	-	-
Computer Expenses	1,000.00	1,837.98	1,000.00	500
Communications	1,000.00	4,220.87	1,000.00	3,000.00
Radios & Paging	-	-	750	750
Supplies	1,000.00	1,802.84	600	1,000.00
Welding, Shop Supplies, Tools	4,500.00	2,493.14	4,500.00	4,000.00
Utilities	5,000.00	2,686.73	3,500.00	3,500.00
Total Town Garage	15,150.00	28,417.73	14,000.00	15,400.00
COVID 19				
COVID-19 Expenses	0	2764.42	0	0
Total COVID 19 Expenses	0	2764.42	0	0
INSURANCE				
Liability Insurance	9,390.00	10,278.61	10,279.00	10,549.00
Unemployment Insurance	856	606.42	359	689
Workers Compensation	16,015.00	17,483.10	16,850.00	14,235.00
VLCT PACIF Grant Match	-	-	-	-
Total Insurance	26,261.00	28368.13	27,488.00	25,473.00
HW GRANT EXPENSES				
Hayden Rd BC1851 Exp	-	-	-	-
Class 4 Road C4R Expense	-	-	-	-
B Back Road 0435 Expense	-	-	-	-
Jack Hill Culvert BC1851	-	-	-	-
Bliss Road BR0434 Expense	-	-	-	-
Grant in Aid 18 Expense	-	-	-	-
Inventory Grt BR 0216 Exp	-	-	-	-
Moscow Paving Grant Exp	-	22,743.00	-	-
George Rd Grnt Exp	-	14,179.67	-	-
Grant in Aid 20 Exp	-	-	-	-
Luce Rd Grnt Exp	-	725	-	-
Total Grant Expenses	-	37,647.67	-	-
CAPITAL EXPENSES				
New Equipment	-	945	-	-
2015 Ford Dump-#8708 Prn	16,963.00	16,963.00	-	-

Proposed Budget & Expenses (continued)

Account	Budget FY20	Actual FY20	Budget FY21	Budget FY22
2015 Ford Dump-#8708 Int	461	460.09	-	-
16 W Star/Ford-#5699 Prn	37,992.00	37,992.20	37,992.00	
16 W Star/Ford-#5699 Int	1,938.00	1,932.29	969	-
2017 West Star-#1842 Prn	17,561.00	17,561.00	17,561.00	17,561.00
2017 West Star-#1842 Int	1,396.00	1,396.20	931	465
14 Volvo Exvtr-#8014 Prn	17,055.00	17,055.00	17,055.00	17,055.00
14 Volvo Exvtr-#8014 Int	1,365.00	1,023.30	682	341
2019 International-Prn	-	-	18,409.00	19,033.00
2019 International-Int	-	-	2,626.00	2,002.00
Wood Chipper-Principal	-	-	7,063.00	5,499.00
Wood Chipper-Interest	-	-	-	715
Total Capital Expenses	94,731.00	95,328.08	103,288.00	62,671.00
Total Transfers Out	-	4,641.15	0	0
Total Budgeted HW Expenses	826,737.00	857,467.77	846,259.00	853,805.00
Total GG and Budgeted HW Expenses	1,608,389.00	1,618,627.71	1,725,404.00	1,710,976.00
WARNED ARTICLES				
SOCIAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS				
Circle	700	700	700	700
Calais Community Connections	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
CV Adult Basic Education	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
CV Community Action	-	-	-	-
CV Council on Aging	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00
CV Economic Dev Council	500	500	500	500
CV Home Health/Hospice	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
CV Memorial Civic Ctr	800	800	800	800
Friends of the Town Hall				3,000.00
Friends of Winooski River	300	300	300	300
Family Ctr Wash Cnty	500	500	500	500
Good Beginnings of CV	300	300	300	300
Good Samaritan Haven				500
Green Mtn Transit	859	859	859	859
Greenup	100	100	100	100
Home Share	600	600	-	-
Kellogg-Hubbard Library	27,132.00	27,132.00	27,132.00	27,132.00

Proposed Budget & Expenses (continued)

Account	Budget FY20	Actual FY20	Budget FY21	Budget FY22
Montpelier Senior Center	4,300.00	4,300.00	4,900.00	4,900.00
Old West Church Assoc	100	100	200	200
Peoples Health & Wellness	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,000.00
Mosaic (f/k/a Sexual Assault Crisis Tm)	200	200	200	200
Twin Valley Senior Center	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Vt Assoc for the Blind	650	650	650	650
Vt Ctr for Indep Living	800	800	800	800
Wash County Diversion Program	300	300	300	300
Wash County Youth Service	500	500	500	500
Woodbury/Calais Foodshelf	380	380	529	626
Wash Cty Mental Health	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00	1,400.00
Rural Community Transport	-	-	975	975
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Total Social Service Appropriations	51,921.00	51,921.00	53,145.00	57,242.00
Other Warned Articles/Appropriations				
Cemetery Appropriation	40,500.00	40,500.00	49,400.00	49,400.00
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Total Other Warned Articles/Appropriations	40,500.00	40,500.00	49,400.00	49,400.00
Total Special Articles/Appropriations	92,421.00	92,421.00	102,545.00	106,642.00
TOTAL BUDGETED GG & HW PLUS SPECIAL ARTICLES/APPROPRIATIONS	1,700,810.00	1,711,048.71	1,827,949.00	1,817,618.00

Income Report

	FY 2020 Budgeted	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2021 Budgeted	FY 2022 Budgeted
Taxes				
Real Estate Taxes - Current	1,428,650	1,237,097	1,500,824	1,508,713
State Current Use	100,000	102,955	102,000	105,000
Total Taxes	1,528,650	1,340,052	1,602,824	1,613,713
Highway Funds				
State Aid	159,000	162,889	161,000	163,000
Miscellaneous Credits	1,000	8	250	250
Moscow Woods Paving Grt		23,333	0	0
Grant In Aid 20		4,501	0	0
Total Highway Funds	160,000	190,731	161,250	163,250
Licenses & Fees				
Dog Licenses	3,600	1,222	1,600	1,300
Liquor Licenses	325	440	325	325
Zoning & Curb Cut Fees	2,500	2,210	1,900	1,900
Traffic Fines	1,100	1,251	1,000	1,100
Marriage Licenses	360	70	200	200
Tax Collection Fees	4,500	8,973	2,300	2,300
Recording Fees	10,000	21,142	18,000	20,000
Total Licenses & Fees	22,385	35,308	25,325	27,125
Other Income				
Interest Earned	4,500	4,537	4,500	1,500
Delinquent Tax Interest	1,000	6,277	2,500	980
Delinquent Tax Penalty	5,500	9,355	4,500	3,800
Green-Up Day Reimbursement	150	0	150	150
PILOT Funds	5,500	5,757	5,700	5,900
Lister Equaliz & Educ Reimburse	1,000	986	1,000	1,000
Lease of Land	0	0	200	200
Land Use Change Payment	0	0	0	0
Go VT Grant Rev	0	500	0	0
Other-Miscellaneous	0	3918	0	0
Total Other Income	17,650	31,330	18,550	13,530
Total Income	1,728,685	1,597,421	1,807,949	1,817,618

FY'22 Estimated Tax Rate

EXPENSES:

Highways853,805
 Selectboard.....857,171
Total Expenses\$ 1,710,976

INCOME:

Current Use105,000
 State Aid Highways.....163,000
 Misc Highway Credits250
 Licenses and Fees27,125
 Other Income13,530
Total Income\$ 308,905

Amount to be voted on in Article 4:

		Est. Town Tax	Est. Local Agrec. Tax*	Educa- tion H.S. Tax	Est. Total Tax 2021	Total HS Tax 2020
Amount to be raised in taxes with expenses above:	\$1,402,071	0.6892	0.0065	1.932	2.6277	2.6115
Amount to be raised in taxes with expenses below:	\$1,508,713	0.7416	0.0065	1.932	2.6801	2.6115

FY21 Grand List was \$2,034,468.09

Tax rate = Expenses divided by grand list

OTHER EXPENSES TO BE VOTED ON

	Effect on Tax Rate
Art. 4 Calais Cemeteries49,400	0.0243 \$24.28
Art. 5 Kellogg Hubbard Library27,132	0.0133 \$13.34
Art. 6 Non-Profit Orgs..30,110	0.0148 \$14.80
\$106,642	0.0524 \$52.42

If your property is assessed at \$100,000, your grand list value is \$1,000

In 2020 your property tax would have been: \$2,612

In 2021 if the tax rate is 2.6277 your est. property taxes will be: \$2,628

In 2021 if the tax rate is 2.6801 your est. property taxes will be: \$2,680

*FY21 Local Agreement Tax = disabled veterans and non-taxed properties.

Report of Capital Project Funds

	Lakes & Ponds Fund	Curtis Pond Dam Fund	EMFD Equipment Fund	Town Hall Fund	Town Office Fund	Technology Fund	Highway Equipment Fund	East Calais Village Grant Fund	Town Hall Renovation Fund	Total
Cash Receipts:										
Intergovernmental	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,658	30,000	39,658
Investment Income	2	28	76	69	278	7	245	0	0	705
Donations	0	0	0	405	0	0	0	0	15,250	15,655
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	632	632
Total Cash Receipts	\$2	\$28	\$76	\$474	\$278	\$7	\$245	\$9,658	\$45,882	\$56,650
Cash Disbursements:										
Capital Outlay:										
General Government	0	0	0	38,516	7,810	1,323	0	5,018	64,336	117,003
Highways and Streets	0	0	0	0	0	0	119,452	0	0	119,452
Debt Service:										
Principal	0	0	0	0	0	0	57,044	0	0	57,044
Interest	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,777	0	0	5,777
Total Cash Disbursements	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$38,516	\$7,810	\$1,323	\$182,273	\$5,018	\$64,336	\$299,276
Excess/(Deficiency) of Cash Receipts Over Cash Disbursements	\$2	\$28	\$76	-\$38,042	-\$7,532	-\$1,316	-\$182,028	\$4,640	-\$18,454	-\$242,626
Other Financing Sources:										
Proceeds from Long-term Debt	0	0	0	0	0	0	98,500	0	0	98,500
Proceeds from Sale of Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	0	2,000
Transfers In	0	0	0	10,000	10,000	0	4,641	0	0	24,641
Total Other Financing Sources	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$105,141	\$0	\$0	\$125,141
Net Change in Fund Balances	2	28	76	-28,042	2,468	-1,316	-76,887	4,640	-18,454	-117,485
Fund Balances - July 1, 2019	\$260	\$5,608	\$15,162	\$39,324	\$49,903	\$2,434	\$106,943	-\$10,120	\$0	\$209,514
Fund Balances/(Deficit) - June 30, 2020	\$262	\$5,636	\$15,238	\$11,282	\$52,371	\$1,118	\$30,056	-\$5,480	-\$18,454	\$92,029

Report of Special Revenue Funds

	Reappraisal Fund	Conservation Commission Fund	Trails Fund	Invasive Species Grant Fund	Record Preservation Fund	CLG Adamant Grant Fund	Total
Cash Receipts:							
Intergovernmental	8,381	2,000	0	2,249	0	0	12,630
Permits, Licenses and Fees	0	0	0	0	6,245	0	6,245
Investment Income	358	351	18	0	0	0	727
Donations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Cash Receipts	\$8,739	\$2,351	\$18	\$2,249	\$6,245	\$0	\$19,602
Cash Disbursements:							
General Government	0	226	59	2,094	0	5,940	8,319
Total Cash Disbursements	\$0	\$226	\$59	\$2,094	\$0	\$5,940	\$8,319
Excess/(Deficiency) of Cash Receipts Over Cash Disbursements	\$8,739	\$2,125	-\$41	\$155	\$6,245	-\$5,940	\$11,283
Other Financing Sources:							
Transfers In	0	8,000	0	250	0	4,000	12,250
Total Other Financing Sources	\$0	\$8,000	\$0	\$250	\$0	\$4,000	\$12,250
Net Change in Fund Balances	8,739	10,125	-41	405	6,245	-1,940	23,533
Fund Balances - July 1, 2019	\$68,901	\$61,814	\$3,672	-\$463	\$0	\$0	\$133,924
Fund Balances/(Deficit) - June 30, 2020	\$77,640	\$71,939	\$3,631	-\$58	\$6,245	-\$1,940	\$157,457

Schedule of Indebtedness

	Original Principal Balance	Principal Paid FY20	Interest Paid FY20	Principal Due FY21	Interest Due FY21	Principal Due FY22	Interest Due FY22	Principal Due after FY22
Short Term Debt								
Community Bank, NA (Town Hall) Interest 2.74%; principal \$40,000 for 5 yrs	200,000	40,000	4,375	40,000	3,288	40,000	2,192	40,000
Community Bank, NA (Deficit) Interest 3.68%; principal \$56,358 for 5 yrs	280,000	56,358	6,202	56,358	4,148	56,358	2,074	0
Community Bank, NA (Server) Interest 3.25%; principal \$18,500 for 3 yrs	18,500	0	0	6,167	601	6,167	401	6,167
Total Short-Term Loan	498,500	96,358	10,577	102,525	8,037	102,525	4,667	46,167
Bond Debt								
Vermont Municipal Bond Bank (Town Office) Interest 4.93% semi-annly, principal \$10,000 annually until 2024	200,000	10,000	2,052	10,000	2,233	10,000	1,750	30,000
Bond Indebtedness (Fire Station) Principal \$35,000 +variable interest due annly til 2030	693,000	35,000	18,461	35,000	17,077	35,000	15,640	315,000
Total Bond Debt	893,000	45,000	20,513	45,000	19,310	45,000	17,390	345,000

continued on next page

Schedule of Indebtedness (continued)

	Original Principal Balance	Principal Paid FY20	Interest Paid FY20	Principal Due FY21	Interest Due FY21	Principal Due FY22	Interest Due FY22	Principal Due after FY22
Equipment Debt- Short Term Loan								
Community Bank #5699 (2016 Western Star & 2016 Ford F250) Interest 2.55%, principal \$37,993 for 5 yrs	189,961	37,993	1,932	37,993	969	0	0	0
Community Bank #1842 (2017 Western Star truck) Interest 2.65%, principal \$17,561 for 5 yrs	87,809	17,561	1,396	17,561	931	17,561	465	0
VT Municipal Loan Fund (2014 Volvo excavator) Interest 2%, principal \$17055 for 5 years	85,275	17,055	1,023	17,055	682	17,055	341	0
Community Bank NA-R-1 (Wood Chipper) Interest 3.25%, principal \$21,995 for 4 yrs	21,995	0	0	0	0	5,499	715	19,496
Total Equipment Debt	385,040	72,609	4,351	72,609	2,582	40,115	1,521	19,496
Equipment Debt- Short Term Lease								
Santander Bank, NA (2019 Western Star truck) Interest 3.79%; principal variable for 5 years (Paid from HW Capital Equipment Fund)	192,560	36,010	5,777	37,374	4,413	38,791	2,996	40,664
Santander Bank, NA (2019 International truck) Interest 3.39%; principal variable for 5 years	98,500	0	0	18,409	2,626	19,033	2,002	40,023
Total Equipment Lease	291,060	36,010	5,777	55,783	7,039	57,824	4,998	80,687

Delinquent Tax Report

As of June 30, 2020 (last day of FY20 Fiscal Year)

Year	Taxes	Interest	Penalty	Other	Total
2019	30,646.29	819.40	1,379.08	18.00	32,862.77
Total					32,862.77

As of December 31, 2020-
Amount to be collected after 2020 tax effort

Year	Taxes	Interest	Penalty	Other	Total
2019	599.36	14.99	26.97	0.00	641.32
2020	164,549.01	1,255.26	4,895.84	0.00	170,700.11
Total					170,700.11



Photo credit: John Lazenby

Cemetery Commission Report

COVID-19 caused other towns' cemeteries to forego regular mowing, and the tall grass gave them a look more akin to past centuries. Fortunately, Calais cemeteries continued to be mowed and maintained as usual throughout 2020 by Joe Mangan of Kirkyard Services.

Also due to the C-19 pandemic, the Cemetery Commission limited the number of meetings we held in 2020, and changed how we met. The closure of the Town Office impeded access to records and maps. Consequently, the project of transferring data from paper maps and actual headstones to a digital format had to be postponed.

Cemetery Commissioners have voted to level fund our budget for 2021-22, minimizing special projects.

2020 Highlights

- ❖ Green burial grounds in Robinson Cemetery were mapped out with plots. We thank Hasso Ewing for creating a landscape plan, pro bono, which includes a flowering crabapple orchard.
- ❖ We saw an increase in inquiries about and purchases of plots in the new green burial section, in addition to traditional plots.
- ❖ Rough winters have caused a large number of headstones in Robinson to tilt precariously or even break. Joe and his crew straightened and fixed the worst ones - about a third - as a part of a three-year plan.
- ❖ Annual hedge trimming in Fairview Cemeteries.
- ❖ All cemeteries now have name signs.

Projects for 2021

- ❖ Robinson Cemetery – Continue headstone restoration, plant trees in green burial section, replace rear (west side) fence and resolve any mapping issues.
- ❖ Annual hedge trimming in Fairview Cemeteries.

Cemetery Commission Report (continued)

The Cemetery Commissioners would like to express their sincere appreciation for Jennifer Whitman, who initially volunteered in 2019 to take over the role of Sexton, with its many challenges. She spent countless hours on the phone, via email and in person, fielding inquiries from customers, town officials and coordinating plot sales and burials with our contractor. She helped update rules, regulations and plot pricing, and was a champion for the establishment of the green burial section of Robinson Cemetery. We will miss her after she steps down at Town Meeting with the end of her term. We wish her all the best in her new pursuits.

We also want to thank Joe Mangan and his crew once again for the professional job they do with burials, mowing the cemeteries, trimming trees and brush, and keeping headstones in good repair. Joe will take on the role of Sexton, which we hope will help streamline some of the work and communications.

The cemeteries that are open for plot purchases are Hudson, New Fairview, Robinson (for both traditional and green burials) and Poplar. Money from plot purchase sales helps grow our endowment to fund future maintenance expenses. Please refer to the town website for more information.

*John Simanskas, Chair
Juanita Nunn, Vice Chair
Jennifer Whitman, Sexton
Fletcher Dean
Randy Koch*



FY22 Cemetery Proposed Budget

	FY20 Budgeted	FY 20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY22 Budgeted
Sexton Stipend	0	0	2,400.00	0
Workers Comp	0	0	0	0
Unemployment Insurance	0	0	0	0
Burials 1 @\$1,000.00 ea	1,000.00	7,909.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Mowing Contract @\$4250.00 ea.	17,000.00	26,000.00	28,500.00	30,900.00
Mowing Poplar Hill Cemetery	1,500.00	2,500.00	0	0
Unemployment Insurance		35.41	0	0
Special Projects	9,200.00	23,949.48	13,500.00	13,500.00
Supplies	10,644.00	1,664.84	2,000.00	2,000.00
Miscellaneous	1,156.00	210	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Expenditures	40,500.00	62,268.73	49,400.00	49,400.00

Conservation Commission Report

As with so much in life this year, the impact of the Covid-19 virus limited the work of the Conservation Commission. Since March, our monthly meetings have been held via Zoom.

Emerald Ash Borer Planning and Public Outreach

The Commission continued its efforts to understand, and share with the public, the likely impact of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) on the Town. As of the date of this writing, the EAB has been confirmed in East Montpelier, Plainfield and Woodbury. Though it has not been officially identified in Calais, it is likely here already or, if not, will be soon. In the summer of 2020, Commissioners hung two EAB traps in selected locations as part of a state project. No EAB were found in the traps.

On January 27, 2020, the Conservation Commission met with the Selectboard to discuss the EAB problem and to present three possible options for dealing with it: 1) Remove all ash trees along the Town rights of way and replace some with different tree species. This option is expensive in the short run, but since it costs approximately twice as much to take down a dead ash tree, it could save money in the long run. 2) Treat selected trees with insecticides: Montpelier and East Montpelier are treating some trees that have been identified as “historic” and are important to the Town to preserve. Although Calais’ inventory did not identify any outstanding ash trees, the Town may want to consider treating some simply to ensure that some public ash trees survive. The cost is estimated at approximately several hundred dollars per tree every two years for the life of the tree. 3) Reactive Management: remove roadside ash trees as needed to protect public safety, identifying some trees as “most” hazardous and therefore needing a response sooner.

The Selectboard asked the Commission to use the 2019 inventory-created map of ash trees on Calais’ roads, identify trees that should be prioritized for removal, and allow the Town to determine if the scope of the project is attainable within the current road crew schedule. Work on this is ongoing and has not yet resulted in any general plan for removals. The road crew could remove any ash trees deemed to be a hazard, however, in their normal scope of work.

The Commission carried out its planned public awareness project of flagging ash trees along three well-traveled stretches of Calais roadsides – the western

Conservation Commission Report (continued)

end of Lightening Ridge Road, the southern end of North Calais Road, and a section of West County Road. Laminated “This Is an Ash Tree” posters were put up at the beginning and the end of each corridor.

Bliss Pond Town Forest

The Commission continued its discussions regarding the future of the Bliss Pond Town Forest. Prior to the onset of Covid-19, the objective had been to organize a series of public events and conversations with townspeople with the goal of presenting recommendations at the 2021 Town Meeting. Tentative plans had been made to host a panel of experts in July, including a forester experienced in best timbering practices, as well as a scientist with an understanding of old growth forests including their qualitative differences from other forests and their role in resisting climate change. Other possible activities, such as video presentations and site visits to other forests that might be models, were also considered. Reluctantly, however, the Commission recognized that the limitations imposed by Covid-19 precluded doing any of these things in a way that would maximize public participation. Thus, this project is on hold for the time being. Another project that has been temporarily



Foster Hill Road
Photo credit: Jane English

Conservation Commission Report (continued)

halted until next spring is implementing a trail marking system for all of the maintained trails in the forest.

Chapin Town Forest

The second largest of the three Town forests, Chapin Forest, approximately 34 acres, is located at the end of the maintained portion of Chapin Road off of Lightening Ridge Road. The forest can also be accessed from the Pekin Brook Road along a trail leading across private property, for which the Town has an easement. In July, Commission members, joined by several members of the public, took a walk in the Chapin Forest. The forest was so impressive that plans were soon made to host a Fall Foliage Festival Walk there in October, to be led by Calais resident and state ecologist, Eric Sorenson. Unfortunately, however, there is currently no public parking area at the Chapin Road entrance to the forest, as the road is too narrow for any parking along it. And, it's a long way along the trail easement to walk in from Pekin Brook Road. The Commission has begun discussions about ways to create parking for better public access to the Chapin Forest and to develop a suitable trail system in it.

New Tree Warden Law, Tree Preservation Plan, Tree Committee

A new tree warden law came into effect as of November 1. Previously, all trees in the road rights of way were considered “shade trees” and the Tree Warden had to be contacted before any of these were removed from the road rights of way. Under the new law, trees are only “shade trees” if: a) they are either on Town property or on a Town road right of way and were planted there by the Town, or b) specific trees or trees along designated areas of roadsides are officially identified as such by the Town in a tree preservation plan. The Commission will be developing a tree preservation plan to recommend to the Selectboard. Before its adoption, there will be at least one public hearing. Following completion of a Calais Resilient Roadsides study and report by the State Urban & Community Forestry Program, the Commission believes there is a need for a Town tree committee that could develop guidance for the management of roadside trees and other vegetation based in part on the report's recommendations. The Commission is seeking volunteers for a committee whose mission would be to create a plan for enhancing the health of our roadside trees and vegetation as well as the safety and beauty of our roads.

Conservation Commission Report (continued)

Tree Planting

As a part of a State EAB program, the Town received a \$1,774 grant to purchase trees for planting in public spaces. The Commission devoted considerable time to investigating the most appropriate tree species and places for such plantings. An agreement was reached with the East Hill Tree Farm to use the grant money in 2021 for plants, labor, and materials. Locations being considered include around the Town Office and Town Hall, and perhaps on the Calais Elementary School property.

Review of Planning Commission's Revisions to our Shoreland Protection Zoning Regulations

The Conservation Commission provided its input to the Planning Commission on the latter's on-going development of revised zoning regulations for the shorelands of the Town's lakes and ponds and the riparian areas adjacent to streams. Review of the Planning Commission's work will continue as it evolves.

The Conservation Commission's monthly meetings are open to the public. We welcome everyone's input.



*Stephanie Kaplan, Chair
Larry Bush, Vice Chair
Mark Brown
Julie Hand
Pat Johnson
Drew Lamb
Neal Maker*

Friends of the Calais Town Hall Report

January 2020 saw the exciting transition of what had formerly been the "Calais Town Hall Renovation Committee" to a newly formed non-profit organization, *Friends of the Calais Town Hall*.

The purpose of *Friends* is three-fold:

- ❖ assist the Calais Selectboard in the management and administration of the activities taking place at the Town Hall,
- ❖ assist the Town of Calais with preservation of the historical integrity of the Town Hall,
- ❖ support fundraising that will contribute to the use of the Calais Town Hall as a community center for municipal, community and cultural activities.

This newly formed non-profit received its 501(c)(3) status on January 24, 2020, and on January 29th adopted its Bylaws.

By March 2020, a new logo had been created, *Friends* hosted a table at the Calais 2020 Town Meeting, and was beneficiary of this year's spectacular Town Lunch! It was at this time that *Friends* started building its membership.

In early Spring, as final renovation activities were wrapping up, *Friends* planned a "Grand Re-Opening Celebration" of the Town Hall, scheduled to take place on May 24, 2020. Additionally, summer events were being booked. However, with the onset of Covid-19, these events were promptly cancelled.

The long awaited Certificate of Occupancy was also delayed, and was finally received on June 15, 2020. This was cause to celebrate, but Covid kept celebrations confined to Zoom.

Friends of the Calais Town Hall held its first Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 24, 2020. With 28 participants on Zoom, the first publicly-elected Board of Directors was installed. The highlight of the meeting was a four-minute video featuring a "virtual tour" of the newly restored Calais Town Hall. To see it, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtCEGfcjamo>.

Friends of the Calais Town Hall Report (continued)

In late October the Calais Selectboard allowed *Friends* a Covid exception to hold carefully orchestrated 15-minute Guided Tours to the public. All Covid safety measures and protocols were judiciously followed, and the *Friends* Board was happy to host 17 community members who “oohed and aahed” their way through the building’s grandeur.

The final renovation project of 2020, a full and complete abatement of lead paint topped with a new exterior paint job, was completed in November.

Another highlight of the year was execution of a grant to place a commercial grade WiFi hotspot at the Town Hall. Users may access this from the parking lot.

Moving forward, *Friends* has submitted a Management Agreement to the Calais Selectboard, which is under review as of this writing (December 2020).

We look forward (hopefully) to opening our doors and welcoming you to the Calais Town Hall in 2021!



Photo credit: John Lazenby

Scott Bassage
Carol Beatty
Barbara Butler
Chris Colt
Clif Emmons
David Schütz
Artie Toulis
Nancy Toulis

Friends of the Calais Town Hall Report (continued)

How You Can Help

- ❖ Join our *Friends of the Calais Town Hall* membership! Email FriendsoftheCalaisTownHall@gmail.com, or talk to any of our Board of Directors.
- ❖ Help us fulfill our **Wish List**

Wish List

Upstairs Theatre and Performing Arts Center

- Tech “perch” above main entrance, where light and sound controls will be located
- Lights and Sound Equipment, to include but not limited to:
 - 1 lighting control board
 - 1 powered PA head with at least 12 channels
 - 2 main speakers
 - 2 monitor speakers
 - 8-10 light fixtures (pars) for stage lighting; Ideally LED, as they require much less energy and are much safer than traditional lights
 - 4 microphones and stands
 - various cables
- Heavy stage curtain and rigging
- Black-out curtains for exterior windows
- 130 folding chairs designed to store on a rolling rack that can hold many at a time and be stowed away
- Rolling racks for folding chairs
- Baby Grand Piano
- Replacement globes for chandelier
- Easels

Downstairs Meeting Room

- 12-16 chairs, comfortable and sturdy for use at conference/meeting tables
- Coffee pot – 12 cup
- Coffee pot – 40 cup
- 6’ sturdy rectangular folding tables
- 6’ rectangular table cloths

Outside

- Bike Rack

Historic Preservation Commission Report

The Calais Historic Preservation Commission was formed to help the town make the most of its rich community history and architectural heritage. For the last several years, we have been working to nominate all the villages of Calais to the National Register of Historic Places. With the aid of local historians and enthusiastic citizens, we have been producing official nomination documents that chronicle the architectural history of each of these small villages.

In the documents we look at the agricultural stories, the industries and factories, who built and lived in the houses, what they did for work, and what fires, booms, and busts formed our town's landscape. All of these documents – Calais's nominations to the National Register of Historic Places – are available in the Historic Preservation section of the town's website at calaisvermont.gov.

The funding for this work has been provided by Certified Local Government grants, which distribute federal grants through the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. This year, as we wrap up this survey of our town's villages, the Historic Preservation Commission has been working on CLG grant projects from three different grant years.

Next year, we hope to complete the series with a survey of Maple Corner. At that point, we're excited to start using information gleaned from these reports to bring the town's history to a wider audience via local tours and school programs.



Historic Preservation Report (continued)

The listing of our villages in the National Register of Historic Places, is in itself reason for pride. Reminder: the listing comes with no strings attached for property owners. We live in a thriving community, always evolving, and we're delighted to play a part in its story.

2018 – East Calais Village National Historic District Nomination

The East Calais project began in January of 2018. During the summer of 2020 we worked to bring the East Calais nomination to the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. On July 23rd, the Council reviewed the documents and the path to listing in the Register of Historic Places was clear. The East Calais Historic District was formally listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 24, 2020.

2019 – Adamant Village National Historic District Nomination

The Adamant project began in May of 2019. Dedicated volunteers and Brian Knight, our architectural historian produced an excellent document about the village. Review by the Advisory Council of the Adamant Village nomination documents is in process. We expect Adamant to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places in early 2021. In addition to the nomination documents, the 2019 CLG Project included three oral history interviews about the colorful history of the village. The nomination document is worth reading. The document and transcripts of the Oral Histories are available in the CHPC section of calaisvermont.gov

2020 – Preserve and Restore the East Calais General Store Building

The East Calais General Store building at 4520 VT Route 14 in East Calais, has been a store and community hub continuously for a hundred and seventy-five years. In 2020, the Calais Historic Preservation Commission won a grant to assist in the preservation and renovation of the historic building, with the hopes of ensuring it will remain an important part of the town into the next century.

The 2020 grant project was a three way collaboration between the East Calais Community Trust, Inc, The Town of Calais and the Calais Historic Preservation Commission, building on the 2018 East Calais Historic District Survey and its

Historic Preservation Report (continued)

vision of the town's past, as well as the important function of a store in the town's future. The goal of the partnership is to ensure that the store building remains the vibrant social hub it has been over the last two centuries, key to the economic and social vitality of the East Calais village center. This mission reinforces Vermont's traditional settlement pattern and promotes continued community use.

The store and building had been for sale for several years. In December 2019, the store owner reluctantly ceased operation. The East Calais Community Trust purchased the building with a closing on June 29, 2020.

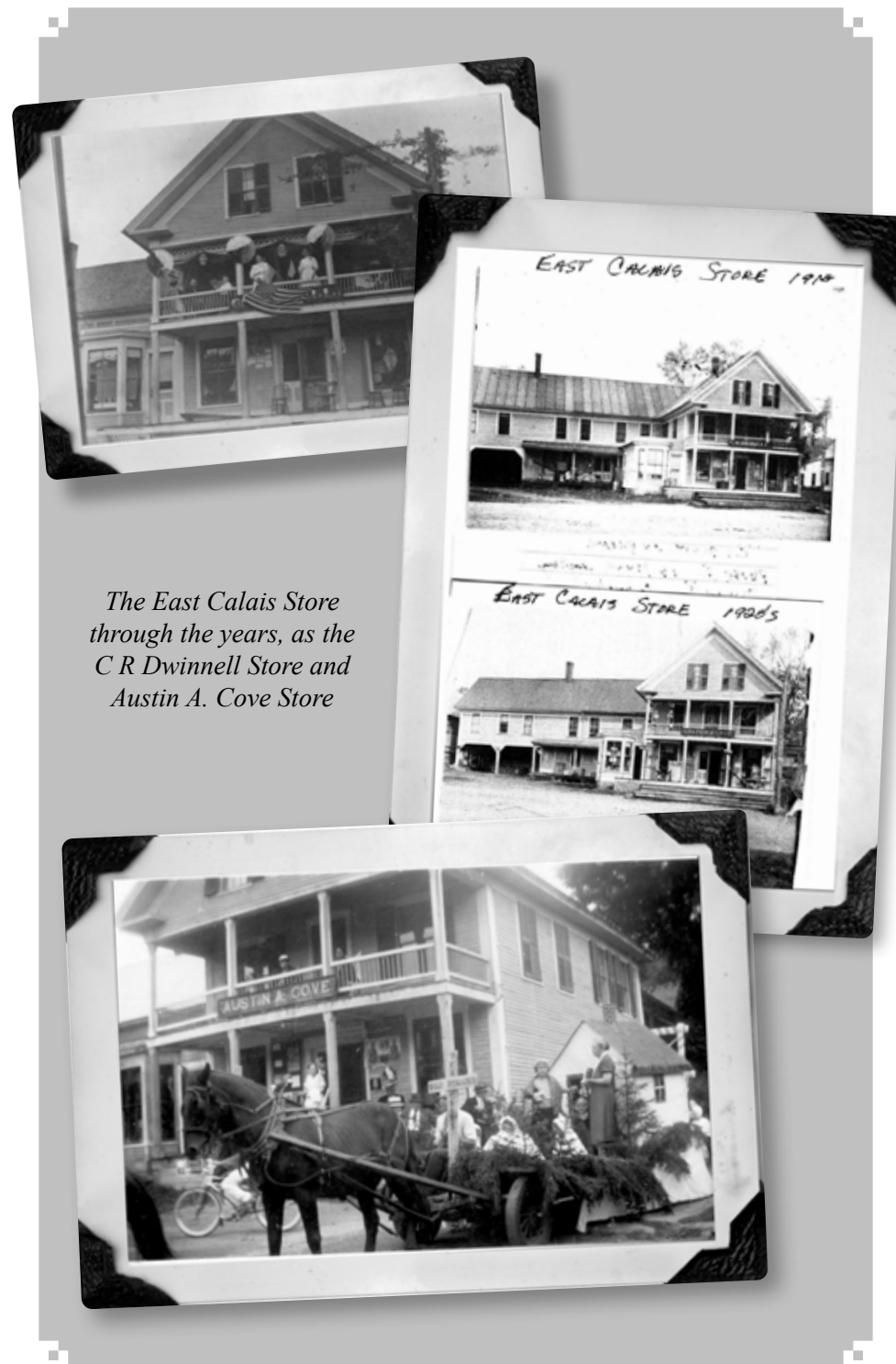
The CLG grant helped to pay for the services of an appraiser, a cost estimator, and architect and a development consultant. These services helped to prepare for the long process of restoration of this historic property.

We all have our reasons for missing the East Calais Store. Whether as a place to gather with friends and neighbors, the source of a quick bite to eat at lunch, that missing ingredient for tonight's dinner, or something else, the lack of a store in East Calais impacts us in many ways.

Thanks to the hard work of the ECCT, the East Calais General Store will be back. In less than twelve months the ECCT has raised a substantial amount of money through grants and contributions. But the work will go on for years to come, and the group is counting on the continued support of the Calais community to bring the store back. To find out more, send an email to EastCalaisCommunityTrust@gmail.com or send your contribution to PO Box 14, East Calais, VT 05650.

The Calais Historic Preservation Commission meets on second Wednesdays at 7 pm.

David Schütz, Chair
Larry Bush, Vice Chair
Tobin Anderson, Secretary
Scott Bassage
Susannah Blachly (on leave)
Karen Lane
Mary Alice Proffitt
Kate Phillips
Dirk Van Susteren



Planning Commission Report

The Calais Planning Commission is a 5-member board appointed by the Selectboard. We had a resignation in early 2020 and operated with a vacancy through the year. Since March we have conducted our meetings virtually. The public is always welcome to attend these meetings. Agendas for each meeting with the appropriate zoom link are posted to the Town's website and on the Town calendar.

We continued our work on drafting proposed changes to the current Calais Land Use and Development Regulations [a.k.a. zoning bylaws] with a focus on those areas affecting water quality. Major changes will be a Shoreland Overlay to replace the current Shoreland District, addition of a River Corridor Overlay, and a new Erosion Control and Stormwater Management standard.

We have received guidance from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and professionals working in the Department of Environmental Conservation. We continue to solicit feedback from members of the Conservation Commission, DRB, and the Lakes and Streams committee, Selectboard, and public.

When we finalize the draft proposal to these substantial regulatory changes, we will post them on the Town's website for review and have a public hearing. Only time and COVID vaccine will tell us if this hearing will be virtual or in person. We encourage public discussion of these important changes. After the Planning Commission's public hearing, we will submit our final recommendations for these changes to the Selectboard, who will hold their own public hearing. Once they have voted to approve the changes the proposed changes will be submitted for a vote by Australian ballot by the Calais residents.

We continue to meet every first and third Tuesdays of the month, unless otherwise warned. Meetings are virtual using Zoom until further notice.

We wish all continued good health and well-being.

*Janice Ohlsson, Chair
Gary Root, Vice Chair
John McCullough, Clerk
Melanie Kehne*

Trails Committee Report

The Calais Trails Committee, a nine-member group appointed by the Calais Selectboard, actively manages a ten-mile network of recreational trails. These trails are open for non-motorized public use (walking, biking, horseback riding, skiing, etc.), under signed agreements with sixteen generous private landowners. To support its activities, the Committee relies on cash donations from interested Calais residents and friends.

This year has been a busy one for the Committee. We have experienced increased use of our trails due to the pandemic. We have also added two new trails – the Broadview Farm Trail and the Carr Brook Trail. We will be opening a third trail soon. Most of the Committee's activities involve hands-on trail-building and improvement activity. Substantial labor was donated by Ram Verma, members of the Montpelier Area Mountain Biking Association, members of the Trails Committee, landowners, and others.

Several long-time members of the Committee have retired recently, including our long-time Chairman Reed Cherington, as well as members Bill Russell and Randy Allen. The Committee would like to thank each of them for their dedicated service over the years.

How can you help? If you'd be interested in volunteer trail work, please contact Tom Blachly, as noted below. To make a financial contribution, please make your check payable to Town of Calais, and send it to the Calais Town Office, 3120 Pekin Brook Road, East Calais, VT 05650, earmarked for the Trails Committee account. If you own land that might accommodate a public trail, please get in touch with one of the members listed below.

Maps of the trail network are available from a link on the Town Office's website.

*Tom Blachly, Chair, blachly@together.net
Charlotte Hanna Bassage
Michael Fullerton
Gail Graham
Toni Kaeding
Steve Killoran
Peter Lividitis
Walter Opuszynski
Denise Wilder*

East Montpelier Fire Department Report

What a year! 2020 will certainly go in the memory books as a roller coaster of events mixed with many highs and lows, twist and turns. Who doesn't love Zoom? As we social distance, the EMFD has found new ways to connect with each other using technology to link us together. However, this presents challenges for keeping up our hands-on skills, training, and operational preparedness. This year most of our meetings have gone remote (which is easy); it is the training and work nights that have presented the challenge causing us to hold smaller scale training, remote training, or even bypass a few trainings. With safety precautions in place, we have made it through.

At East Montpelier Fire Department, we have adapted to wearing masks as an integral part of our system. Everywhere we go, our masks go with us. We operate under a heightened use of PPE including masks, gloves, gowns, hoods, Tyvek suits and eye protection. Great diligence has been applied to personal safety, public safety, disinfecting our equipment and the station. With perseverance, we have been able to purchase enough PPE to create an inventory to protect us while we wait sometimes up to 3-4 months for supplies or receive rations from our suppliers. Everyday is a moving matrix for us, as we adapt to new changes to protocols and things learned from exposures.

This year has also brought change to you, as we socially distance, causing many to spend more time outdoors hiking and partaking in recreational activities. Our Towns and State are bountiful with all types of trail systems and scenery to enjoy. With this, we have seen an increase in off-road rescue calls. These have included three mountain rescue calls, one which included the use of the National Guard Blackhawk helicopter for a hoist lift off Spruce Mountain. As you partake in these activities, be prepared and stay within your abilities. Know your surrounding and have supplies that will hold you over if you get lost or injured. These types of calls use a lot of resources and take a lot of time, usually ending well past dark.

We were able to purchase two new power cots to assist with loading patients and reducing responder injuries. We also replaced our two cardiac monitors with state of the art technology, and with a two-for-one purchase plus trade in, we received an incredible deal. With these monitors we are able to monitor CO, cardiac rhythms, respiratory rates and quality, temperatures, oxygen levels, blood pressure, etc.

East Montpelier Fire Department Report (continued)

At East Montpelier Fire Department, the foundation of what we do is fire suppression and ambulance care. However there is a large element of community service that is part of what we do – from providing information to lift assists, and helping our neighbors during the holidays. When we show up, there is typically somebody you know or recognize who is part of the team. Through your help and support, we provide life safety and life saving services 24 hours a day. The men and women of East Montpelier Fire Department are dedicated, committed, compassionate and courageous individuals who sacrifice their time, their families and their work in support of what they believe in. I thank them for their service. And we all thank you for your support. Together, we are a community.

Remember to call ahead for burn permits: Calais Fire Warden Greg Pelchuck, 454-7377 and East Montpelier Fire Warden Ty Rolland, 225-6247. For Calais and East Montpelier Fireworks Permits, call the East Montpelier Fire Department at 225-6247. Permits must be submitted at least 15 days in advance.

Due to Covid, the Fire Station is closed to public access until further notice. We will not be hosting a Rabies Clinic this year.

*Chief Ty Rolland
President Toby Talbot*



Woodbury/Calais Fire Department Report

The Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department responded to 120 emergency calls in 2020. There were 80 calls in Woodbury. Of those, 46 were medical emergencies and 34 were fire / rescue. We responded to 30 fire/ rescue calls in Calais, and 10 mutual aid calls to assist our neighboring communities.

The calls break down as follows:

	Woodbury	Calais
Chimney Fires	1	1
Vehicle fire	2	2
Wood processor fire	0	1
Generator fire	0	1
Sawdust pile fire	0	2
Brush / Woods fire	2	2
Carbon monoxide	1	0
Fire alarms	3	3
Motor vehicle crashes	12	6
Medical emergency	46	7
Power lines down	2	1
Smoke in building	1	0
Poison gas in building	0	1
Propane leak	1	1
Propane alarm	0	1
Illegal burning	3	1
Missing person	1	0
Dog through the ice	4	0
Lockout	1	0

Mutual Aid was provided to:

Hardwick	3	Cabot	3
East Montpelier	2	Greensboro	2

With the COVID-19 pandemic arriving in Vermont in March, 2020 has been the most challenging year we have experienced. Keeping our firefighters and EMS providers safe while maintaining training and operational readiness has been difficult. Over the past 10 months we have had to adapt our operations to conform with the Health Department guidance. Like most emergency response agencies, we were not fully prepared for the pandemic and had to quickly obtain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks, gloves, surgical gowns, face shields, hand sanitizers, and had to adapt to the almost daily changes in protocol. No one could have predicted the shortages in the needed safety items that resulted in the need to ration and reuse important personal safety equipment in the first wave of the disease.

Woodbury/Calais Fire Department Report (continued)

We have met the challenge and the department has been fully operational and staffed with an adequate supply of PPE and safety measures in place to keep our members and community members safe. I want to thank the fire department staff for their courage and dedication during this unprecedented time. I want to thank the community members who have provided masks and other needed resources as well as kind words of encouragement. Through our continued efforts we will get through this. **Thank you to everyone!**

We are interested in keeping people informed about our calls as well as anything that could affect you, such as hazardous weather. We have a face book page that we update regularly. We also have a website you can check out at <https://www.wvfdvt.org/>.

The budget overall is increasing by 2.6% this year. (+2,956.94) Woodbury's portion for operating expenses will be increasing by (\$2,615.05) and Calais will be increasing by \$341.89. The bulk of the increase, \$2500, is the result of Woodbury's portion of a planned radio communication infrastructure upgrade for the Capitol Fire Mutual Aid System (CFMAS). The funds will be used to replace the radio equipment on all 8 CFMAS's transmitter sites. Most of the equipment and infrastructure is more than 30 years old and is in desperate need of replacement. The total cost of the project is \$352,000. This will be funded by a bond issued to CFMAS that will be paid over the next 10 years. Woodbury's total cost for this upgrade will be \$25,000 over ten years.

Since 2014, we have been working on a proposal to build a new fire station to meet the space and functional needs of the department. To this end we have a proposal on the town meeting agenda for consideration and vote in Woodbury. Through a series of meetings where we had community participation, we heard two things clearly, 1. We need to reduce the cost and 2. The new facility needs to be in the village. We have worked hard to meet these directives and are proposing a new building on the former Aronson property (blue house) across from the existing fire station. The cost for this proposal is half of our previous proposal. We are asking Woodbury voters to allow the fire department to bond for \$1,200,000. This would cost \$85,000 annually for 20 years. We will be hosting small group meetings most likely via Zoom so you may have your questions about this proposal answered. We would like to meet with groups of 15 or less so that everyone has an opportunity to participate. If you would like

Woodbury/Calais Fire Department Report (continued)

to participate in a small group meeting please reach out to Chance Payette at: presidentwoodbury@gmail.com.

We are planning to install a memorial paver garden and flagpole at the new fire station site to raise funds to offset the cost of the new facility. We are selling commemorative pavers that you can purchase from us to be installed when the project is completed. If you would like to purchase a brick go to our brick website at <http://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/wvfdvt> or contact James Dailey at Woodburyfire5@gmail.com or 802-272-5575. If you would prefer to make a donation, for the project send your check with a note describing the purpose to, Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 23, Woodbury, VT 05681.

I would like to thank you for the support that we have enjoyed. Our goal is to provide the best service possible to the community and to create safety for our members by having a properly staffed, equipped and trained fire-rescue department. Without your support, this would not be possible and for this we are truly thankful!

We have 17 active firefighters and 5 active members. Our dedicated staff of volunteers has worked hundreds of hours serving our communities between emergency calls, training and equipment maintenance. This is indeed a sacrifice that has reaped immeasurable benefits for people in their time of need. I would like to personally thank everyone who has given so selflessly of their time and energy to this worthy cause.

We need some new members! Our recruitment rate is at a trickle. We need volunteers to maintain the high level of service that you have come to expect. If you would like to find a way to serve your community and make a difference, we are always looking for new members, feel free to contact me if you would like more information on how you could help the fire department. We will provide all necessary equipment and training.

If you have any questions, I may be reached at 802-917-1642 or email me at pcwoodbury@gmail.com.

*Paul Cerutti, Fire Chief
Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department*

Washington County Sheriff's Report

The Washington County Sheriff's Department has assisted with public safety within the Calais community for many years. This year I thought it might be interesting to give you a little history of Washington County and the Sheriff's Department.

In 1810 Jefferson County, Vermont was established. The first Sheriff took office in 1811. At that time Sheriffs served a term of two years. In 1814 the name was changed to Washington County, renaming the County after George Washington. Washington County is approximately 695 square miles and is one of two Counties (Washington and Lamoille) that are not bordered by another State or Canada. Montpelier is the Shire Town and is also the State Capital. The current State House is actual the third, as the first two State Houses burned down. In 1820 there were 14,113 people in living in Washington County. The 2019 numbers show 58,409 people now living in the County.

Washington County's first jail was built into the dwelling erected by Montpelier's founder, Jacob Davis, shortly after his arrival as the first settler in 1787. That building was given to the County by his son Thomas Davis and was rebuilt in granite in 1832. Another jail was built in what is now known as Jail House Common, at 24 Elm Street, Montpelier. Completed in 1900, a new Jail and Sheriff's residence was built at its current location, 10 Elm Street, Montpelier. The Sheriff's house is now the Sheriff's Office and the Jail had been remodeled into Probate Court, but now houses the County Offices and Passport office.

There have been 43 Sheriffs since 1811. Three Sheriffs held office for two terms, but their terms were separated by other Sheriffs holding the office. Sheriff Henry Lawson was the longest serving Sheriff, holding office from 1927 to 1953, for a total of 26 years. I have held the office since July of 2004.

My uncle, Harold Potter, held the Office of Sheriff between 1960 and 1968. He left office to become the first director of the Vermont Police Academy, which I have been teaching at for twenty-one years.

The Sheriff's Office currently has six full time Deputies, two office staff members, the Sheriff and many part time Deputies. The Office performs its statutory functions of transporting prisoners, mental health patients and juveniles as well as serving civil process. We also are responsible for security at the Civil Court in Montpelier. The office contracts with 10 towns within

Washington County Sheriff's Report (continued)

the County for motor vehicle patrol as well as performing a multitude of security and traffic details throughout the County. The Sheriff's Department also regularly assists other County law enforcement agencies when needed.

The Sheriff's Office is funded in three ways. First, we receive funds from the County budget which pays for our basic office support and staff. Second, the state pays the salaries of the Sheriff and the two state transport Deputies. Third, all other funding to support the office and pay deputy salaries comes from revenues raised by the Department. Vermont Sheriff's Departments are tasked, by statute, with transporting prisoners and serving civil process, but are given no vehicles or equipment to do so. Thus, Sheriff's Departments must raise revenues in support of the Office, in order to perform State mandated functions.

County wide, our patrol efforts during fiscal year 2020 generated 2,229 total incident reports, to include 695 Vermont traffic citations and 1333 traffic warnings. In the course of our patrol efforts in Calais, the following Vermont traffic complaints, warning and incidents were recorded by the Washington County Sheriff's Department while on patrol in your town.

We are proud of the work we do and take pride in our efforts in making Washington County a safe place to live and work.

W. Samuel Hill, Sheriff



CVFiber Report

CVFiber is your Communication Union District (CUD) representing twenty Central Vermont communities. CVFiber's mission is to ensure everyone in its member towns has access to internet speeds of at least 100 Mbps (megabits per second) for both uploading and downloading data.

Currently, many Central Vermont residences and businesses located outside more populous areas have limited access to high-speed broadband. This limited broadband availability has been highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as students and employees shifted to remote learning and working. Slow internet access stifles economic development, creates public safety risks, limits access to telehealth services, reduces property values, and hampers residents' abilities to access common online services.

Beginning in 2019 and culminating in 2020, CVFiber conducted a community survey regarding the current state of broadband, experiences with internet providers, and future interest in offerings. Through the survey, CVFiber collected valuable information on a wide variety of topics to help guide its high-speed broadband planning. A more detailed breakdown of a number of the questions we asked across all communities can be found here: <http://bit.ly/CVFiberSurvey2020>.

CVFiber completed a Feasibility Study and Business plan using grant funding from USDA Rural Development and the State of Vermont. The purpose of these documents is to facilitate an application for a \$4 million VEDA loan to allow CVFiber to begin network construction in 2021. This money will enable CVFiber to begin the design and build out of high-speed broadband. In late 2020, we conducted a more detailed canvassing effort to identify those committing to signing up for service to help us firm up our initial construction routes. We plan on starting work on our first phase project in early 2021. We anticipate partnering with Washington Electric Coop to help roll out our network.

CVFiber is committed to making affordable community-owned, high-speed broadband available to Central Vermont in the coming years. We welcome your engagement and feedback to help us achieve this goal. Please reach out to your respective community representative, or visit our website for the latest developments and progress toward accomplishing this momentous goal.

*David Healy, Delegate
Jared Thomas, Alternate Delegate*

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Report

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) is a consortium of 23 towns and cities in Washington County and western Orange County. The Commission provides planning, development, and project implementation assistance to communities. All municipalities in the region are entitled to equal voting representation by a locally appointed member to the governing Board of Commissioners.

2020 Calais Activities

- ❖ Initiated final designs for stormwater mitigation project at two sites.
- ❖ Consulted with East Calais Community Trust on store acquisition and brownfields revitalization.
- ❖ Initiated updates to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- ❖ Assisted with a Local Emergency Management Plan update, including development and adoption of a sharing permission form.
- ❖ Supported application to Local Government Expense Reimbursement Program, which funds reimburses municipalities for COVID-19 response costs.

CVRPC Projects & Programs

- ❖ **Municipal plan and bylaw updates:** Focus on predictable and effective local permitting through education, bylaw modernization, and plan updates.
- ❖ **Brownfields:** Complete environmental site assessments so properties can be sold, developed or redeveloped to benefit the community, stimulate the economy, create/protect jobs and increase housing opportunities.
- ❖ **Transportation planning:** Coordinate local involvement in transportation decisions through the Transportation Advisory Committee and provide studies, plans, data collection, and counts.
- ❖ **Emergency planning:** Better prepare our region and state for disasters by coordinating with local volunteers and the state on emergency planning, exercises, and training.

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Report (continued)

- ❖ **Energy conservation and development:** Foster projects that support energy conservation to save energy and tax dollars and identify opportunities for renewable energy generation.
- ❖ **Natural resource planning and projects:** Implement activities to protect water resources/supplies, enhance recreational opportunities, maintain the forest products industry, and enhance environmental health.
- ❖ **Regional plans:** Coordinate infrastructure, community development, and growth at the regional level through the development, adoption, and implementation of a regional plan.
- ❖ **Geographic Information System services:** Provide municipalities, state agencies, and regional groups with mapping and data analysis in support of their projects.
- ❖ **Special projects:** Complete special projects, such as downtown revitalization, recreation paths, farmland preservation, economic development, and affordable housing projects.
- ❖ **Grants:** Identify appropriate grant sources, define project scopes, write applications, and manage projects.

The Commission has no regulatory or taxing authority. Each year, we request a per capita assessment from our members in support of local and regional planning activities and to help offset costs and provide local matching funds needed for state and federal funding.

Your continued support for local and regional planning is appreciated! CVRPC is your resource -- please contact us at 802-229-0389 or cvrpc@cvregion.com for assistance.

Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Report

The Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) serves 19-member cities and towns and approximately 52,000 residents to reduce and manage solid waste. Bill Powell represents Calais on the CVSWMD Board of Supervisors. CVSWMD is committed to providing quality programming, meeting state mandates and providing information and resources to our member communities.

In recognition of COVID-19 related fiscal challenges faced by our member municipalities, the CVSWMD Board reduced the FY21 per capita assessment to \$.50 (fifty cents) from \$1.00, beginning on July 1, 2020. The per capita assessment will likely return to the \$1.00 level next year.

In FY20, CVSWMD provided \$10,604.00 in School Zero Waste and Organizational Waste Reduction & Reuse Program Grants, and \$1,779.00 in Green Up Day Grants. The District invites all member municipalities to apply for an annual non-competitive Green Up Day Grant each spring.

Also in FY20, CVSWMD provided \$9,400.00 in Municipal Services Program grants. The District invites all member municipalities to apply for an annual Municipal Services Program Grant.

The District continues to provide award-winning programming, including:

- ❖ **Residential Composting:** CVSWMD sells Green Cone food digesters, Soil Saver composting bins and kitchen compost buckets to district residents at discounted rates.
- ❖ **Outreach and Education:** In FY20, CVSWMD provided 21 workshops and webinars on topics such as recycling, composting, safer cleaning, and reducing toxins in the home.
- ❖ **School Programming:** Our School Zero Waste Program works with 26 schools in the District, teaching solid waste lessons in classrooms and facilitating the recycling of paint, bulbs, electronics, batteries and more. In FY20, we taught 1 classroom lesson, made 1 cafeteria visit to support students in separating their lunchtime-generated waste, and provided 3 classroom food waste pails for Calais Elementary School. School Program Coordinators work with maintenance staff and teachers to help schools compost on site and mentor student groups who lead initiatives toward zero waste in their schools.

Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District Report (continued)

- ❖ **Household Hazardous Waste Collections:** In FY20, CVSWMD provided 5 household hazardous waste collections.
 - 34 Calais residents participated in the collection in nearby Barre Town, Montpelier and Hardwick.
- ❖ **Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC):** The ARCC, at 540 N. Main St. in Barre, is open M, W, F 10:30am-5:30pm and every third Saturday from 9am-1pm. The ARCC is a recycling drop-off for hard-to-recycle materials. Blue bin recyclables are not accepted at the ARCC. More info at cvswmd.org/arcc.
 - In FY20, 176 visitors from Calais recycled at the ARCC.

Web Site: CVSWMD posts useful information on what can be recycled, what can be composted, how to dispose of hazardous waste, leaf and yard waste disposal, Act 148, details of our special collections, and an A to Z Guide listing disposal options for many materials. For specific questions, call 802-229-9383.



Social and Community Service Appropriation Requests

The organizations below have requested appropriations from the Town of Calais voters for FY'22. Organizations' website URL addresses are provided for in-depth information about the services these agencies provide.

Central Vermont Adult Basic Education cvabe.org	\$ 1,000	no increase
Central Vermont Council on Aging cvcoa.org	\$ 1,400	no increase
Central Vermont Economic Development Corp. cvedc.org	\$ 500	no increase
Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice cvhhh.org	\$ 3,600	no increase
Central Vermont Memorial Civic Center cvmcc.org	\$ 800	no increase
Circle (formerly Battered Women's Shelter) circlevt.org	\$ 700	no increase
Community Connections wcsu32.org/domain/499	\$ 1,000	no increase
Family Center of Washington County fwcvt.org	\$ 500	no increase
Friends of the Calais Town Hall calaisvermont.gov	\$ 3,000	new this year
Friends of the Winooski River winooskiriver.org	\$ 300	no increase
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont goodbeginningscentralvt.org	\$ 300	no increase
Good Samaritan Haven goodsamaritanhaven.org	\$ 500	new this year
Green Mountain Transit ridegmt.com	\$ 859	no increase
Green Up Vermont greenupvermont.org	\$ 100	no increase

Social and Community Service Appropriation Requests (continued)

Kellogg-Hubbard Library kellogghubbard.org	\$27,132	no increase
Montpelier Senior Activity Center montpelier-vt.org/297/Montpelier-Senior-Activity-Center	\$ 4,900	no increase
Mosaic Vermont (formerly Sexual Assault Crisis Team) mosaic-vt.org	\$ 200	no increase
Old West Church Association oldwestchurchvt.org	\$ 200	no increase
People's Health and Wellness Clinic phwcvt.org	\$2,000	increase of \$500
Rural Community Transportation riderct.org	\$ 975	no increase
Twin Valley Senior Center twinvalleyseniors.org	\$3,000	no increase
VT Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired vabvi.org	\$ 650	no increase
Vermont Center for Independent Living vcil.org	\$ 800	no increase
Washington County Diversion Program wcdp-vt.org	\$ 300	no increase
Washington County Mental Health Services wcmhs.org	\$1,400	no increase
Washington County Youth Service Bureau /Boys & Girls Club wcysb.org	\$ 500	no increase
Woodbury/Calais Food Shelf No website. Contact jan@janbrough.com or carolrill@hotmail.com P.O. Box 142 Woodbury, VT 05681	\$ 626	increase of \$97

Kellogg-Hubbard Library Report

The Role of the Library

Communities thrive with the knowledge, entertainment, technology, and programs that come from a vibrant library like the Kellogg-Hubbard. Services like story times and children's programs improve literacy skills; bridging gaps between home and school and serving homeschooled children. Libraries improve access to technology for our neighbors who do not have a reliable internet connection at home, or don't own a printer, scanner, or copier. Libraries fight isolation. New parents, senior citizens, and people who live in rural communities benefit from the free programs the Library provides as a way to make social connections and find others who share their values and interests. Libraries provide zero-cost entertainment, because sometimes you just want a movie to watch or a book to curl up with for the sheer pleasure of it.

2020 Highlights

In FY20 the KHL made more digital services available than ever before, reinforcing that the Library is "virtually" never closed. Everyone in our member communities (Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, Montpelier and Worcester) can access our physical collection of 70,643 books, DVDs, cd audiobooks and more; as well as our largest ever digital catalog of over 80,00 eBooks audiobooks, streaming videos (via Kanopy) and digital magazines (via Flipster). Additionally, services that once required a visit to the Library are now all available through our website. 575 Calais residents have library cards and they borrowed 10,013 physical items last year, not counting digital use, which we cannot track by town.

Throughout the pandemic, we've maintained a robust email and phone reference service and loaned thousands of Library materials via curbside pickup. Our programs for adults, children and teens pivoted to online or outdoor formats; some programs saw hundreds of attendees this way. In FY20 11,207 total people attended our 257 programs for children and teens and 174 programs for adults.

While our Outreach program has been unable to visit most daycares, and community events, we started a mobile library and weekly delivery service to each of our member towns. We've also offered increased home delivery services to patrons with medical concerns and homeschooling families. We deliver to the Maple Corner Store and the Adamant Co-op every week!

Kellogg-Hubbard Library Report (continued)

Library Funding

The Library is funded through tax support from the municipalities in our service area, endowment income (from the original bequest from the Kellogg and Hubbard families and individual donors over the years), private contributions and miscellaneous fees for things like printing and copies and overdue materials. Because the library runs on a tight budget, each piece is crucial. We make every effort to find ways to save costs without sacrificing the personal service that makes people value the library so much. The funding requests we make to our towns is per capita based. This is the same way libraries across Vermont measure their municipal tax support. In Calais we are requesting just \$17 per capita, much lower than the state average of \$33. Our total funding request from Calais is \$27,132. This is the same amount we've requested for the past three years. Craig Line is the Calais representative on our Board of Trustees and our Co-Directors are Jessie Lynn and Carolyn Brennan. **Thank you for your continued support!**

Funding

Library budget for 2020-21: \$887,672

Portion of budget covered by taxpayer dollars: 56%

Library funding request from Calais: \$27,132

Portion of library budget this pays for: 3%

Increase over last year: \$0.00

Per capita Calais taxpayer contribution: \$17.00

Statewide average per capita library tax support: over \$33.03

Number of Calais residents with active library cards: 575

Number of physical items Calais residents borrowed last year: 10,013
(We cannot track digital library use by town)

Kellogg-Hubbard Library Report (continued)

Kellogg-Hubbard Library 2020 Statistics

*serving Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex,
Montpelier & Worcester*

Hours open per week: 30 (currently curbside service only as of Dec 2020)

Services, Programs and Technology

- ❖ Size of print collection: 70,643
- ❖ Size of digital collection: Over 80,000 eBooks, audios, films and magazines
- ❖ Total physical and digital circulation: 356,484
- ❖ Number of programs offered last year: 431
- ❖ Total attendance at those programs: 11,207
- ❖ Number of public computers: 14
- ❖ Average weekly use of public computers: 241
- ❖ Average weekly patron use of free WiFi: 761 times

New in 2020

- ❖ Weekly deliveries to Maple Corner, Kanopy streaming movies and Flipster digital magazines, expanded online services via the KHL website.

Continuing Calais Outreach Services

- ❖ Library delivery at the Adamant Coop, daycare/preschool story times (pre and post pandemic), summer children's programs at locations in Calais

Washington Central Unified Union School District Board of Directors

Town	Name	Board Email
Berlin	Diane Nichols-Fleming	dnicholsfleming@u32.org
Berlin	George Gross	dogriverfarm@gmail.com
Berlin	Jonathan Goddard	goddard5@comcast.com
Calais	Dorothy Naylor	dnaylor@u32.org
Calais	Scott Thompson	sthompson@u32.org
Calais	Kari Bradley	kbradley@u32.org
East Montpelier	Lindy Johnson	ljohnson@u32.org
East Montpelier	Flor Diaz Smith	fdiazsmith@u32.org
East Montpelier	Stephen Looke	slooke@norwich.edu
Middlesex	Karoline May	kamay@u32.org
Middlesex	Chris McVeigh	chris@mcveighskiff.com
Middlesex	Jill Olson	jolson@u32.org
Worcester	Jaiel Pulskamp	jpulskamp@u32.org
Worcester	"Jonas Eno-Van Fleet"	jenovanfleet@u32.org
Worcester	vacant	

Vital Statistics

Births

Name of Child	Date
Arms, Owen Michael	August 20, 2020
Connor, Georgia Kathleen	October 20, 2020
Foster, Teaghan Blake	June 18, 2020
Fryzel, Alaric Westley	April 26, 2020
Howe, Luca Paul	September 22, 2020
Orayfig, Clement Philip Everett	August 30, 2020
Peters, Willa Rose Pealer	June 26, 2020
Porter, Mae Jemison	March 15, 2020
Schultz, Jack Henry	January 4, 2020
Weeks, Mason Ralph	July 29, 2020
Wright, Harriet Calliope Pilar	February 3, 2020

Deaths

Last Name	First and Middle Name	Date
Annis	Patricia D.	March 8, 2020
Baldwin	Edith A.	January 13, 2020
Benjamin	Bessie Ruth	October 12, 2020
Coffman	Christopher William	September 2020
Dunham	Gerald Lawrence	March 20, 2020
Gallagher	Harriet Irene	November 5, 2020
George	Shirley May	January 7, 2020
Golon	Helen B.	December 2, 2020
Hartman	Florence	June 11, 2020
Joy	William George	August 12, 2020
Murray	Joseph Andrew	December 3, 2020
Myers	John Arnold	December 26, 2020

Vital Statistics (continued)

Marriages

Spouse (Applicant A)	Spouse (Applicant B)	Date
Brown, Karen Lynn	Batchelder, Dale Carl	September 26, 2020
Davies, Ashley Patrice	Staudinger, Andrew Thomas	July 26, 2020
Dunster, Morgan Lyn	Fryzel, Jordan Bobby	October 10, 2020
Fish II, Edward Robert	Dougherty, Hanna Mae	November 12, 2020
Heinrich, Stuart Benjamin	Weiler, Cynthia Claire	December 18, 2020
Helling, Dorothy Luise	Andresen, Christian Arthur	March 12, 2020
Jeffrey, Jason Elliot	Amato, Heidi Marie	October 3, 2020
Meagher, Colin Joseph	Jobin, Tiffany Lynn	August 22, 2020
Melhus, Hans Phillip	DeMaria, Laura Jayne	September 12, 2020
Morse, Stephanie Ann	Powers, Jr., Eric John	March 21, 2020
Patria, Melanie Marie	Bartlett, Colby Nicholas	July 11, 2020
Shea, Anne Marie Christine	Lamb, Robert Ian	September 12, 2020



Dog Licenses

It is time to register your dog(s) for the annual license with the Town of Calais. Due to Covid-19 we are not registering dogs in-person at the office.

Every dog in town needs to be licensed annually and wear a current tag, according to Vermont law. A copy of a current rabies vaccination form is required (unless already on file) along with a payment payable to Town of Calais of \$9.00 for neutered dogs or \$13.00 for intact.

Many of you may have received notices that dog licenses need to be renewed by February 18, 2020. If your dog needs rabies shots, you have until April 1 to submit payment and vaccine proof for the license. Otherwise, if the Town Office has your dog's rabies proof on file, please register your dog by February 18.

You can mail a copy of your rabies proof and a check (payable to Town of Calais) to the Calais Town Office, 3120 Pekin Brook Rd, East Calais, VT. 05650. If you do not have your rabies proof, you can request your Veterinarian to email a copy to Calais.townclerk@gmail.com. We will mail you tags.

You can also pay by credit card at <https://smartpayform.com/Landing/259>.

The Hardwick Veterinary Clinic will conduct Rabies Clinics in March. Phone 472-8400 for details.

Please register your dogs. It is the State law, it keeps everyone safe, it makes it easier to return lost dogs, and it saves Calais Animal Control Officers Wilson Hughes and Elizabeth Perry a lot of time and worry. We thank them for their service!



Trash and Recycling

Calais Transfer Station: Operated by Brian Perry & Sons, 472-6080
Moscow Woods Road, East Calais
Saturdays, 8:00 am to 12:00 noon

Additional Recyclables Collection Center (ARCC):
540 North Main Street, Barre
Mon/Wed/Fri, 12:00 to 5:30 pm and
3rd Saturday of the month 9:00am to 1:00pm
www.cvswwmd.org or call 476-1900

Electronics Recycling: www.vtecycles.org or call
1-855-6ecycle

Hazardous Waste and Special Collections:
www.cvswwmd.org or call
229-9383

Fireworks Permits

To request a fireworks permit, contact the East Montpelier Fire Department (EMFD) at 225-6247, or stop by anytime during front office hours to pick up a permit application. Applications cannot be copied or reproduced and are good for only one show.

According to Vermont State Law, you must submit a signed application and a site map a minimum of 15 days in advance of a fireworks display. Any person not shooting the display on their own property must also show proof of permission from the land owner.

A site visit is typically made and the only officials authorized to sign fireworks permits are the EMFD Chief and the two Deputy Chiefs. Any permit not submitted 15 days in advance will not be approved.

For further information, contact the Vermont Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Safety, 479-7561, <https://firesafety.vermont.gov/>

2020 Town Meeting Minutes

Town of Calais, Vermont

CHARTERED 1781

Town Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 9:30 am at the Calais Elementary School

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year:

The Town Clerk presided over the election of a moderator. Denise Wheeler motioned to nominate Gus Seelig. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

ARTICLE 2. To ask questions about the reports of town boards and officers.

The status of delinquent taxes, issues of Emerald Ash Borer and landowner tree rights, unionization of the Highway Department, and introduction of Selectboard members were part of the discussion.

ARTICLE 3. To elect the following Town officers from the floor:

Town Agent: Denise Wheeler nominated Tina Bielenberg for a 1-year term. The motion was seconded. A motion was made to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Tina Bielenberg; the motion was seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Trustee of Public Funds: Denise Wheeler nominated Rodney Buck for a 3-year term and the motion was seconded. Denise Wheeler moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Rodney Buck. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Cemetery Commissioner: A nomination was made for Randy Koch for a 5-year term; the motion was seconded. Denise Wheeler motioned to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot for Randy Koch. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 4. Shall the voters approve total highway and general fund expenditures of \$1,661,574 of which \$1,354,449 shall be raised by taxes and \$307,125 by non-tax revenue?

Denise Wheeler moved to approve this article, and the motion was seconded. Discussion ensued.

The Moderator called for a vote on the article and the article passed.

ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$49,400 for the operation and maintenance of the Town cemeteries?

The article was moved by Mack Gardner-Morse and then seconded.

The Moderator called for a vote on the article and the article passed.

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$18,500, for a term not to exceed three years, for the purchase of a new Town Office server?

Clif Emmons moved to approve this article, and the motion was seconded. Discussion ensued.

The Moderator called for a vote on the article and the article passed.

ARTICLE 7. Shall the voters appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to paint the exterior of the Town Hall?

Denise Wheeler moved to approve this article, and the motion was seconded. Discussion ensued.

An amendment was made to add "up to \$30,000" and the motion was seconded.

Discussion continued.

The Moderator asked the body to vote on the amendment to limit the sum of "up to \$30,000." The amendment was voted and failed.

2020 Town Meeting Minutes (continued)

Rick Kehne proposed an amendment to increase the amount to "up to \$50,000" and the motion was seconded.

Discussion continued.

The Moderator asked the body to vote on the second amendment ("up to \$50,000"). A division of the house was called for, and the amendment passed.

The original question was called, and the original article was approved with the amendment of "up to \$50,000."

ARTICLE 8. Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to borrow an amount not to exceed \$25,000, for a term not to exceed four years, for the purchase of a used wood chipper?

Scott Bassage proposed an amendment: "for the one time purchase of a used wood chipper." The amendment was seconded.

Discussion ensued.

The amendment to add "one time purchase" was voted and passed.

Discussion turned to the original question of the wood chipper.

The question was called, and the body voted to end debate on the article.

The original article, with amendment, was brought to a vote and passed.

ARTICLE 9. Shall the voters appropriate \$27,132 for the Kellogg Hubbard Library for its operating expenses?

The article was moved by Craig Line and then seconded. Discussion ensued.

The article was brought to a vote and passed.

State Representative Janet Ancel addressed the meeting and introduced Senator Tim Ashe, President pro tempore, accompanying her to local meetings. Rep. Ancel announced a house concurrent resolution honoring Donna Fitch and John McCullough for their work on the Calais Town Hall Renovation Project. The resolution notes their extensive work and leadership. The Town then announced John McCullough as the first recipient of the John McCullough Citizen of the Year Award.

Rep. Ancel reviewed a few pieces of recent legislative activity, and took questions from the floor.

ARTICLE 10. Shall the voters appropriate the indicated sums as requested by the following organizations in Calais and the Central Vermont area, as follows:

Calais Community Connections	\$1,000
Central Vermont Basic Education	\$1,000
Central Vermont Council on Aging	\$1,400
Central Vermont Development Corp	\$500
Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice	\$3,600
Central Vermont Memorial Civic Center	\$800
Circle (Formerly Battered Women's Services & Shelter)	\$700
Family Center of Washington County	\$500
Friends of Winooski River	\$300
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont	\$300
Green Mountain Transit	\$859
Greenup Vermont	\$100
Montpelier Senior Center	\$4,900
Old West Church	\$200
Peoples Health and Wellness Clinic	\$1,500
Rural Community Transportation	\$975
Sexual Assault Crisis Team	\$200
Twin Valley Senior Center	\$3,000
Vermont Association for the Blind	\$650
Vermont Center for Independent Living	\$800
Washington County Diversion Program	\$300
Washington County Youth Service Bureau	\$500

2020 Town Meeting Minutes (continued)

Woodbury/Calais Foodshelf	\$529
Washington County Mental Health Services	\$1,400
TOTAL	\$26,013

Mack Gardner-Morse moved the article and it was seconded, and discussion ensued.

The article was voted and passed.

ARTICLE 11. Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes in two equal installments, with the due date of the first installment on or before 4:00 p.m. on a date that falls not less than 30 days after the tax bills are mailed, but not earlier than Monday, August 3, 2020, and the due date of the second installment shall be on or before 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 16, 2020?

The article was moved by Denise Wheeler and then seconded, and discussion ensued.

The article was voted and passed.

ARTICLE 12. Shall each property tax installment payment be made via one of the following three options:

- 1) by delivery to the Treasurer by 4:00 p.m. on or before the due dates as set forth in Article 11
- 2) by U.S. Postal Service, with postmark on or before the due dates as set forth in Article 11; or
- 3) by credit card payment via www.calaisvermont.gov, by 4:00 p.m. on or before the due dates as set forth in Article 11?

The article was moved and seconded, and discussion ensued. The article was voted and passed.

ARTICLE 13. Shall interest in the amount of 0.5% per month or any part of a month, be charged on unpaid taxes?

The article was moved and seconded. The article was voted and passed.

ARTICLE 14. Shall the Town allow an interest-free grace period of seven (7) calendar days following each due date as set forth in Article 11 during which no interest shall be charged?

The article was moved and seconded. Discussion ensued.

The article was voted and passed.

ARTICLE 15. Shall a delinquent tax penalty be set at 4.5% of the total amount of the 2020 delinquent tax?

The article was moved and seconded and discussion ensued.

An amendment was offered to change the penalty amount to be set at 3%. The article amendment was voted and passed.

The article, as amended to set the penalty amount to 3%, was voted and passed.

ARTICLE 16. Shall the Town allow a penalty-free grace period of seven (7) calendar days after Monday, November 16, 2020, during which no delinquent tax penalty shall be charged?

The article was moved and seconded. The article was voted and passed.

ARTICLE 17. Shall the voters authorize a reserve fund under 24 VSA 2804 known as the Conservation Fund to be used to acquire real property or other rights or interests in real property, and undertake other activities consistent with the purposes of 10 VSA Chapter 155 and 24 VSA Chapter 118, as well as preserve historic resources and provide education and public outreach to promote natural resource conservation? Detailed guidelines for the use of the Conservation Fund money shall be proposed by the Conservation Commission and adopted by the Selectboard, after public hearings.

The article was moved and seconded and discussion ensued.

The article was voted and passed.

2020 Town Meeting Minutes (continued)

Conservation Fund money shall be proposed by the Conservation Commission and adopted by the Selectboard, after public hearings.

The article was moved and seconded and discussion ensued.

The article was voted and passed.

ARTICLE 18. To transact any other non-binding business that may legally come before the meeting.

Discussion about many local projects and efforts, including coronavirus, the Memorial Hall renovation, and the Town Hall Friends group and East Calais Community Trust occurred.

ARTICLE 19. To elect the following Town Officers by Australian ballot:

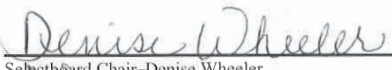
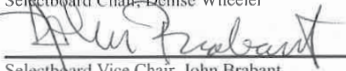

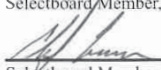
Selectboard member	3-year term
Selectboard member	2-year term
Lister	3-year term
Town Clerk	3-year term

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Lane-Karnas, Recording Secretary

Approved by the Selectboard at the 3/9/2020 meeting

	3/9/2020
Selectboard Chair, Denise Wheeler	Date
	3/9/2020
Selectboard Vice Chair, John Brabant	Date
	3-9-2020
Selectboard Member, Rose Pelchuck	Date
	3/9/2020
Selectboard Member, Cliff Emmons	Date
Selectboard Member, Sharon Winn Fannon	Date

Town of Calais
3120 Pekin Brook Road
East Calais, VT 05650

