

# ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN OF BOLTON, VERMONT

“LAND OF BOULDERS AND BEARS”

FOR THE YEAR JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023



*July floodwaters on Rote 2 in Bolton reflect the summer sunset*

**PLEASE TAKE THIS REPORT TO TOWN MEETING ON  
MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024, 7:00 PM AT SMILIE MEMORIAL SCHOOL**

## TOWN MEETINGS | OFFICE HOURS

As a courtesy, please call the clerk or chair of each board in advance to schedule your appointment.

### Select Board Meetings

First and Third Mondays, 6:00 pm

Chair, Paula Gervia

Clerk, Brian Roberge

### Special Select Board Meetings

Public Hearings

All scheduled as needed and warned in Seven Days

### Planning Commission

Third Tuesday, 6:00 pm

Chair, Steve Barner

Clerk, Carol Devlin

### Capital Planning Committee

First Wednesday, 6:30 pm (Meet as needed.)

Chair, Joss Besse

Clerk, TBD

### Conservation Commission

Fourth Monday, 6:00 pm

Chair, Rotating

Clerk, TBD

### Development Review Board

Fourth Thursday, 6:30 pm

Chair, Spencer Nowak

Staff: Kelly Diglio

### Mt. Mansfield Unified Union School District

Please see the website for meeting information: [www.mmuusd.org](http://www.mmuusd.org)

### Town Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Friday: closed

Town Office Phone: 802-434-5075

Town Office Fax: 802-434-6404

### Zoning Hours

Planning and Zoning Administrator, Kelly Diglio

Tuesdays 10:00 am - 4 pm

Thursdays 10:00 am - 4 pm

Zoning Phone: 802-434-5075 x225

### Assessor Hours

Assessor, Ted Nelson

Wednesday: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Assessor Phone: 802-434-5075 x223

*Cover photo by Paula Gervia*

*Photos throughout Annual Report by Tim & Amy Grover*

## Dedication

As we reflect on the past year, it is with immense gratitude that we acknowledge the dedication and service of our outstanding Bolton Volunteer Fire Department. Their unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our community is nothing short of commendable.



*Bolton Volunteer Fire Department members monitoring the flooding conditions in Bolton in July.*

During 2023, our firefighters demonstrated their standard exceptional dedication in responding to 205 various “usual” calls which included structure and brush fires, vehicle crashes, fire and carbon monoxide alarms, rescues and rescue assists, service calls, culvert flushing, various hazards, and elevator emergencies. However, 2023 also brought intense rainstorms resulting in devastating flooding in Bolton and beyond, not just once, but on three separate occasions – twice in July and then again in December. Homes and businesses were flooded, and with roads flooded and washed-out, Bolton was isolated in multiple areas. During these three flooding events, our Volunteer Fire Department was vigilant in monitoring the situation, ensuring early detection of potential

issues and the prompt initiation of response efforts. They kept a watchful eye over our town, manning the Bolton Fire Station 24 hours a day (with little or no sleep) over multiple days, monitoring river levels and road closures, evacuating residents, helping to move personal property and businesses’ assets to higher ground, and controlling/staffing the 189 Emergency gates to allow for critical safe access to and from Bolton for our residents and emergency vehicles. When flood waters receded, their efforts continued as they assisted residents and businesses by pumping out flooded basements and removing debris. Their quick response, effective teamwork, and tireless efforts have undoubtedly made a significant impact on the safety and security of our residents.

We extend our deepest appreciation to each member of the Bolton Volunteer Fire Department for their selfless service. Their efforts do not go unnoticed, and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated team safeguarding our community.

We especially want to recognize and thank our Fire Chief Mike Gervia, and firefighters Andrew Gervia, Brittany Spence, and Matt Mead, who remained at the ready multiple days and (sleepless) nights at the fire station during the 2023 flooding events.

In addition, we want to recognize and thank Select Board Chair, Paula Gervia, who, while evacuated from her home, was also “at the ready” at the fire station during the 2023 flooding events, assisting with communications, and helping to ensure that the emergent needs of our community were being met.

This annual Town Report is dedicated to the Bolton Volunteer Fire Department and to Paula Gervia, honoring their selfless service in protecting and supporting our community. Thank you!



*Winooski River floodwaters inundate a Bolton home in July.*

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## Town Meeting “CCC Hour”

The Town will be hosting a CCC (Cake! Coffee! Cider!) Hour prior to the start of Town Meeting on Monday, March 4, 2024 beginning at 6:30 p.m. We hope that you will join us, and take advantage of the continued and traditional opportunity to chat with our representatives Theresa Wood and Tom Stevens, as well as Bolton board and committee members.

## Babysitting Services

Due to health and liability concerns, the Town no longer provides babysitting services during Town Meeting.



*Town Meeting Cake 2023.*

## ELECTED TOWN OFFICERS

POSITION	OFFICER	TERM ELECTED	TERM	TERM EXPIRES
Town Moderator	Leslie Pelch	2023	1 year	2024
Town Clerk	Amy Grover	2023	3 years	2026
Town Treasurer	Amy Grover	2023	3 years	2026
Select Board	Rich Reid*	2023	3 years	2025
	Paula Gervia**	2022	3 years	2024
	Andrew Pond	2023	2 years	2025
	Lynda DesLauriers	2023	3 years	2026
	Leah Scott***	2023	2 years	2024
Board of Civil Authority	Andrew Pond <sup>2</sup>			
	Rich Reid <sup>2</sup>			
	Lynda DesLauriers <sup>2</sup>			
	John Devine, Justice	2022	2 years	2024
	Paula Gervia, Justice & SB	2022	2 years	2024
	Amy Grover <sup>1</sup>			
	Brenda McKeown, Justice	2022	2 years	2024
	Leah Scott <sup>2</sup>			
	Richard Reid, Justice	2022	2 years	2024
Cemetery Commissioners	Cheryl Ann Mendicino	2021	3 years	2024
	Penny J. Tinker	2022	3 years	2025
	Betty Wheelock****	2023	3 years	2026
Mt. Mansfield Unified Union School District	Andrew Pond	2021	3 years	2024

### State Representatives Chittenden-Washington 1

Representative Theresa Wood	Representative Tom Stevens
Email: <a href="mailto:twood@leg.state.vt.us">twood@leg.state.vt.us</a>	Email: <a href="mailto:tstevens@leg.state.vt.us">tstevens@leg.state.vt.us</a>

<sup>1</sup>BCA member, not Justice of the Peace, term of Clerk.

<sup>2</sup>BCA member, not Justice of the Peace, term of Select Board seat.

\*Rich Reid was elected to serve 2 years remaining on a 3 year term.

\*\*Paula Gervia was elected to serve 2 years remaining on a 3 year term.

\*\*\*Leah Scott was elected to serve 1 year remaining on a 2 year term.

\*\*\*\*No one was elected in 2023 to serve as cemetery commissioner as there was no candidate. The Select Board appointed Betty Wheelock to serve one year of the three year term until March 2024.

## HIRED AND APPOINTED TOWN OFFICIALS

POSITION	OFFICIAL	DATE OF HIRE OR APPOINTMENT	TERM EXPIRES
Town Administrator	Brian Roberge	Hired 2023	
Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer	Carol Devlin	Hired 2013	
Delinquent Tax Collector	Amy Grover	Appointed 2017	
Planning Commission	Steve Barner, Chair	Appointed 1990	2024
	Evan DesLauriers	Appointed 2017	2024
	Merrick Gillies	Appointed 2022	2024
	Michael Webber	Appointed 2023	2026
	Tyler Ducharme	Appointed 2023	2026
	Virginia Haviland, Chair*	Appointed 2015	2025
	Amy Ludwin	Appointed 2013	2026
Conservation Commission	Steve McLeod	Appointed 2013	2026
	Jerry Mullen	Appointed 2015	2025
	Rob Mullen	Appointed 2019	2026
	Pamela Gude, Vice Chair	Appointed 2020	2025
	Tom Sichel	Appointed 2023	2026
	Pamela Gude	Appointed 2019	2025
	Rob Mullen	Appointed 2022	2024
Sara Holbrook Parcel Steward	Will Peery	Appointed 2023	2025
Preston Pond Stewards	John Devine, Secretary	Appointed 2014	2024
	Kelly Diglio, Staff	Hired 2022	
	Steve Diglio, Chair	Appointed 2014	2026
	Rob Ricketson	Appointed 2015	2025
	Adam Miller	Appointed 2015	2025
	Adam Beaudry, Alternate	Appointed 2017	2024
	Spencer Nowak, Chair	Appointed 2020	2026
Tree Warden	Luke Ingram	Appointed 2014	Annual Re-Appt
Planning and Zoning Administrator	Kelly Diglio	Hired 2022	
Animal Control Officer	Rob Mullen	Appointed 2017	Annual Re-Appt
Town Constable	Currently Vacant		
Assessor	Ted Nelson	Hired 2020	
	Amber Renshaw**	Hired 2022	
	Jason Wolstenholme	Appointed 2022	2025
Health Officer	Mike Gervia	Appointed 1997	Annual Re-Appt
Fire Chief	Mike Gervia	Appointed 2018	2028
Fire Warden	Mike Gervia	Appointed 2018	2028
Capital Planning Committee	Planning Commission member: Steve Barner		
	Former Select Board members and residents: Jen Dudley-Gaillard, Vice Chair and Tony Barbagallo		
	Residents: Joss Besse, Chair		
Emergency Management Director		Annual re-appointments.	
	Mica Cassara***	Appointed 2020	Annual ' Re-Appt.
	Brian Roberge***	Appointed 2023	

\*Virginia Haviland resigned as chair of the Conservation Commission in August 2023 and from the Conservation Commission in September 2023.

\*\*Amber Renshaw resigned in November 2023.

\*\*\*Brian Roberge was appointed Emergency Management Director in December 2023.

POSITION	OFFICIAL	DATE OF HIRE OR APPOINTMENT	TERM EXPIRES
Energy Coordinator	Juliette Juillerat	Appointed 2018	2023
Representatives to CCRPC	Joss Besse, CCRPC Alternate	Appointed 2023	2025
	Joss Besse "PAC" Representative	Appointed 2022	2024
	Joss Besse "TAC" Representative	Appointed 2023	2025
	Joss Besse "CWAC" Representative	Appointed 2023	2026
	"CWAC" Alternate	Currently Vacant	
	CCRPC Representative	Currently Vacant	
	"PAC" Alternate	Currently Vacant	
	"TAC" Alternate	Currently Vacant	
Chittenden Solid Waste District Representative	Currently Vacant		
Senior Meal Coordinator	Doris Wheelock		
Cemetery Caretakers	Allan Sumner	Hired 2018	
	David Streeter	Hired 2014	
Highway Department	Eric Andrews, Foreman	Hired 1999 FT	
	Dan Champney	Hired 2015 PT	
	Jacob Johnson, Road Commissioner	Hired 2022 FT	
	Jim Kilpeck	Hired 2022 FT	
	Dave Mahoney	Hired 2022 PT	
Area Principals			
Smilie Memorial School	Derek Howard		
Camels Hump Middle School	Gretchen Muller		
Mt. Mansfield Union High School	Michael Weston		
MMUUSD Superintendent	John Alberghini		

*CCRPC – Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission*

*\*PAC – Planning Advisory Committee*

*\*TAC – Transportation Advisory Committee*

*\*CWAC – Clean Water Advisory Committee*

## TOWN SECTION

### Town Warning and Ballot

Notice to Voters

Town Warning

Sample Town Ballot

Town Meeting Minutes, March 7, 2023

### Financial

Auditor's Letter (report available to download [www.boltonvt.com](http://www.boltonvt.com))

Delinquent Tax Collector's Report

Proposed 2024-25 Budget

Reserve Fund

Tax Rate Information



*Ollie assists the Sullivan and Powers staff with the annual audit.*

## NOTICE TO VOTERS

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DAY

#### **BEFORE ELECTION DAY:**

**CHECKLIST POSTED** at the Town Office by February 4, 2024. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote. **SAMPLE BALLOTS** will be posted by February 14, 2024.

**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 before the election by visiting the Town Office or going online to [olvr.sec.state.vt.us](https://olvr.sec.state.vt.us).

**REQUEST EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOTS:** You or a family member can request early or absentee ballots at any time during the year of the election in person, in writing, by telephone, email, or online at [mvp.sec.state.vt.us](https://mvp.sec.state.vt.us). The latest you can request ballots for the Local Election is the close of the Town Office on Thursday, February 29, 2024. (Any other person authorized by you who is not a family member must apply in writing or in person for a ballot for you.)

- Please note: no person, except Justices of the Peace, may take any ballot from the Town Office on behalf of another person.
- Unless the registered voter comes in person to the Town Office to vote or to take their ballot, early or absentee ballot requests are processed by mailing the ballot/s directly to the registered voter.

#### **WAYS TO VOTE YOUR EARLY or ABSENTEE BALLOT:**

- You may vote in the Town Office before the deadline.
- Voter may take his or her ballot(s) out of the Town Office and return in same manner as if the ballots were received by mail.
- Have ballot mailed to you, and mail or deliver it back to the Town Office before Election Day or to the polling place (Smilie Memorial Elementary School) before 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- If you are sick or disabled before Election Day, ask the town clerk to have two justices of the peace bring a ballot to you at your home. (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 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)**

**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 Paper Ballots**

**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.
- 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:**

- Go to the exit checklist table and state your name in an audible voice.
- Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the official.

**CAST YOUR VOTE** by depositing your voted ballot in the tabulator.

**LEAVE** the voting area immediately.

WARNING  
TOWN OF BOLTON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Bolton are hereby warned and notified to meet at Smilie Memorial Elementary School, 2712 Theodore Roosevelt Highway (Route 2), Bolton at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 4, 2024, to transact the following business from the floor:

- ARTICLE 1. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton vote a budget of \$ **1,601,157.00** to meet the expenses and liabilities of the town and authorize the Select Board to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?
- ARTICLE 2. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton vote to pay real and personal property taxes to the Town Treasurer in four (4) installments with due dates of September 15, 2024; November 15, 2024; February 15, 2025; and May 15, 2025?
- ARTICLE 3. To transact any other non-binding business.

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT QUESTIONS

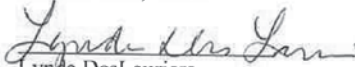
Voting by Australian ballot will be conducted on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at Smilie Memorial Elementary School, between the hours of 7 a.m. – 7 p.m., at which time the polls will close. The Town will hold an informational meeting on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 7 p.m. regarding Articles 4 – 5. The following articles will be voted by Australian Ballot:

- ARTICLE 4. To elect all town officers as required by law:
- One Cemetery Commissioner for a term of three (3) years
  - One Cemetery Commissioner for a term of two (2) years remaining on a three (3) year term
  - One Town Moderator for a term of one (1) year
  - One Select Board member for a term of two (2) years
  - One Select Board member for a term of three (3) years
  - One Town Treasurer for a term of two (2) years remaining on a three (3) year term
  - One Town Clerk for a term of two (2) years remaining on a three (3) year term
  - One School Board Director for a term of three (3) years
- ARTICLE 5. Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize the Select Board to add a one quarter cent (1/4¢) addition to the tax rate to support the Conservation Fund?

  
Paula Gervia, Chair

Richard Reid, Vice Chair

Andrew Pond

  
Lynda DesLauriers

  
Leah Scott

Received for record at Bolton this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.

  
Michael Webber, Town Clerk and Treasurer



**OFFICIAL BALLOT  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
BOLTON, VERMONT  
MARCH 5, 2024**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS**

- Use BLACK Pen to fill in the oval. **DO NOT USE PENCIL.**
- To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval to the right of the name of that person.
- To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval to the right of the write-in line. Please use block letters and stay within the box provided for write-ins.
- Do not vote for more candidates than the "VOTE for NOT MORE THAN #" for an office.
- If you make a mistake, tear, or deface the ballot, return it to an election official and obtain another ballot. **DO NOT ERASE.**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CEMETERY COMMISISONER</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">for two years remaining on a three year term      Vote for not more than <b>ONE</b></p> <p>(Write-in) <span style="float: right;"><input type="radio"/></span></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SELECT BOARD</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">for two years      Vote for not more than <b>ONE</b></p> <p>MICHAEL "MICA" CASSARA <span style="float: right;"><input type="radio"/></span></p> <p>LEANNE MARGUERITE DESCHENES <span style="float: right;"><input type="radio"/></span></p> <p>(Write-in) <span style="float: right;"><input type="radio"/></span></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOWN TREASURER</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">for two years remaining on a three year term      Vote for not more than <b>ONE</b></p> <p>MICHAEL WEBBER <span style="float: right;"><input type="radio"/></span></p> <p>(Write-in) <span style="float: right;"><input type="radio"/></span></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CEMETERY COMMISISONER</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">for three years      Vote for not more than <b>ONE</b></p> <p>(Write-in) <span style="float: right;"><input type="radio"/></span></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SELECT BOARD</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">for three years      Vote for not more than <b>ONE</b></p> <p>PAULA GERVIA <span style="float: right;"><input type="radio"/></span></p> <p>(Write-in) <span style="float: right;"><input type="radio"/></span></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOWN CLERK</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">for two years remaining on a three year term      Vote for not more than <b>ONE</b></p> <p>MICHAEL WEBBER <span style="float: right;"><input type="radio"/></span></p> <p>(Write-in) <span style="float: right;"><input type="radio"/></span></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOWN MODERATOR</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">for one year      Vote for not more than <b>ONE</b></p> <p>LESLIE PELCH <span style="float: right;"><input type="radio"/></span></p> <p>(Write-in) <span style="float: right;"><input type="radio"/></span></p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTOR</b></p> <p style="font-size: small;">for three years      Vote for not more than <b>ONE</b></p> <p>STEPHEN DIGLIO <span style="float: right;"><input type="radio"/></span></p> <p>(Write-in) <span style="float: right;"><input type="radio"/></span></p>
<p><b>ARTICLE</b></p>		
<p><u>ARTICLE 5.</u> Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton authorize the Select Board to add a one quarter cent (1/4¢) addition to the tax rate to support the Conservation Fund?</p>		
<p><b>YES</b> <input type="radio"/></p>		
<p><b>NO</b> <input type="radio"/></p>		



Town of Bolton  
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway  
Bolton VT 05676

TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
Smilie Memorial School  
March 7, 2023  
7 p.m.

- Announcements prior to calling Town Meeting 2023 to order:

1. Leslie Pelch, Town Moderator welcomed all and introduced herself.
2. Representatives Tom Stevens' and Theresa Woods' reports.

Tom Stevens:

- It is great to be back to an in-person Town Meeting, the first since March 2020.

With respect to updates at the State House, here are and some highlights:

- There are 50 new representatives statewide.
- There has been a large turnover in Committee Chairmanships with nine new chairs.
- We are still dealing with Covid and pandemic policies and those funds.
- The Housing Committee is seeking ways to have more housing built, we all recognize the housing issues in VT, difficult to secure and expensive.
- We are close to spending nearly ½ billion dollars of mostly federal dollars by the end of this calendar year. That money has a lot of strings attached to it, and those funds that have been put into the economy seem to have papered over issues that many towns are dealing with.
- A lot of the federal funds being used are as one time money, being spent in ways that are helpful to infrastructure, human services, and housing.
- The paid family insurance act will provide job protection to all, with an insurance program on top of that to provide for a percentage of lost wages and will not cost an employer out of pocket.
- We are closing in on the first half of the session – “crossover.”
- As always, if you have any questions, please get in touch. Thank you.

Theresa Wood

- Thank you, it's lovely to see so many people here this evening.
- I am the Chair of the House Committee on Human Services and we have been spending time on the FY 24 budget and budget adjustments, recommendations, with our work spanning neonatal care to death.
- We have worked on the adult protective services bill as that law hasn't been rewritten in 50 years, addressing things such as victim's rights.
- During the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of year, we will be working extensively on childcare, and supportive services for folks to help them stay housed.
- We will also be addressing Medicaid rates for home and community-based services and nursing facilities. Medicaid rates have not kept pace with the costs of care resulting in financial strains, and difficulty with folks being discharged from hospitals to nursing facilities.
- We are working on a bill to prevent and address the opioid crisis.
- Please get in touch if you have any questions. Thank you.

3. Good Citizen of the Year presentation by Lynda DesLauriers, to the 2023 Good Citizen of the Year, Janet Metz.

Call to Order:

- Moderator Leslie Pelch called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m., reviewed the process for the meeting, Roberts Rules of Order, requested that non-residents/nonregistered voters identify themselves, noting they would be allowed to speak, but could not vote.
- Moderator Pelch suggested that a majority vote be required to move a paper ballot, no one opposed.

**Article 1 ~ Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton vote a budget of \$1,342,280 to meet the expenses and liabilities of the town and authorize the Select Board to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same?**

**Motion: Joss Besse**

**Second: Mica Cassara**

Mica Cassara: What is the percentage and dollar increase is the budget from last year?

Moderator Pelch: It is in the Town Report, a 15.2% increase with a dollar amount of \$176,618.

Tom Haviland: It looks like the biggest portion increases are in the Highway Department, can you discuss the increases there?

Moderator Pelch recognized Jacob Johnson, Bolton Road Commissioner, Huntington resident, authorized to be able to speak and answer questions.

Jacob Johnson: The majority of those increases are to help make the town and town roads better, some is for equipment, some is for materials for the roads, and some for equipment storage.

Katerina Lisaius: I noticed two areas that were down, election expenses and allocation to CUSI.

Amy Grover: Elections are down as there will only be one election in 23-24, we won't have an August primary or a November election until 24-25. CUSI did not request funds. I did reach out to them with no response, and if you don't ask, you don't get included.

Joss Besse: I know there is talk of paving in town, can you speak to the amount of money going into the paving budget this year.

Jacob Johnson: What is in the paving budget this year will not even cover one mile. It now costs \$270K to pave one mile of road, and we have 15 miles of pavement.

Paula Gervia: We have \$80K in that line item for paving, we are looking at taking \$100K from uncommitted funds (if voter approved) and funds from the paving reserve fund allowing for approximately \$300K - \$330K for paving. The town is also applying for a paving grant to supplement those funds.

Jacob Johnson: We are applying for a \$250K paving grant and will be allocating paving between both sides of town, to get the worst parts of roads repaired. We also will have to provide up to a 20% match if we receive the paving grant.

Barry Spencer: I'm retired and have lived in Bolton a long time. The town put in my driveway culvert a long time ago, and I know the town put out a statement that they aren't repairing culverts on driveways anymore and I wonder if town can return to that service, I'm turning 67 and I can't bend down to clean the silt out of that culvert.

Jacob Johnson: We do have culvert policy and we do not install residential culverts. However, I can come take a look at the culvert, and clean the ends out.

Moderator Pelch: This is a reminder to please raise your hand, I must recognize you to speak, and please keep discussions to the Article under discussion. I do encourage folks to come forward to address changing policies but not during the Article discussions.

Ron Lafreniere: I have a building maintenance question, that line item jumped up a lot, I'm curious what you are planning to do.

Jacob Johnson: We bought an excavator, and we have other equipment that we are trying to get under cover and would like to build a lean to for that so that the equipment will last for many years.

Judith Bergeron: Chloride, is that the stuff you put on the roads that is not good for vehicles, and I saw it went from \$500 to \$6K.

Jacob Johnson: Chloride is applied to our gravel roads after grading for dust control, and we need to apply chloride to meet state standards. The cost went up because we are now applying chloride and paying for two loads of chloride, the chloride tank has to be full during the winter so the tank doesn't split.

Ron Lafreniere: Does the budget as proposed include the fire truck and town truck?

Moderator Pelch: Those are two separate votes on Australian ballot.

Tyler Ducharme: Do we have a projected increase for those purchases?

Paula Gervia: Those are not included in this proposed budget, purchases would be funded the following year, with funding coming from both the reserve fund and a loan payment.

Moderator Pelch: I've been hearing that term a lot – reserves, what is that?

Paula Gervia: The reserve fund are funds that are saved over time. Every year we allocate amounts in the budget to go into the reserve funds so that those funds can increase over time and offset large purchases.

Lindsay DesLauriers: Do we have what is in the reserve fund now?

Amy Grover: It is included in the Town Report.

Lindsay DesLauriers: What page?

Paula Gervia: The reserve fund spreadsheet is on page 23.

Moderator Pelch asked if there was any further discussion. There was none. The moderator called for a vote on Article 1. The majority were in favor. Article 1 passed unanimously.

**Article 2 ~ Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton vote to pay real and personal property taxes to the Town Treasurer in four (4) installments with due dates of September 15, 2023, November 15, 2023, February 15, 2024, and May 15, 2024?**

**Motion: Tom Haviland**

**Second: Pamel Gude**

Moderator Pelch asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The moderator called for a vote on Article 2. The majority were in favor. Article 2 passed unanimously.

**Article 3 ~ Shall the voters of the Town of Bolton appropriate \$162,000 in uncommitted general funds to the following reserve funds, in addition to those reserve contributions included in the FY 2023 - 2024 Proposed Municipal Budget: Highway Projects Fund: \$100,000, Fire Department Equipment Fund \$62,000.**

**Motion: Steve Barner**

**Second: Rod Wheelock**

Moderator Pelch asked if there was any discussion. There was none. The moderator called for a vote on Article 3. The majority were in favor. Article 3 passed unanimously.

**Article 4 ~ To transact any other non-binding business.**

The Moderator noted this was the opportunity to bring up any non-binding business, and that binding votes were not allowed.

Steve Barner: I'm speaking on behalf of the Planning Commission. We just completed making amendments to parts of the Town Plan, specifically the resort master plan, and also made changes to the zoning maps. There will be a public hearing on March 30<sup>th</sup>, person or via zoom, and we encourage folks to attend. This will impact folks that live up on the mountain or are involved in the ski area so you might want to sit in on it. I also want to add that the PC only has 3 members now, and really need to have five, so are seeking two more members. If any of you have time or interest, think about it. It's a meeting once a month for a couple of hours and generally no homework. Bolton can be a challenge, a lot of land is not buildable, and we want to encourage development with respect to the viability of the ski area, as that affects everyone in town. Please think about it.

Rob Mullen: I'm speaking on behalf of the Conservation Commission regarding the ¼ cent tax on the ballot. I know there's often some opposition to that, yet another tax. A ¼ cent on a one-million-dollar home would be \$25, on a \$660K home \$5, on a \$330K home \$8.25 per year. (Brief discussion between Rob Mullen and Amy Ludwin on the calculations.) I get it if you are on a restricted or set income in house you've owned for decades, that's 2 out of 3 of us in my house. But the cost benefit is great, we've used funds for the PPCA and the Sara Holbrook parcel, which is going to have a name change. We used \$15K from the conservation fund to leverage grant funds that allowed for the purchase of Wheeler Field, we've improved the Libby's Look trails, with thanks to Will Peery, and secured land that was conserved for public use. We all benefit from this, it's not even beer money because \$8.25 won't buy you a beer! (Laughter) You get a lot of bang for the buck with this, and we hope you support this tax.

Vicki Congdon: I don't know if it is too late to ask this question, but tomorrow we are voting on Articles 7 and 8, how does what we passed in Article 3 impact that?

Moderator Pelch: We will be discussing that as informational topics after Article 4, just hold your thoughts on that until then.

Ron Lafreniere: The conservation fund tax is good idea, and we've done it for many years, but this year is a different year. Older people and people with lower incomes in this town are struggling, the legislature is introducing bills that will impact us, so any penny you can save now is important. The Conservation Commission has not used a lot of that money in the past few years, and the fund will still be there. But save a neighbor a little money by voting no this year, that will not hurt anyone.

Jerry Mullen: I saw there was no article allowing the Select Board to borrow money as the needs of the town arises and giving the ultimate power of the purse to the people. We never know what might happen in the future, or who might get elected. The People could force the entire select board to resign.

Amy Grover: My understanding from VLCT is that this is not a required article as the Select Board already has this authority under statute whether it is approved by voters or not. I can provide you with more information on this later Jerry if you would like.

Moderator Pelch: Tomorrow, Tuesday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. we will be voting on Articles 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9; the election of town officers, ¼ cent to the Conservation Fund, a single axle plow truck for the Highway Department, a pumper tanker for the Fire Department, and filling the office of Constable by appointment.

Moderator Pelch: Are there any questions about Article 5, the elected positions?  
There were no questions or comments.

Moderator Pelch: Are there any questions about Article 6, the conservation fund ¼ cent? I feel like we have already covered that article.  
There were no questions or comments.

Moderator Pelch: Are there any questions about Article 7, the single axle plow truck for the Highway Department?

Tyler Ducharme: I'm wondering how increasing interest rates are going to impact that.

Amy Grover: The Select Board doesn't take the time and energy to consider financing until after the article passes, and then will look for the best financing rates and options. Banks will not honor interest rates quoted for more than 60 days.

Moderator Pelch: Are there any further questions about Article 7? There were no questions or comments.

Moderator Pelch: Are there any questions about Article 8, the pumper tanker truck for the Fire Department?  
Vicky Congdon: I'm wondering how what we approved in Article 3 impacts the purchase.

Paul Gervia: Approving Article 3 would allow the town to build up funds that would help to reduce the outlay of funds for payments or loans.

Steve Barner: I'm a member of the Capital Planning Committee. Reserve funds really gives us a chance to plan ahead and save up funds for major purchases and reduce the amount of money that we are actually borrowing. Then we are much better off when we make those big-ticket purchases, allowing us to level out funding.

Paula Gervia: Thank you Steve.

Mike Gervia: We are asking to replace the 2000 truck which had major frame repairs in 2017. It was scheduled for a 20-year replacement, we are now at 22 years, and it may be 2 years to get a truck built. We are downsizing to smaller, shorter truck with a 2,000-gallon tank and a smaller pump. I never would have thought we would have to spend this much on a tanker, in 6 months the cost has gone up \$60K, and there may be a 9 – 12% increase every three months. It seems to be the way of the times. We know we have issues in town with lack of water on Notch and Stage Roads and Bolton Valley, we must bring our water with us. We would be adding another 1,000 gallons of water to our responses and have that water to assist our neighboring towns as well.

Moderator Pelch: Are there any questions about Article 9, appointment of the Constable?

Amy Grover: I just want to note that you all probably noticed there was no candidate for election in this office. Passing this Article would allow the town a much larger pool from which to appoint a Constable. We had a great Constable, Jon Dennis, who moved to Huntington, wanted to remain as Constable, but had to give up his duties because he was no longer a registered voter in Bolton. In Bolton, the Constable's duties are statutory, assisting the Health Officer, removing unruly patrons from Town Meeting (laughter), killing injured deer, and addressing parking issues on Duxbury Road and in this vicinity and the Potholes in the summer.

Justin Sanguinetti: Do you have anyone in mind?

Paula Gervia: No, anyone could apply if they were interested.

Moderator Pelch: Are you interested?

Justin Sanguinetti: No, just curious.

Moderator Pelch: Well, we have your name now! (Laughter)

Moderator Pelch: Are there any further questions about Article 9? There were no questions or comments.

Moderator Pelch: I would entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion: Jerry Mullen**

**Second: Judith Bergeron**

All were in favor and the motion to close the meeting passed unanimously.

Moderator Leslie Pelch adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Attest: Amy Grover  
Town Clerk & Treasurer

These minutes were approved on March 8, 2023, by:

Lynda DesLauriers, Select Board Chair

Paula Gervia, Select Board Vice Chair, Justice of the Peace, and BCA Vice Chair



## Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C.

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Jordan M. Plummer, CPA  
VT Lic. #92-000180

December 22, 2023

Selectboard  
Town of Bolton, Vermont  
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway  
Bolton, Vermont 05676

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Town of Bolton, Vermont as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023 and have issued our report thereon dated December 22, 2023. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in "Government Auditing Standards", issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Town of Bolton, Vermont's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Bolton, Vermont's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Bolton, Vermont's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Town of Bolton, Vermont's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the second paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. In addition, because of the inherent limitations in internal control, including the possibility of management override of controls, misstatements due to error or fraud may occur and not be detected by such controls. Given these limitations during our audit, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

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



Town of Bolton, Vermont

-2-

December 22, 2023

However, we have noted other matters during our audit as indicated in the accompanying Schedule of Recommendations that are opportunities for strengthening internal control and operating efficiency. We have discussed the recommendations with the staff during the course of fieldwork and the recommendations may have already been implemented.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Selectboard, and others within the Town of Bolton, Vermont, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties. If you would like to discuss any of the recommendations further, please feel free to contact us.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Town of Bolton, Vermont for their assistance and cooperativeness throughout our audit. It has been a pleasure working with you.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sullivan, Powers & Co.*

SULLIVAN, POWERS & CO.  
Certified Public Accountant

The full Auditor's Report is available at [www.boltonvt.com](http://www.boltonvt.com)

DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR’S REPORT

Delinquent Taxes outstanding as of June 31, 2022	\$23,245.34
Delinquent Taxes assigned for collection as of May 15, 2023	+\$59,694.57
Total Delinquent Taxes assigned for collection	\$82,939.91
Delinquent Taxes collected from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023	-\$75,576.54
Adjustments, Errors, Omissions, and Abatements	-\$595.89
Outstanding Delinquent Taxes as of June 30, 2023	<div>\$24,332.27</div> <div>=====</div>

\*These numbers do not include collections of Delinquent Taxes from July 1, 2023 to the time of this annual report.

Delinquent Taxes collected from July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023	\$22,558.60
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*Lynda DesLauriers presents Janet Metz with the Good Citizen of the Year Award.*

Town of Bolton Expenditure Report and Draft FY 24/25 Budget

	FY 20/21		FY 21/22		FY 22/23		AVG Three Year	FY 23/24		FY 24/25		FY 24/25 Change	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		Budget	Actual	Draft Budget	Actual	(\$)	(%)
<b>Town Administration</b>													
<b>Personnel</b>													
Town Staff Wages Full Time	\$84,844	\$85,197	\$87,168	\$88,741	\$91,046	\$95,058	\$ 88,328	\$98,928	\$98,928	\$133,097	\$34,169		34.5%
Zoning Officer Wages	\$25,709	\$19,775	\$23,587	\$23,587	\$24,523	\$19,116	\$ 22,628	\$17,972	\$17,972	\$18,804	\$832		4.6%
Assessor Assistant Wages	\$560	\$0	\$570	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ -						
PTO Pay Out	\$3,531	\$2,772	\$3,619	\$2,841	\$3,716	\$2,776	\$ 3,110	\$3,982	\$3,982	\$5,260	\$1,278		32.1%
Social Security	\$9,662	\$9,726	\$10,265	\$9,914	\$10,675	\$10,313	\$ 10,105	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$12,650	\$2,150		20.5%
Retirement	\$5,320	\$5,497	\$5,701	\$6,185	\$6,534	\$6,689	\$ 6,072	\$7,076	\$7,076	\$6,683	(\$393)		-5.6%
Health Insurance	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,002	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$ 10,001	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$15,225	\$5,225		52.3%
Dental Coverage	\$1,325	\$1,206	\$1,416	\$1,166	\$1,320	\$1,179	\$ 1,231	\$1,135	\$1,135	\$1,320	\$185		16.3%
Worker's Comp Insurance	\$850	\$621	\$900	\$730	\$875	\$791	\$ 742	\$790	\$790	\$860	\$70		8.9%
Unemployment Insurance	\$175	\$321	\$428	\$532	\$441	\$371	\$ 431	\$475	\$475	\$750	\$275		57.9%
Disability Insurance	\$331	\$317	\$345	\$267	\$334	\$307	\$ 306	\$340	\$340	\$407	\$67		19.7%
Training	\$500	\$126	\$500	\$432	\$250	\$165	\$ 269	\$250	\$250	\$500	\$250		100.0%
Select Board Stipends	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$4,350	\$3,900	\$3,150	\$ 4,050	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$0		0.0%
Constable Stipend	\$250	\$1,000	\$250	\$250	\$500	\$333	\$ 583	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0		0.0%
Animal Control Officer Stipend	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$ 500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0		0.0%
Health Officer Stipend	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$ 250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$0		0.0%
BCA/BTA Stipend	\$650	\$240	\$650	\$470	\$600	\$550	\$ 437	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$0		0.0%
Board Stipends/PC, CC, DRB	\$1,800	\$1,780	\$2,040	\$1,400	\$2,040	\$1,440	\$ 1,740	\$2,040	\$2,040	\$2,040	\$0		0.0%
<b>Town Office</b>													
Heating Fuel	\$1,000	\$604	\$1,000	\$474	\$1,200	\$812	\$ 759	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,600	\$350		28.0%
Electricity	\$1,450	\$1,419	\$1,700	\$1,387	\$1,700	\$1,245	\$ 1,502	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,680	(\$20)		-1.2%
Trash Removal	\$500	\$1,776	\$575	\$2,325	\$1,850	\$2,161	\$ 1,984	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$0		0.0%
Building Maintenance/Repairs	\$2,500	\$3,785	\$2,500	\$3,020	\$2,500	\$3,216	\$ 3,102	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0		0.0%
Office Operating Expenses	\$6,900	\$6,970	\$6,900	\$6,638	\$7,200	\$7,004	\$ 6,936	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$0		0.0%
Telephone/Fax/Internet	\$3,500	\$3,973	\$3,900	\$3,670	\$4,100	\$4,496	\$ 3,914	\$4,775	\$4,775	\$4,500	(\$275)		-5.8%
Copier Lease & Images	\$3,200	\$2,644	\$3,200	\$2,770	\$3,500	\$3,025	\$ 2,971	\$3,700	\$3,700	\$3,500	(\$200)		-5.4%
Meeting Expenses	\$300	\$67	\$300	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$ 89	\$0	\$0	\$0			NA
Bolton Gazette	\$350	\$318	\$350	\$321	\$350	\$419	\$ 330	\$350	\$350	\$350	\$0		0.0%
Postage	\$3,500	\$2,814	\$3,500	\$3,499	\$3,500	\$3,913	\$ 3,271	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$500		6.7%
Printing/Advertising	\$3,750	\$4,299	\$4,300	\$3,350	\$4,300	\$4,867	\$ 3,983	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,900	\$400		8.9%
Digital Land Record							\$ -	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0		0.0%
Land Record Archiving	\$3,000	\$3,241	\$3,000	\$834	\$2,000	\$1,523	\$ 2,025	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0		0.0%
Property Maintenance	\$2,000	\$1,642	\$2,000	\$430	\$0	\$0	\$ 691	\$0	\$0	\$0			NA
Property & Casualty Insurance	\$6,150	\$5,970	\$6,488	\$4,956	\$7,550	\$6,227	\$ 6,159	\$8,110	\$8,110	\$8,965	\$855		10.5%
Cemetery Care	\$4,250	\$2,965	\$3,500	\$2,892	\$3,500	\$3,495	\$ 3,119	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$0		0.0%
Office/Computer Equipment	\$3,500	\$3,501	\$2,000	\$3,777	\$2,000	\$1,167	\$ 3,093	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0		0.0%
Computer Tech Support	\$8,000	\$5,799	\$8,000	\$10,837	\$8,000	\$8,724	\$ 8,212	\$9,525	\$9,525	\$9,500	\$25		0.3%
NEMRC	\$5,725	\$5,756	\$5,875	\$5,779	\$5,900	\$6,403	\$ 5,812	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,750	\$750		12.5%
Web Page Expenses	\$100	\$136	\$250	\$0	\$250	\$516	\$ 129	\$250	\$250	\$575	\$325		130.0%

Election Expenses	\$3,500	\$2,816	\$1,600	\$892	\$3,500	\$3,498	\$ 2,403	\$2,100	\$3,750	\$1,650	78.6%
Constable Expenses	\$200	\$253	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$71	\$ 151	\$200	\$200	\$0	0.0%
Assessor Expenses	\$500	\$642	\$500	\$558	\$500	\$584	\$ 567	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.0%
Zoning/Health Officer Expenses	\$200	\$163	\$200	\$106	\$200	\$136	\$ 156	\$100	\$100	\$0	0.0%
Recreation Fund	\$750	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$200	\$0	\$ 67	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
Conservation Commission	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$261	\$700	\$0	\$ 554	\$600	\$600	\$0	0.0%
Planning Commission	\$3,000	\$1,375	\$3,000	\$3,995	\$3,000	\$2,440	\$ 2,790	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	0.0%
Development Review Board	\$400	\$0	\$200	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$ 33	\$100	\$100	\$0	0.0%
Emergency Response	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ -	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	NA
<b>Taxes, Fees</b>							\$0				
Membership Fees	\$4,130	\$4,065	\$4,130	\$4,092	\$4,140	\$4,280	\$ 4,099	\$4,635	\$4,625	(\$10)	-0.2%
County Tax	\$6,115	\$5,830	\$6,122	\$5,933	\$6,200	\$6,219	\$ 5,988	\$6,530	\$6,825	\$295	4.5%
Fees (bank & state)	\$1,250	\$1,115	\$1,250	\$1,181	\$1,250	\$963	\$ 1,182	\$1,250	\$1,300	\$50	4.0%
<b>Contracted Services</b>							\$0				
Legal Services	\$20,000	\$23,554	\$20,000	\$6,179	\$14,000	\$7,846	\$ 14,578	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0	0.0%
Bookkeeping/Auditing Services	\$14,650	\$14,650	\$14,900	\$14,900	\$15,230	\$15,544	\$ 14,927	\$16,000	\$17,350	\$1,350	8.4%
CCRPC UPWP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,219	\$ -	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
Property Tax Maps	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$1,850	\$1,850	\$2,000	\$1,750	\$ 1,867	\$2,200	\$2,200	\$0	0.0%
Assessor Services	\$25,550	\$17,496	\$25,350	\$17,777	\$18,500	\$18,500	\$ 17,924	\$19,425	\$25,000	\$5,575	28.7%
Richmond Rescue	\$19,604	\$19,604	\$19,996	\$19,996	\$19,996	\$19,996	\$ 19,865	\$18,214	\$18,214	\$0	0.0%
RE-Appraisal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,500	\$15,000	\$ 2,500	\$12,250	\$0	(\$12,250)	-100.0%
<b>Service Organization Allocations</b>											
Chittenden Unit Special Investigations	\$2,209	\$2,209	\$2,204	\$2,204	\$1,822	\$1,786	\$ 2,078	\$0	\$1,071	\$1,071	NA
Visiting Nurses Association	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$ 833	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.0%
Committee on Temporary Shelter	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$ 167	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
Our Community Cares	\$275	\$275	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$ 425	\$500	\$1,000	\$500	100.0%
Steps to End Domestic Violence	\$350	\$350	\$500	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$ 283	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
Front Porch Forum	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$0	\$0	\$ 33	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
Waterbury Senior Center	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$ 1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.0%
Age Well	\$0	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$ 67	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
Library Card Reimbursement	\$800	\$330	\$800	\$725	\$425	\$1,045	\$ 493	\$425	\$1,250	\$825	194.1%
Vermont Family Network	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$ 167	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
VT Adult Learning	\$200	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 67	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
All together Now	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ -	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	NA
Bolton's Senior Meals	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$250	\$250	\$ 583	\$250	\$250	\$0	0.0%
<b>Town Administration Subtotal</b>	<b>\$319,015</b>	<b>\$300,134</b>	<b>\$ 319,179</b>	<b>\$293,675</b>	<b>\$ 319,117</b>	<b>\$316,828</b>	<b>\$304,309</b>	<b>\$ 331,427</b>	<b>\$ 383,351</b>	<b>\$ 51,924</b>	<b>15.7%</b>

Highway Department	FY 20/21		FY 21/22		FY 22/23		AVG Three Year	FY 23/24 Budget	FY 24/25 Draft Budget	FY 24/25 CHANGE	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual				Change (\$)	% Change
<b>Personnel</b>											
Wages/FT	\$122,324.00	\$116,732	\$143,790.00	\$139,920	\$158,580.00	\$156,457	\$ 138,411	\$187,054.00	\$193,585.00	\$6,531	3.5%
Wages/OT	\$10,586.00	\$19,397	\$18,666.00	\$26,022	\$20,583.00	\$16,718	\$ 22,001	\$15,365.00	\$15,900.00	\$535	3.5%
Wages/PT	\$5,291.00	\$5,774	\$5,424.00	\$3,918	\$6,182.00	\$7,311	\$ 5,291	\$6,747.00	\$6,983.00	\$236	3.5%
Road Commissioner Stipend	\$2,000.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$ -				
PTO Pay Out	\$4,667.00	\$1,400	\$4,237.00	\$1,516	\$5,991.00	\$1,109	\$ 2,969	\$6,556.00	\$7,319.00	\$763	11.6%
Workers Comp	\$10,710.00	\$9,269	\$10,448.00	\$9,717	\$11,286.00	\$12,161	\$ 10,091	\$14,325.00	\$13,575.00	(\$750)	-5.2%
Unemployment Insurance	\$225.00	\$233	\$608.00	\$552	\$654.00	\$655	\$ 480	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$0	0.0%
Disability Insurance	\$518.00	\$326	\$530.00	\$408	\$611.00	\$351	\$ 448	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$0	0.0%
Social Security	\$11,312.00	\$11,815	\$13,549.00	\$14,042	\$15,020.00	\$14,407	\$ 13,626	\$16,885.00	\$17,502.00	\$617	3.7%
Retirement	\$7,258.00	\$7,346	\$9,050.00	\$9,229	\$10,917.00	\$10,064	\$ 9,164	\$12,282.00	\$13,242.00	\$960	7.8%
Health Insurance	\$24,771.00	\$29,473	\$43,326.00	\$24,447	\$30,829.00	\$33,608	\$ 28,250	\$39,125.00	\$40,884.00	\$1,759	4.5%
Dental Insurance	\$1,125.00	\$1,296	\$1,729.00	\$1,014	\$1,320.00	\$1,518	\$ 1,210	\$1,640.00	\$1,640.00	\$0	0.0%
Uniforms	\$2,000.00	\$1,847	\$2,000.00	\$5,385	\$4,000.00	\$8,973	\$ 3,744	\$4,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$5,000	125.0%
Training Fees and Mileage	\$1,000.00	\$0	\$600.00	\$574	\$600.00	\$622	\$ 391	\$900.00	\$1,200.00	\$300	33.3%
Contracted Services	\$14,000.00	\$20,910	\$14,000.00	\$27,165	\$4,000.00	\$3,977	\$ 17,358	\$10,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$4,000	40.0%
<b>Town Garage</b>		\$100					\$33				
Garage Operating Expenses	\$9,000.00	\$9,180	\$9,000.00	\$8,469	\$9,000.00	\$10,828	\$ 8,883	\$12,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$2,000	16.7%
Telephone	\$3,250.00	\$2,951	\$3,000.00	\$4,000	\$3,500.00	\$4,730	\$ 3,484	\$3,600.00	\$5,035.00	\$1,435	39.9%
Heating Fuel	\$3,500.00	\$2,787	\$3,500.00	\$2,600	\$3,500.00	\$2,634	\$ 2,962	\$3,500.00	\$3,700.00	\$200	5.7%
Electricity	\$2,100.00	\$2,194	\$2,100.00	\$2,341	\$2,100.00	\$1,737	\$ 2,212	\$2,325.00	\$2,400.00	\$75	3.2%
Trash Removal	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$215	\$ -	\$0.00	\$2,645.00	\$2,645	NA
Building Maintenance	\$4,000.00	\$3,637	\$4,000.00	\$7,257	\$4,500.00	\$10,718	\$ 5,131	\$14,500.00	\$5,000.00	(\$9,500)	-65.5%
Property and Casualty Insurance	\$6,800.00	\$6,452	\$7,324.00	\$7,494	\$8,595.00	\$7,775	\$ 7,514	\$10,295.00	\$11,396.00	\$1,101	10.7%
Municipal Roads General Permit	\$740.00	\$740	\$740.00	\$500	\$740.00	\$1,057	\$ 660	\$500.00	\$1,300.00	\$800	160.0%
<b>Equipment</b>							\$0				
Tree Removal	\$1,000.00	\$600	\$1,000.00	\$2,200	\$1,000.00	\$0	\$ 1,267	\$3,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$1,000	33.3%
Equip Rentals	\$2,500.00	\$1,759	\$2,500.00	\$10,993	\$16,500.00	\$17,590	\$ 9,751	\$12,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$2,000	16.7%
Equip Repair	\$600.00	\$333	\$1,000.00	\$3,339	\$2,000.00	\$0	\$ 1,891	\$3,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,000	66.7%
Small Equip Purchase	\$4,500.00	\$13,464	\$4,000.00	\$5,023	\$4,000.00	\$3,661	\$ 7,496	\$6,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,000	33.3%
Safety Equip	\$500.00	\$1,048	\$800.00	\$1,157	\$1,000.00	\$1,390	\$ 1,068	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,000	50.0%
Tools	\$1,200.00	\$1,328	\$1,200.00	\$7,170	\$2,000.00	\$1,283	\$ 3,499	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0	0.0%
Sweeper Bristles	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$1,637	\$ -	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0	NA
<b>Materials</b>							\$0				
Gravel	\$40,000.00	\$35,464	\$20,000.00	\$20,032	\$40,000.00	\$36,050	\$ 31,832	\$60,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$20,000	33.3%
Sand	\$10,500.00	\$9,400	\$11,000.00	\$5,626	\$11,000.00	\$9,498	\$ 8,675	\$22,000.00	\$22,000.00	\$0	0.0%
Resurfacing	\$80,000.00	\$80,000	\$80,000.00	\$80,000	\$80,000.00	\$157	\$ 80,000	\$80,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$120,000	150.0%
Cold Patch	\$1,000.00	\$294	\$1,000.00	\$239	\$1,000.00	\$2,795	\$ 511	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$2,000	100.0%
Erosion Control	\$1,000.00	\$1,018	\$1,000.00	\$338	\$1,000.00	\$159	\$ 785	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000	100.0%
Stone Lining	\$10,000.00	\$780	\$8,000.00	\$0	\$8,000.00	\$0	\$ 2,927	\$9,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$6,000	66.7%
Culverts	\$6,000.00	\$5,341	\$5,000.00	\$29,612	\$6,000.00	\$6,348	\$ 13,651	\$6,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$14,000	233.3%

Road Signs	\$2,000.00	\$4,620	\$2,500.00	\$650	\$2,500.00	\$2,064	\$ 2,590	\$4,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$500	12.5%
Chloride	\$1,000.00	\$0	\$1,000.00	\$1,001	\$500.00	\$5,997	\$ 500	\$6,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,000	33.3%
Salt	\$50,000.00	\$50,059	\$55,000.00	\$52,087	\$55,000.00	\$67,880	\$ 52,382	\$58,000.00	\$68,000.00	\$10,000	17.2%
Duxbury Road Slide Repair	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$9,817	\$ -				
<b>Vehicles</b>							\$0				
2020 International #3 Landscape/CV	\$500.00	\$685	\$1,000.00	\$3,353	\$1,000.00	\$8,920	\$ 1,679	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$0	0.0%
2021 International Tandem #1	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$5,667	\$3,500.00	\$1,666	\$ 3,056	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0	0.0%
2018 Loader	\$400.00	\$6,074	\$800.00	\$3,497	\$800.00	\$198	\$ 3,457	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$0	0.0%
2017 International #1	\$2,000.00	\$7,104	\$3,500.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$ 2,368				
2017 International #2	\$1,500.00	\$4,734	\$3,500.00	\$10,852	\$3,500.00	\$7,051	\$ 6,362	\$4,500.00	\$4,000.00	(\$500)	-11.1%
2021 Grader	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$1,947	\$1,500.00	\$761	\$ 1,149	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0	0.0%
2022 Excavator	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$1,885	\$ -	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0	0.0%
1999 Grader	\$5,000.00	\$660	\$5,000.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0					
Fuel	\$25,000.00	\$15,993	\$25,000.00	\$27,057	\$25,000.00	\$35,313	\$ 22,683	\$30,000.00	\$38,000.00	\$8,000	26.7%
Oil/Lube	\$4,000.00	\$670	\$2,500.00	\$4,404	\$2,500.00	\$4,280	\$ 2,525	\$6,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,000	33.3%
Tires	\$3,500.00	\$2,443	\$4,000.00	\$7,820	\$5,000.00	\$6,018	\$ 5,088	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0	0.0%
Cutting Edges	\$5,000.00	\$4,950	\$6,000.00	\$6,244	\$6,000.00	\$4,428	\$ 5,731	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0	0.0%
<b>Highway Dept Subtotal</b>	<b>\$505,877</b>	<b>\$502,680</b>	<b>\$543,921</b>	<b>\$586,878</b>	<b>\$582,808</b>	<b>\$544,471</b>	<b>\$ 557,455</b>	<b>\$736,469</b>	<b>\$948,176</b>	<b>\$211,707</b>	<b>28.7%</b>

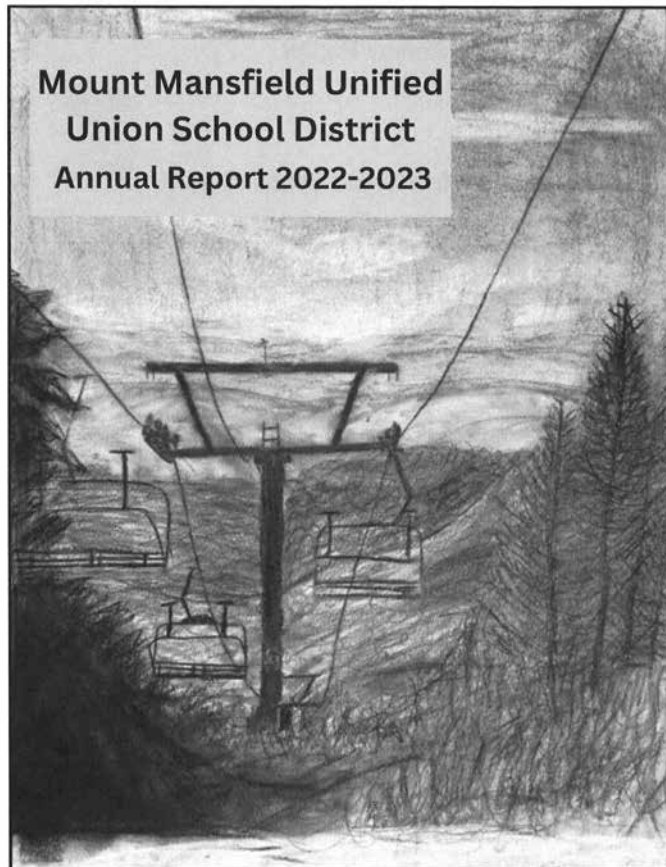
	FY 20/21		FY 21/22		FY 22/23		AVG 20-22	FY 23/24 Budget	FY 24/25 Draft Budget	Change (\$)	FY 24/25 CHANGE % Change
Fire Department	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual					
Personnel											
Fire Chief Stipend	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$ 2,500	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$500	12.5%
Volunteer Training Stipends	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$ 9,000	\$11,000	\$11,385	\$385	3.5%
Training Fees and Mileage	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,235	\$1,500	\$1,430	\$ 1,412	\$2,000	\$2,400	\$400	20.0%
Social Security	\$1,500	\$765	\$880	\$880	\$995	\$995	\$ 880	\$1,148	\$1,188	\$40	3.5%
Turnout Gear	\$4,500	\$4,649	\$5,000	\$5,441	\$5,500	\$4,235	\$ 5,197	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$1,000	16.7%
General Operations											
General Operations	\$7,000	\$6,913	\$7,500	\$8,894	\$7,500	\$7,167	\$ 7,769	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$1,000	12.5%
Rescue Van Transport	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,473	\$ -	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA
Property and Casualty Insurance	\$14,350	\$13,042	\$14,350	\$13,868	\$14,500	\$12,931	\$ 13,803	\$14,750	\$15,690	\$940	6.4%
Workman's Comp/ Unemployment Insurance	\$1,550	\$1,641	\$1,600	\$1,527	\$1,700	\$3,437	\$ 1,623	\$1,925	\$1,975	\$50	2.6%
Telephone/Internet	\$3,900	\$3,416	\$3,500	\$3,458	\$3,500	\$3,102	\$ 3,458	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0	0.0%
Mutual Aid Dues	\$350	\$0	\$300	\$250	\$300	\$400	\$ 183	\$300	\$400	\$100	33.3%
Dispatch Services	\$4,000	\$3,169	\$4,000	\$3,938	\$4,000	\$2,982	\$ 3,702	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	0.0%
Fire Station											
Building Maintenance/Repair	\$2,500	\$4,553	\$3,000	\$3,433	\$4,000	\$3,950	\$ 3,995	\$4,500	\$5,000	\$500	11.1%
Heating Fuel	\$5,500	\$4,129	\$5,500	\$4,328	\$5,500	\$5,905	\$ 4,652	\$5,500	\$6,110	\$610	11.1%
Electricity	\$2,100	\$2,860	\$2,200	\$3,085	\$2,400	\$2,725	\$ 2,782	\$2,800	\$3,382	\$582	20.8%
Equipment											
Communications/Radio Equipment	\$1,000	\$930	\$1,500	\$4,547	\$1,800	\$1,271	\$ 2,426	\$2,000	\$2,400	\$400	20.0%
Small Equipment/Tools	\$7,600	\$7,752	\$6,500	\$6,816	\$6,500	\$6,906	\$ 7,023	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0	0.0%
Equipment Repair	\$1,300	\$2,583	\$1,000	\$942	\$1,000	\$709	\$ 1,508	\$1,200	\$1,300	\$100	8.3%
Equipment Testing	\$3,000	\$3,024	\$3,000	\$668	\$3,000	\$1,305	\$ 2,231	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$1,000	33.3%

Vehicles										
Vehicle Maintenance/Repair	\$7,000	\$6,811	\$7,000	\$11,577	\$7,000	\$11,010	\$8,463	\$7,000	\$1,000	14.3%
Vehicle Operation	\$500	\$459	\$500	\$161	\$500	\$346	\$373	\$300	\$2,000	666.7%
Fire Dept Subtotal	\$79,150	\$78,196	\$80,330	\$86,548	\$84,195	\$86,279	\$82,980	\$89,923	\$100,530	11.8%

	FY 21/21		FY 21/22		FY 22/23		AVG		FY 23/24		FY24/25	FY 24/25 CHANGE	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Three Year		Budget	Draft Budget	Change (\$)	% Change	
Debt Service Payments													
Notch Road Reconstruction/Principal	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 6,667		\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	
Notch Road Reconstruction/Interest	\$525	\$275	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 92		\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	
Fire Truck/Principal	\$10,693	\$10,693	\$10,693	\$10,693	\$10,693	\$10,693	\$ 10,693		\$10,693	\$10,693	\$0	0.0%	
Fire Truck/Interest	\$3,233	\$3,204	\$2,866	\$2,835	\$2,508	\$2,492	\$ 2,849		\$2,150	\$1,796	(\$354)	-16.5%	
Fire Truck Principal Rescue Van					\$7,500	\$5,475	\$ 2,500		\$7,455	\$7,455	\$0	0.0%	
Fire Truck Interest Rescue Van					\$2,625	\$1,742	\$ 875		\$2,527	\$2,277	(\$250)	-9.9%	
Fire Station Renovation/Principal	\$14,286	\$14,286	\$14,286	\$14,286	\$14,286	\$14,286	\$ 14,286		\$14,286	\$14,286	\$0	0.0%	
Fire Station Renovation/Interest	\$5,005	\$4,980	\$4,584	\$4,561	\$4,167	\$4,141	\$ 4,569		\$3,751	\$3,343	(\$408)	-10.9%	
2017 International #1 Lease Payment	\$14,425	\$14,425	\$0	\$0			\$ 4,808						
2017 International #2 Principal	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$28,000	\$28,000			\$ 14,000						
2017 International #2 Interest	\$885	\$885	\$825	\$825			\$ 570						
2018 Bucket Loader Principal	\$6,233	\$6,233	\$6,233	\$6,233	\$6,233	\$6,233	\$ 6,233		\$6,233	\$6,233	\$0	0.0%	
2018 Bucket Loader Interest	\$1,997	\$1,982	\$1,771	\$1,758	\$1,549	\$1,535	\$ 1,763		\$1,328	\$1,110	(\$218)	-16.4%	
2020 International #3 Principal	\$7,200	\$6,550	\$6,550	\$6,550	\$6,550	\$6,549	\$ 6,550		\$6,550	\$6,550	\$0	0.0%	
2020 International #3 Interest	\$1,080	\$970	\$786	\$772	\$590	\$577	\$ 777		\$395	\$197	(\$198)	-50.1%	
2021 International Tandem Principal					\$14,570	\$14,570	\$ 4,857		\$14,570	\$14,570	\$0	0.0%	
2021 International Tandem Interest					\$1,341	\$1,325	\$ 447		\$1,009	\$671	(\$338)	-33.5%	
2021 Caterpillar Grader					\$15,660	\$15,660	\$ 5,220		\$15,661	\$15,661	\$0	0.0%	
2022 Excavator Principal							\$ -		\$5,475	\$5,475	\$0	0.0%	
2022 Excavator Interest							\$ -		\$1,575	\$1,395	(\$180)	-11.4%	
Debt Service Subtotal	\$99,562	\$98,483	\$76,594	\$76,513	\$88,272	\$85,278	\$87,756	\$	\$93,658	\$	\$91,712	\$ (1,946)	-2.1%

	FY 20/21		FY 21/22		FY 22/23		AVG Three Year	FY 23/24		FY 24/25		FY 24/25 Change	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Change (\$)	% Change
<b>Reserve Fund Contributions</b>													
Town Office Capital Reserve	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$ 5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.0%	
Planning Project Fund	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$ 4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	0.0%	
Highway Garage Reserve Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	NA	
Highway Equipment Reserve Fund	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$29,000	\$29,000	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$ 24,833	\$31,500	\$31,500	\$39,533	\$8,033	25.5%	
Highway Projects	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$ 25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0	(\$25,000)	-100.0%	
Fire Station Reserve Fund	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$ 2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0.0%	
Fire Equipment Reserve Fund	\$23,500	\$23,500	\$23,500	\$23,500	\$23,500	\$21,000	\$ 22,667	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$26,355	\$5,355	25.5%	
<b>Reserve Fund Subtotal</b>	<b>\$74,000</b>	<b>\$74,000</b>	<b>\$89,000</b>	<b>\$89,000</b>	<b>\$89,000</b>	<b>\$89,000</b>	<b>\$ 84,000</b>	<b>\$89,000</b>	<b>\$89,000</b>	<b>\$77,388</b>	<b>(\$11,612)</b>	<b>-13.0%</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,077,604</b>	<b>\$1,053,493</b>	<b>\$1,109,024</b>	<b>\$1,132,613</b>	<b>\$1,163,392</b>	<b>\$1,121,856</b>	<b>\$1,116,499</b>	<b>\$ 1,340,477</b>	<b>\$ 1,601,157</b>	<b>\$ 260,680</b>		<b>19.4%</b>	

TOWN OF BOLTON RESERVE FUND SPREADSHEET						FY 22-23
ACCOUNT		D (1)	E (2)	I (3)	Description	Accumulative
<b>HIGHWAY ACCOUNTS</b>						
Highway Equip	89,703.40	31,500.00				121,203.40
Highway Projects	180,167.91	125,000.00		6,988.81		312,156.72
Highway Buildings	64,800.00					64,800.00
Highway Resurf/Guard	21,958.97					21,958.97
Road Cut Deposit	2,000.00					2,000.00
						-
<b>FIRE ACCOUNTS</b>						
FD Equipment	98,488.00	83,000.00				181,488.00
FD Station	22,601.00	2,500.00				25,101.00
FD-Hose	1,515.00					1,515.00
<b>GENERAL ACCOUNTS</b>						
Town Office Reserve	13,500	5,000.00				18,500.00
Restoration	28,811.00	4,848.00				33,659.00
Land Conservation	11,367.00	3,348.78	503.41			14,212.37
Firewood Sales for Co	280.00		280.00			-
Planning Reserve Fund	22,544.39	4,000.00				26,544.39
						-
		259,196.78	783.41			
		22-23 Deposits	22-23 Expenses	22-23 Interest		823,138.85



*The artwork of Bolton resident and former CHMS student Domenick Pitone graced the cover of the MMUUSD 22-23 annual report.*



## TOWN OF BOLTON TAX RATE INFORMATION

FY	Non-Homestead Education Tax Rate	Homestead Education Tax Rate	Municipal Rate	Conservation Fund	Total	Town Budget	Annual Taxes per \$100,000 of Value
14-15	\$1.5048	\$1.7046	.53	.0025	\$2.0373 (Non-Homestead) \$2.2371 Homestead)	\$847,900	\$2,037.30 \$2,237.10
15-16	\$1.4965	\$1.5895	.54		\$2.0365 (Non-Homestead) \$2.1295 Homestead)	\$893,927	\$2,036.50 \$2,129.50
16-17*	\$1.5895	\$1.6039	.5979	.0025	\$2.1899 (Non-Homestead) \$2.2043 Homestead)	\$927,490	\$2,189.90 \$2,204.30
17-18	\$1.5496	\$1.4922	.5905	.0025	\$2.1426 (Non-Homestead) \$2.0852(Homestead)	\$936,048	\$2,142.60 \$2,085.20
18-19	\$1.5862	\$1.4980	.6469	.0025	\$2.2356 (Non-Homestead) \$2.1474 Homestead)	\$1,009,389	\$2,235.60 \$2,147.40
19-20	\$1.6592	\$1.5463	.6571	.0025	\$2.3188 (Non-Homestead) \$2.2059 Homestead)	\$1,037,324	\$2,318.80 \$2,205.90
20-21	\$1.7369	\$1.5698	.6861	.0025	\$2.4255 (Non-Homestead) \$2.2584 Homestead)	\$1,079,264	\$2,425.50 \$2,258.40
21-22	\$1.7989	\$1.6498	.6778	.0025	2.4792 (Non-Homestead) 2.3301 (Homestead)	\$1,110,774	\$2,479.20 \$2,330.10
22-23	\$1.7156	\$1.5255	.7312	.0025	\$2.4493 (Non-Homestead) \$2.2592 Homestead)	\$1,165,162	\$2,449.30 \$2,259.20
23-24*	\$1.1316	\$0.9816	.5295	.0025	\$1.6636 (Non-Homestead) \$1.5136 (Homestead)	\$1,342,280	\$1,663.60 \$1,513.60

\*Reappraisal completion year



*Assessors Amber Renshaw & Ted Nelson*

## TOWN OF BOLTON

### Reports • Letters

**Bolton's Own Little Libraries  
Clerk and Treasurer  
Conservation Commission  
Development Review Board  
Fire Warden (burning permits)  
Highway Department  
Planning Commission  
Planning & Zoning Administrator  
Recreation Study Committee  
Select Board  
Vital Records  
Volunteer Fire Department**



*Spring arrives in Honey Hollow.*

## BOLTON'S OWN LITTLE LIBRARY GROUP

It's been a pleasant year of reading and book exchanges at our Bolton's Own Little Libraries (BOLL). The BOLLs have gotten good use in 2023 as it's an easy place to find a new, free, good read. It's also the perfect place to leave off a book you've loved and want to share with others in your neighborhood. Thank you to all our volunteers who've been stocking and caretaking our seven small, self-service libraries in neighborhoods throughout Bolton.

Each library houses two to four dozen books and operates under the "Take a Book, Leave a Book" policy. BOLLs are open 24 /7 and have a wide array of books for all ages. Inventory is constantly changing as people swap books, so stop by one today to see what's available. There's no due date or late fees ever-- just pop it back in any BOLL box when you're finished or pass it along to a friend.

How do you find the BOLL nearest you? The BOLLs are the brightly painted little boxes that are located at: Fernwood Manor, 445 Duxbury Road, Bolton Valley in the main circle, halfway down Notch Road, Stage Road across from the Golf Course Condos, where the Long Trail crosses Rt. 2, and the Town Offices.



We're finding that early readers are still some of the most popular books to be borrowed from the BOLL boxes. Start 'em young! They also tend to be the most "loved" aka chewed on; do you have a collection of children's books you'd be ready to pass along? If so, please visit your local BOLL box to drop off a few now and or please reach out to us to donate a larger selection of them for our backstock.

The BOLLs exist and thrive thanks to our community of readers and volunteers who look after them. We always welcome new volunteers to help rotate the books between the libraries; you might just find your new favorite book that way. If you are interested in helping to look after the BOLLs, please be in touch with us at [aludwin@me.com](mailto:aludwin@me.com) or [jendudleygaillard@gmail.com](mailto:jendudleygaillard@gmail.com).

Submitted by Amy Ludwin & Jen Dudley-Gaillard on behalf of The Bolton's Own Little Library Group



*Steve and Jeanne Barner make a BOLL book delivery!*

## TOWN CLERK & TREASURER

### **Town Meeting 2024**

Town Meeting will be held on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 7 p.m. with voting by Australian ballot taking place on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Both Town Meeting and voting will be held in the Smilie School gym.

The Town will be hosting a CCC (Cake! Coffee! Cider!) Hour beginning at 6:30 p.m., prior to the start of Town Meeting on Monday, March 4, 2024. We hope that you will join us and take advantage of the continued and traditional opportunity to chat with our representatives Theresa Wood and Tom Stevens, as well as Bolton board and committee members.

Voting on Articles 1-3, which includes the town budget under Article 1, will be “voted from the floor” (in-person vote) on Monday, March 4, 2024.

Voting on Articles 4-5, the Election of Officers and the Conservation Fund ¼ cent, will be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

### **Finances:**

**Audit:** The FY 22-23 audit was completed in December 2023. No significant deficiencies nor material weaknesses were identified. The complete audit report is posted on the town website: <http://boltonvt.com/documents/>



*Town Clerk & Treasurer Amy Grover, and Ollie.*

**Budget:** As always in “budget season,” drafting the FY 24-25 budget was an extensive and challenging process. Select Board members, town staff and Capital Planning Committee members reviewed past and anticipated expenditures during multiple meetings trying to carefully balance the realistic costs and needs of the town with the impact to taxpayers. The draft budget being presented to voters stands at \$1,106,147, reflecting a 19.4% increase over FY 23-24. Registered Bolton voters will have an opportunity to address budget questions with the Select Board and town staff at Town Meeting on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 7 p.m.

**Debt:** The town’s FY 24-25 debt service of \$91,712 accounts for approximately 5.72% of the proposed municipal budget of \$1,106,157. This is a decrease from 6.97% in FY 23-24.

**Reserve Fund:** As of June 30, 2023, the Reserve Fund balance stood at \$823,138.85 and does not include the \$89,000 in voter approved FY 23-24 Reserve Fund contributions. A copy of the Reserve Fund spreadsheet is included in the Town Report. Please refer to the spreadsheet for specific amounts within the fund.

### **Voter Checklist and Elections:**

The town registered 63 new and transferred voters in 2023, and the checklist (as of 12/31/2023) stands at 1030 voters, with 178 challenged voters.

Many thanks to the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) and the many volunteers who assisted with running the 2023 Town Meeting, which saw 170 voters out of 1017 registered voters participate, 16.7%.

### **Town Records:**

400 documents totaling 1,154 pages were recorded in the Land Records.

Forty years of Bolton’s Land Records are available electronically at RECORDhub: <https://cottsystems.com/record-hub-search-gateway/>

Review of Lister, DRB and zoning files for Bolton properties is an ongoing process, as is general vault record organization to enable easier record access, along with implementation of recommendations by VSARA.

**Dog Licensing:**

There were 145 dogs registered in 2023 (11 more than in 2022).

Reminder: all dogs and wolf hybrids are required by state statute 20 V.S.A. § 3581 to be licensed on or before April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. A current rabies certificate is required for a license, and we are happy to issue licenses by mail. License fees for 2024 are per VT statute and include a late fee for dogs licensed after April 1<sup>st</sup>. The fees are as follows:

Prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>: neutered/spayed \$9, un-neutered/un-spayed \$13.

After April 1<sup>st</sup>: neutered/spayed \$11, un-neutered/un-spayed \$17.

The town's Animal Control Officer is Rob Mullen, who can be contacted for any domestic animal complaints. Note: Bolton does not have a cat ordinance! Please see the town website for contact information: <http://boltonvt.com/contact-us/>

**Grand List:**

A re-appraisal of all Bolton properties was completed in June 2023. The 2023 Grand List shows a total of 737 taxable parcels, with 383 homesteads declared, and a total municipal value of \$2,170,227. This is an increase in value of \$831,142 from 2022.

Per the State of Vermont Department of Taxes 2023 Equalization Study Results, Bolton's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is 104.08%, and the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) is 19.52%.

CLA definition: This is a term used by the VT Department of Taxes and it affects every VT property owner's school tax calculation. The CLA is an adjustment to listed property values, calculated annually for each town to adjust the listed value of properties to reflect fair market value as closely as possible. A number over 100% indicates that the property is generally listed for more than its fair market value. A number less than 100% indicates that property is generally listed for less than its fair market value. A CLA below 85% or over 115% necessitates a reappraisal (932 V.S.A. § 4041a). COD definition: This is a measure of the average deviation between selling prices of recently sold properties from the average town-wide level of appraisal. A COD of 10% or less is considered to reflect a relatively high level of equity across taxpayers' assessments. By statute, if a town's COD is greater than 20%, the state is required to withhold education, transportation, and other funds from the offending town.

**Services Provided to our Residents:**

- DMV renewals only (\$3)
- Dog Licensing (see above for fees)
- Faxing, copying (no charge)
- Notary (no charge), however the town has a "Notarial Services Policy." The town does not notarize wills, mortgages, deeds, divorce documents or any document pertaining to child custody/support, nor copies of documents such as driver licenses, passports, diplomas, etc.
- Sale of Green Mountain Passports (\$2)
- Voter registration (no charge)

**Thank you:**

As always, and this year especially, I want to recognize and thank all our town employees, elected officials, town boards and committees, representatives to county boards, volunteer groups, and volunteers (over 60 people!) who all contribute enormously to making our community a wonderful place to live, work and play.

You are likely aware that I retired from my position as Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, and Delinquent Tax Collector (oh, and don't forget, chief toilet scrubber!) on December 31, 2023. I again want to say thank you for allowing me the honor and pleasure of serving you and our community for the last 10 years (and 184 days, but who's counting!). I have so enjoyed getting to know many of you, and I am proud of what we have accomplished together. Thank you for your trust, your support, your appreciation, and allowing me the privilege of being part of "Team Bolton."

Sincerely,

Amy Grover, retired Bolton Town Clerk & Treasurer

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

The Bolton Conservation Commission's (CC) role is to promote stewardship of natural and cultural resources in our town and to advise the Select Board, Planning Commission, and Development Review Board on matters relating to the environment. The members are appointed by the Select Board and while the current membership of the Conservation Commission consists of diverse backgrounds and some expertise in the fields of ecology and natural resources, we draw on professionals in the private and public realms to assist our efforts. The Commission meets the fourth Monday of every month at 6pm at the town offices with a virtual option for participation available.

The CC completed a few projects at the Preston Pond Conservation Area this year with the big two being a new beaver baffle and a boardwalk. This year Will Peery came on as a second steward of the PPCA, joining Rob Mullen.



*Conservation Commission members Rob Mullen, and virtually Tim Sichel, Amy Ludwin, Pamela Gude and Steve McLeod - missing from photo Virginia Haviland*

A new boardwalk was planned out by Will Peery and built and installed by Will and other volunteers. This boardwalk will help mitigate damage to the trail in a very wet area near the Notch Road parking area. Virginia Haviland and Amy Ludwin were able to secure a grant from the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions to fund part of the project.

Rob Mullen coordinated and oversaw the installation of a new beaver baffle at Preston Pond. This installation goes a long way to help reduce human/beaver conflicts in the area and was completely paid for by generous donations!

As everyone knows this was a very, very wet summer in Vermont. While it pales in comparison to the other damage around our town and state, the wet weather has created many problem areas on the trail network. Rob and Will will be coordinating volunteers to help deal with some of these spots.

2023 also saw one of our town forests receive a new name. The Sara Holbrook Parcel is now the Water Woods (Nebikpiwi) Conservation area. Water woods was chosen as it describes the riparian forest that makes up the area and Nebikpiwi was suggested by members of the Abenaki Nation who are the original stewards of the land. A new management plan is currently being written for the area and will be available soon.

The CC also worked on several other projects in 2023 such as working with Friends of the Winooski on some water quality testing options and the Friends of Wheeler Field on drafting a management plan for Wheeler Field. We also saw a great community turn out day for Green Up Day, filling two LARGE dumpsters with trash and tires that had accumulated over the past year. Pamela Gude once again hosted the City Nature Challenge which helps document the local species other than humans that call Bolton home. Pamela also works with the UVM NR4060 (formerly NR206) Environmental Problem Solving and Impact class. This partnership gets students some real world situations to learn from and in turn can offer solutions and ideas to the CC and the town for some of the environmental challenges that arise in the town. The CC also continues to advise the Select Board on the environmental impact of the former parking area at the bottom of the Bolton Valley Access Road.

There currently is a member vacancy on the Conservation Commission. Please contact the Town Office and/or see the Conservation Commission page on the town website for more information.

## DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Bolton's Development Review Board (DRB) is a five-member volunteer board appointed by the Select Board to administer the town's adopted zoning, subdivision and flood hazard regulations. The DRB is a "quasi-judicial" board – we hold warned public hearings, conduct site visits, and issue written decisions on subdivision and development applications, site plan amendments, conditional uses, zoning appeals, and waiver and variance requests. The board also hears appeals of decisions of the Zoning Administrator. The Town's development ordinance and state statutes set criteria upon which the DRB makes its decisions.



*DRB members John Devine, Adam Miller, Steve Diglio, Rob Ricketson, Spencer Nowak, Adam Beaudry, staff Kelly Diglio, ZA*

Our regular monthly meetings, held on the fourth Thursday of the month, are open to the public. If needed (rarely), special meetings are held on the second Thursday. Public hearings on specific applications under review are warned in Seven Days and by mail to abutting property owners. DRB meeting agendas are posted in advance on the DRB page of the town website, and in 3 locations in the town (Town Office, Fire Station, and Smilie School). The DRB also meets in deliberative sessions as needed to review application information and hearing materials and to draft its findings and decisions. All DRB meeting minutes and decisions are available for review at the Town Office, and on the DRB page of the town's website (<https://boltonvt.com/boards-minutes/development-review-board/>).

The DRB met 10 times and held 15 public hearings in 2023. The following applications were reviewed this past year:

**2023-01-DRB;** Applicant & Property Owner: BVR LLC. Seeking Conditional Use Review for the installation of 51 lights on the Cobrass Ski trail to continue through Five Corners and Lower Villager, for the purposes of additional night skiing trail access. The property spans Conservation, Forest and Resort Village districts (Tax Map #7-3004250) Application withdrawn.

**2022-53-DRB;** Seeking site plan approval and a setback waiver to install a second curb cut and construct a ~864 square foot garage on 193 Wentworth Rd. The property is in the Resort Residential District (Tax Map #4-9000193). Applicant requested to postpone until February 27 meeting.

**2023-02-DRB;** Applicant & Property Owner: David and Colene Israel. Minor subdivision by splitting property at Notch Road right-of-way to create two (2) conforming lots. 1760 Notch Rd. (Tax Map #4-0041760).

**2023-03-DRB;** Applicant & Property Owner: David and Colene Israel. Conditional Use Review for a proposed driveway impacting steep slopes 15-25% 28 on new lot of subdivided 1760 Notch Road (Tax Map #4-0041760) with the intent to construct new home.

**2023-04-DRB;** Applicant & Property Owner: Jeremy & Andrea Knepper, seeking a boundary line adjustment. Parcel (Tax Map #11-07-012.000) Lot 6 26 (Knepper) Existing: 6.79 acres Proposed: 7.19 acres. Parcel (Tax Map #11-07-27 021.000) (Mullen) Existing: 20.40 Proposed: 20.00 acres.

**2023-05-DRB;** Applicant & Property Owner: Jeremy & Andrea Knepper, seeking a conditional use application is for the construction of a proposed driveway, house site, and associated utilities on the Knepper property, where steep slopes (15-25%) will be impacted. (Tax Map #11-07-012.000)

**2023-06-DRB;** Applicant & Property Owner: Amy MacCormack, seeking to expand the lot to a total area of approximately 0.62 acres, from 0.56 acres, via a right of way alteration to reduce irregularity of the lot. Subsequently, seeking a conditional use review due to steep slopes (15-25%) and very steep slopes 19 (>25%) for new home construction. (Tax Map # 4-9000299).

**2023-07-DRB;** Applicant & Property Owner: Andrew Roy, seeking a conditional use review due to steep slopes (15-25%) for the construction of a driveway to a proposed home site. (Tax Map # 9-4060122).

**2023-09-DRB;** Applicant & Property Owner: Tyler Ducharme is seeking two setback waivers, one for the Preston Brook and one for the eastern property line, to construct a single family home. (Tax Map #8-0011814).

**2023-11-DRB;** Applicant: CSC Properties LLC, 41 Champ Ln., is seeking two setback waivers for the construction of a two-family dwelling at 41 Champ Ln. (Tax Map# 03-037.001).

**2023-12-DRB;** Applicant: Charmaine & Ken Godin, Hummingbird Ln., is seeking a variance to allow extra square footage for an accessory dwelling unit. (Tax Map#15-18 4110014)

**2023-13-DRB;** Applicant: Acreage Capital, LLC, 3047 Theodor Roosevelt Highway, is seeking a variance to reduce property line setback more than 50% in order to utilize existing concrete footings for an accessory structure unit. (Tax Map#02-034.000).

**2023-14-DRB;** Applicant: Weston Properties of Bolton, LLC;1811 Happy Hallow Rd., is seeking a conditional use review for the construction of a single family dwelling. (Tax Map# 01-052.000).

**2023-15-DRB;** Applicant: Acreage Capital, LLC, 3047 Theodor Roosevelt 26 Highway, is seeking a waiver to reduce property line setback in order to utilize 27 existing concrete footings for an accessory structure unit. (Tax Map#02-034.000).

**2023-16-DRB;** Applicant: Tucker Andrews & Kaelyn Modrak are seeking a setback waiver of the Mill Brook buffer for the construction of an accessory structure at 3533 Nashville Rd. (Tax Map# 1-0023533).

Current DRB members include Spencer Nowak (Chair), Adam Miller (Vice Chair), Stephen Diglio, Rob Ricketson, and John Devine. Adam Beaudry currently serves as an alternate. The DRB also received much appreciated staff support this year from Planning & Zoning Administrator and DRB Clerk Kelly Diglio.



*Town Administrator Brian Roberge.*



## LETTER FROM FIRE WARDEN

For burning permits, please contact me directly on my cell phone at 802-399-1412. Messages left at the fire station may not be checked or returned in time. A separate permit is needed for each burn. Any burning without a permit is subject to being put out by the fire department.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Gervia, Fire Warden



*Bolton - the land of boulders, really BIG boulders, and bears!*

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT

This year the Highway Department used a lot of strength, determination and great amounts of teamwork maintaining Bolton's roads.

We started off the year plowing, sanding, and salting which brought us right into spring, where we dealt with mud, although it was not nearly as much as in some previous years. Once we had the mud under control, we patched potholes on the Bolton Valley Access Road and Duxbury Road, and then headed over to Honey Hollow Road where we completed our 2023 State Grant in Aid project. We completed five segments in this project, from the state parking lot to halfway up the first hill, ditching, reditching, stone lining, culvert replacing and adding gravel to bring the area up to state MRGP specifications. Once the Honey Hollow project was completed, we moved over to the Bolton Valley Access Road and the intersection of Curtis Lane and replaced a 24" culvert that was failing and riddled with holes, causing water line issues for the folks of Curtis Lane, Joiner Brook Lane, and Bolton Valley Access Road.



*Highway Department members, Eric Andrews, Foreman, Jacob Johnson, Road Commissioner, Jim Kilpeck*

The month of July is when things got interesting with the back-to-back floods. The first flood brought immense flooding throughout the lower sections of Bolton along Route 2, Duxbury Road, and Joiner Brook Lane. Although those roads flooded, the only road that received damage was Duxbury Road. This flooding caused an embankment slide along the road into the river, causing guard rails to be pulled toward the river and asphalt to start sinking. This section was fixed in the month of November with erosion control, stone lining, new pavement, and guardrails. A week later we were hit with the second July flood, but this time the damage was much worse. As we started checking roads it became apparent that we had a long road of repairs ahead of us to finish out the summer. Within three days we were able to have Notch Road back open. Having Notch Road open so quickly wouldn't have been possible without all the help we had from Bill Atwood Excavating, Sue Varin, Varin's Gravel Pit, and the highway departments in our great neighboring towns of Jericho, Underhill, and Huntington.

With fall fast approaching, the plan to pave Bolton Valley Access Road was uncertain due to work needed in the project area and our priority to complete flood repairs. We were able to replace the failing culvert in the project area and the paving project was completed between the sugar house and the "S Curve." This project consisted of asphalt reclamation; grinding the existing asphalt and reusing it to establish a better base under the new asphalt.

With all of this work and projects completed, there is still always more to do keep moving forward and upward to not only keep our roads in good shape, but to make them better. Replacing 300 feet of culvert and putting 500 hours on the excavator this year is just one step forward, along with the countless hours in the trucks and the grader. None of this work would be possible without the great help from Eric Andrews, Jim Kilpeck and Danny Champney. The countless hours, dedication, and appreciation from the crew make being your Road Commissioner worth it!

Sincerely,

Jacob Johnson, Road Commissioner



*Drivers enjoy smooth traveling on the newly paved Bolton Valley Access Road.*

## PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT



*Planning Commission Kelly Diglio, Staff, Carol Devlin, Assistant Town Clerk, Merrick Gillies, Steve Barner, Michael Webber. Missing from photo Tyler Ducharme, EvanDesLauriers*

Bolton's Planning Commission (PC) consists of five volunteers appointed by the Select Board. Current members (in 2023) are Steve Barner (Chair), Merrick Gillies (vice-chair), Tyler Ducharme, Evan DesLauriers, and Michael Webber. Kaelyn Modrak and Adam Beaudry stepped down from the PC this year and we would like to thank them both for their service. Assistant Town Clerk Carol Devlin continues to provide excellent support as clerk.

Planning & Zoning Administrator Jon Ignatowski provided exceptional service throughout his tenure at Bolton and went far above the call of duty when he volunteered to continue working with the PC to wrap up the amendments to our regulations related to the new Resort Master Planning process, even though he had moved to the Adirondacks to take another job.

Kelly Diglio has been appointed his replacement as

Planning & Zoning Administrator, and Jon worked with her to ease her into the position. Jon attended several PC meetings virtually, as we completed the public hearing on the amendments to the Bolton Land Use Development Regulations (BLUDRs) related to the resort area and provided continued support through the Selectboard's public hearing and deliberations in their approval of these amendments. We cannot thank Jon enough for the diligence and effort he put in to see this project to completion. The PC is also indebted to Taylor Newton of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) for his continued support in this project.

With the completion of these updates, the town has a regulatory structure that supports a master planning process that should help both the town and Bolton Valley Resort as the latter maps a path to continued financial health. The goal of this effort has been to create a framework that will keep the town informed of the resort's development goals, define the constraints under which these goals may be achieved, and streamline the permitting process for development projects defined in an approved Resort Master Plan. Zoning districts in the resort area were redrawn and some of the restrictions changed. The economic viability of the resort is important to the entire town, but uncontrolled development has the potential to increase flooding risks. Given the history of catastrophic flood damage in the Joiner Brook watershed and elsewhere in town, the PC takes the importance and limitations of any compromise very seriously. Potential negative environmental impacts and disruption of wildlife migration corridors are also important considerations that must be addressed in any regulations.

Two of the most significant responsibilities of the PC are to draft a comprehensive Town Plan that maps the development goals of the town, and to define the regulations that control the implementation of that plan, which are the BLUDRs. In spite of the recent work to amend both documents, there is a life span for each, and it is now time to revisit the Town Plan. There are requirements for a Town Plan to be considered official in Vermont, and these include that it be re-approved every eight years. Since our last complete revision was in 2017, we need to complete the update by 2025. The PC received a substantial grant for the 2017 plan that allowed us to hire an outside consultant to manage the process. Carol Devlin has done a fantastic job in completing another grant application which, if received, will fund technical assistance from the CCRPC in support of our efforts.

One of the things that our former planning consultant did for the 2017 plan revisions was to gather input from town residents through a series of "neighborhood meetings." These were quite successful, so the PC decided to duplicate this effort in late October into November. Meetings were held in Kilpeck's barn on Duxbury Road, at the Smilie School, in the clubhouse at the West Bolton Golf Course, and at Bolton Valley

Resort, and all were both well-attended and informative. The PC gained a great deal of insight into shifts in residents' thinking since 2017, especially related to recreation, development on steep slopes, and accessory dwellings. We would like to thank all the hosts for these meetings, especially the Kilpecks and the Browns for the use of their facilities. The Browns went so far as to delay their seasonal winterizing of the clubhouse to accommodate the West Bolton meeting. We will provide additional ways for residents and concerned parties to provide input in the development of the next Town Plan and will be providing updates through the Bolton Gazette and on the Town website.

Former PC member Deb Shelby organized an ad hoc committee that is working to inventory existing trails and recreation in town; gather information on known wildlife habitat, wintering areas, and migration patterns; and develop a recreation plan for the town that can be incorporated into our revised Town Plan. The town has had significant issues with inadequate parking at a few existing trailheads, as well as visitor behavior at some natural resources, such as the Potholes, and we want to make sure that we do not allow new or expanded facilities that create similar problems. These issues were hot topics at all four of the neighborhood meetings, which representatives of the Recreation Study Committee (RSC) also attended. The RSC administered a comprehensive survey related to recreation opportunities and associated challenges in Bolton, and is in the process of synthesizing the results. The PC extends thanks to all those who have taken up this effort to ensure that recreation is well-addressed in the next plan.

With the early summer flooding that impacted properties in the Winooski River valley and resulted in expensive washouts of the Notch Road, the town's focus on flood-related issues has been sharpened. We are expecting significant updates in the FEMA flood maps, with draft versions released before Town Meeting. These updates will need to be addressed in the Town Plan and will prompt difficult but important decisions that could affect development in defined flood hazard areas.

The PC typically meets on the third Tuesday of the month. As always, interested residents are invited to attend PC meetings and provide their feedback. Agendas and minutes are posted in a timely fashion on the Town's website. The PC is strictly a planning body with no authority over development projects and, as such, does not issue permits, or review specific proposals for development. These town functions fall under the jurisdiction of the Development Review Board and Planning & Zoning Administrator.

For more information about the PC, see the Bolton website at <http://www.boltonvt.com>, or contact the Town Office.

Planning Commission Chair: Steve Barner

Vice Chair: Merrick Gillies

Members: Evan DesLauriers, Tyler Ducharme, Michael Webber

## ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT



Kelly Diglio, Zoning Administrator

The Town of Bolton Land Use and Development Regulations require a zoning permit for all building projects, boundary adjustments and land development. Under the Regulations, land development is broadly defined as *'the construction, reconstruction, conversion, structural alteration, relocation, or enlargement of any building or other structure, or of any mining, excavation or landfill, and any change in the use of any building or other structure, or land, or extension of use of land [117 VSA §4303(10)].'*

A zoning permit is required prior to the start of excavation and construction with almost every type of building project. While most people associate zoning permits with home construction, Bolton generally requires a building permit for all structures, including sheds, pools, and decks. Additionally, zoning permits are required if renovation work results in a change (larger or smaller) of exterior dimensions.

Bolton's zoning regulations affect every property in the Town of Bolton, and they are concerned with more than just construction. For instance, our regulations require that a 50-foot vegetative buffer must be maintained along Joiner Brook, Duck Brook, Goose Pond Brook, Gleason Brook, Honey Hollow Stream, Preston Brook, Mill Brook, Pinneo Brook, and the South Branch of Mill Brook. The regulations also require that all development on slopes between 15% - 25% require special review, while development on slopes greater than 25% is generally prohibited. Regulations like these have been instituted to protect Bolton's natural resources in addition to ensuring the safety of all residents.

If you are planning on developing your property in any way, from patios to homes to everything in between, I encourage you to contact me for information and guidance. I can help you determine how the town's regulations apply to your plans, which applications are needed, and the required fees. You can reach me by email at [zoningbolton@gmavt.net](mailto:zoningbolton@gmavt.net). (Note: Because this is a part-time position, please allow up to 3 business days to return your call, or respond to your email.)

Also, if you received a zoning permit and have completed your project, contact me to see if you need a Certificate of Occupancy (CO). In many cases, a CO is required to close out the zoning permit prior to the use or occupancy of a primary residence or other insulated structure. A missing (but needed) CO is considered a cloud on the title of a property, which may prevent you from closing on the sale of your property down the road. If you're unsure if you (or a prior owner) obtained a CO on a prior zoning permit, I can look it up and confirm if this is an issue for your property.

Copies of the Bolton Land Use and Development Regulations and the town Zoning District Map are available online at our town website. Zoning permit applications can be obtained at the town office, or downloaded from our website.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Diglio, Planning & Zoning Administrator

2023 Zoning Permits – At a Glance	
Single-family dwellings	1
Two-family dwellings	2
Accessory dwellings	1
Mobile home replacements	0
Additions/Decks/Porches	4
Accessory outbuildings/structures	7
Exempt agricultural outbuildings	0
Boundary-line adjustments	2
Ponds	0
Conditional Use/Change of Use	0
Home Occupations	0
Signs	1
Commercial Structures	0
Permit Revisions	0
Renewals of permit	1
Certificates of Occupancy	5
Notices of Violation	0
Zoning Certifications	20
Applications referred to the Development Review Board	15
Subdivisions & Planned Unit Developments	1
Subdivision & Site Plan Amendments	0
<b>TOTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS</b>	<b>60</b>

## RECREATION STUDY COMMITTEE

The Recreation Study Committee (RSC) began work in March of 2023. The committee was tasked with identifying outdoor recreation areas and impacts on our town and providing recommendations for future action. The committee is comprised of five volunteer members and three alternates who were appointed by the selectboard. Unique to the RSC, a large number of members also serve on other town boards. This was intentional in design to allow for coordination between boards. Current members in 2023 are as follows: Deb Shelby (Chair), Allison Smith (Vice Chair), Merrick Gillies (Planning Commission), Rob Mullen (Conservation Commission), Spencer Nowak (Development Review Board), Steve Barner (Planning Commission – Alternate), Pamela Gude (Conservation Commission – Alternate), Rob Ricketson (Development Review Board – Alternate). The RSC is grateful that many members have decided to take serving on the RSC in addition to their other positions. The committee is not currently looking for members, but any interested individuals are welcome to join the monthly meetings.

A primary objective of the committee over the last six months was the drafting and posting of a survey designed for Bolton residents to provide feedback on recreation within the town. A special thanks to Allison Smith for spearheading this effort. Thank you to all residents who took the time to fill out the survey! In total, 194 people took the time to start an in-depth discussion of recreation in Bolton. The responses were well represented for the various areas of Town (West Bolton, Bolton Valley, Duxbury Road, and Rt. 2 Corridor). The RSC will be analyzing this data over the coming months, but wanted to share a few first impressions:

- More than 90% who filled out the survey participate in some type of outdoor recreation
- More than half think that there has been an increase in outdoor recreation in the last 5 years

Residents who participated prioritized:

1. Assessing/managing/maintaining existing recreational areas (addressing the challenges of recreation)
2. Wildlife & Conservation (consider wildlife & conservation near or within areas of recreation and presence of undisturbed wildlife habitat in town)
3. Parking (throughout town noting popular areas such as Potholes, Rt 2, and Preston Pond)

Residents who participated identified the top three recreation pastimes as:

- Hiking/Trail Running, Resort Skiing/Snowboarding, Swimming

The RSC plans to sort through written responses in early 2024 and prepare a report summarizing the results and drawing conclusions from the data. The committee then hopes to change gears and begin providing recommendations for future actions based upon the feedback gathered in the survey and community outreach in conjunction with the Planning Commission. This report will inform the selectboard of recommendations and assist the planning commission as they continue the process of updating the Town Plan.

For updated information on the happenings of the RSC please feel free to visit the page on the Town website or reach out directly!

## SELECT BOARD



*Select Board members Paula Gervia, Chair, Andrew Pond, Lynda DesLauriers, Rich Reid, Vice Chair, Leah Scott.*

All board meetings, including those of various committees and commissions, are hybrid meetings to allow for broader community access. Agendas with information on how to join the meetings are posted on the town website, as well as at the Bolton Town Office, Smilie School and the Bolton Fire Station. Feel free to attend meetings to see what is happening in our town.

While our Select Board and hired staff (Highway Department and Planning and Zoning Administrator) all remained stable this year, our town roadways were not so lucky. This summer proved to be challenging for parts of our town as we experienced two major flooding events within two weeks. The first event primarily impacted the Route 2 corridor while the second event primarily impacted many roads leading to and within West Bolton.

While our roads were impassable, and many residents saw damage ranging from minor to substantial, our staff and volunteers showed up and worked night and day, often continuously, to respond, repair, or offer assistance to those that were affected. Bolton is a small community and we want to acknowledge the many people that truly showed “neighbors helping neighbors”.

Some other notable happenings throughout the last year:

- The new town wide reappraisal was completed.
- The Recreational Study Committee was formed and charged with identifying public recreational areas in town, their impacts and possible mitigation ideas.
- The Friends of Wheeler Field and the Conservation Commission have started the process of developing a property management plan for Lots #7 and #8 of Wheeler Field.
- Many of our town policies have been reviewed - some were updated, some are still in progress, some are brand new based on various issues that have arisen within the town.

We want to send out a thank you to Town Clerk, Amy Grover and Assistant Town Clerk, Carol Devlin who keep the town running. It is with deep gratitude that we say this special thank you to them as we see the changing of the guards in our town office. We really appreciate Amy’s dedication and commitment to the town for the past 10+ years. She has always been “Team Bolton” and we wish her the very best!

Thank you to all of our volunteers and appointed personnel for their commitment to our town. If you are interested in serving the town in any capacity, please check out the town website, town Facebook page, or Front Porch Forum for opportunities.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Select Board,

Lynda DesLauriers, Chair

Paula Gervia, Vice-Chair

Andrew Pond

Rich Reid

Leah Scott

## VITAL RECORDS

Between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2023, the Town of Bolton recorded nine births, five Civil Marriages, and five deaths.



*July storms caused severe washouts on Notch Road.*



## BOLTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The department members meet and train weekly to be prepared to respond to any emergency call. They spend hours learning and practicing techniques to use in any type of situation. If you are interested in joining the department, please stop the station on Tuesday nights.

In 2023, the Fire Department responded to 205 calls. Calls responded to this year include:

Structure Fires - 9	Vehicle Crashes - 83	Brush Fires - 8
Vehicle Fires - 6	Hazards - 3	Fire Alarms - 18
Carbon Monoxide Alarms - 9	Power Line Obstructions - 7	Service Calls - 20
Odor Investigations/Good Intent - 14	Rescue Assists - 17	Water/Climber /Mountain Bike Rescues - 5
Elevator Emergency - 1	Flooding - 5 (days/nights station was manned 24 hrs between 3 floods)	

\*59 responses (includes crashes or fires) on I89

In addition to serving our own community, the department also responds to mutual aid calls. This year we assisted Richmond, Huntington, Williston, Waterbury, Stowe, and Underhill/Jericho. We are also an automatic response with Richmond Fire, which means both departments respond simultaneously to any call in either town.

Thank you to the voters for approving the 2000 gallon tanker truck at our last town meeting. We hope to take delivery in Fall 2024.

This year saw three major flooding incidents in our town. Several members of the fire department were on call for many days in a row for each incident recommending evacuations and monitoring the roads. They also assisted in pumping basements and clearing debris.

Thank you to the members and the community that supports them.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Gervia, Fire Chief



*Bolton Volunteer Fire Department*

## **OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS**

**Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC)**

**Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD)**

**Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations (CUSI)**

**Community Senior Center**

**Home Health & Hospice (HHH)**

**Legislative Report**

**Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC)**

**Project Altogether Now**

**Richmond Rescue**

**Vermont Department of Health**

**Vermont League of Cities and Towns**

**Vermont Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIIP)**

**Waterbury Senior Center**



*Volunteers, led by Will Peery, assemble a boardwalk in the PPCA.*

## FY2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### -BOLTON-

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is a political subdivision of the State created by the municipalities of Chittenden County in 1966 for the development of policies, plans and programs that address regional issues and opportunities in Chittenden County. The CCRPC also serves as the region's federally designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and is responsible for transportation planning with our municipalities, state and federal agencies and other key stakeholders in Chittenden County. The CCRPC is governed by a 29-member board consisting of one representative from each of the County's 19 municipalities, transportation representatives and, at-large members representing the interests of agriculture, environmental conservation, business, and housing/socio-economic. CCRPC's vision is to be a pre-eminent, integrated regional organization that plans for healthy, vibrant communities, economic development, and efficient transportation of people and goods while improving the region's livability. [Click here](#) to learn more about the CCRPC.

In FY23, the CCRPC invested over \$7 million in regional land use, transportation, emergency management, energy, natural resources, public engagement, training, and technical assistance. The program leverages around \$6.5 million in Federal and State investment with \$255,408 in municipal dues and around \$250,000 in local match for specific projects—a 13:1 return on local investment.

Bolton representatives to the CCRPC Board and other committees in FY23 were:

- CCRPC Representative: | CCRPC Alternate: Joss Besse
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC): Joss Besse
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC): Joss Besse
- Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC): Joss Besse
- Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC): Michael Cassara, Amy Grover

To access this report online follow the below link or QR code. Then look for Annual Reports in the right column:



<https://www.ccrpcvt.org/our-communities/bolton/>

Specific activities the CCRPC is engaged in with Bolton as well as CCRPC's regional activities, are discussed in the following sections.

#### Bolton Activities

In FY2023, the CCRPC provided assistance to Bolton on the following projects and initiatives:

- **Bolton Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):** The CCRPC has continued to assist Bolton with the administration of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for community water and sewer

system improvements (grant), and resort facility upgrades (loan) at Bolton Valley. Assistance with this grant will continue into FY24 with requisition submissions and final grant closeout .

- **Water Quality Planning Assistance-** The CCRPC continued to provide planning and reporting assistance with Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) compliance and the Grants-In-Aid Program. Staff assisted Bolton in site selection, and program delivery for the FY23 Grants in Aid program totaling \$16,500. Funds were spent on 5 segment upgrades on Honey Hollow Road.
- **Bolton Municipal Paving Evaluation:** In August, CCRPC began a detailed analysis of existing physical infrastructure, stormwater drainage issues, and (limited) geotechnical boring of existing pavement. The purpose was to identify areas of significant pavement failure to aid the Capital Planning Committee and Select Board in understanding the location of pavement failures, and mitigation options and costs. The report was completed in May and will assist with the appropriate allocation of resources and development of a capital roadway plan for Bolton’s paved roads. Total Consultant Budget: \$18,000.
- **Geographic Information Systems:** Bolton specific GIS work by CCRPC included:
  - Updating the proposed zoning change in FY23
  - Beginning work on a recreation map for a new committee in Bolton
  - Pavement inventory
- **Technical Assistance:** CCRPC staff provided a variety of technical assistance to Bolton, including:
  - Updating the 2022 monitoring report on implementation efforts by the Town of Bolton of their 2017 All Hazard Mitigation Plan and sent it to town staff for distribution to their Selectboard.
  - Completing amendments to the Bolton Development Regulations and recording a webinar explaining proposed changes. CCRPC also reviewed zoning bylaw changes proposed by the Bolton PC.
  - Providing an affirmative determination of energy compliance for the Town of Bolton Town Plan to the Public Utility Commission.
  - Meeting with the Town Clerk and Energy Coordinator to review MERP program.
  - Reviewing a Section 248 application for Green Mountain Power’s substation upgrade.
  - Coordinating with a Bolton community member on items related to a potential Bolton Outdoor Recreation Master Plan.
  - Reviewing of municipal bylaw compliance with NFIP to Bolton planning staff.
- **Traffic Counts:** No traffic counts were conducted in Bolton in FY23 Historic traffic counts conducted in support of Bolton's transportation projects and studies can be [found here](#).
- **Elders and Persons with Disabilities (E&D) Transportation Program:** [The Chittenden County E&D Transportation Program](#) supports community members through affordable transportation to medical appointments, access to fresh food at the grocery store, and social visits. In FY23, 41 trips were provided to Bolton residents as part of this program.

#### Bolton Projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The [TIP](#) is a prioritized, multi-year list of transportation projects in Chittenden County. To receive federal funds, each transportation project, program, or operation must be authorized through the TIP. Bolton projects included in the TIP are listed below. These projects are also included in the Vermont Agency of Transportation Capital Program.

- **US2 Resurfacing, Bolton-Richmond:** \$20 million for resurfacing US2 in Bolton and Richmond. Construction will be completed in 2024.

#### Regional Activities

- **ECOS Plan Implementation and Update:** The 2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan (Environment; Community; Opportunity; Sustainability) is the regional plan for Chittenden County and combines the Regional Plan, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy into one. The ECOS Scorecard monitors the accomplishments and progress indicators for all 17 of the ECOS goals. CCRPC began updating the ECOS plan for the next five years in FY 2023 for intended adoption in 2024.
- **Public Engagement and Racial Equity:** The CCRPC continued to build organizational capacity to address systemic racism and inequities in our communities through the following actions:
  - Hiring a full time Equity & Engagement Manager to lead organizational and project-specific equity and racial justice efforts.
  - Facilitating, providing, and/or taking advantage of educational opportunities for our staff, municipalities, and other local and regional partners.
  - Strengthening existing relationships and partnerships and forging new ones with community organizations, grassroots organizers, and individuals working directly with marginalized communities.
  - Supporting and facilitating an Equity Advisory Committee to guide CCRPC's equity work.
  - Drafting an organizational Equity Statement and Equity Action Plan, building off of recommendations from the Creative Discourse Group's Organizational Equity Assessment.
  - Beginning to explore and design a community capacity building grant program using FHWA funds to increase trust, education, and participation from marginalized communities in CCRPC's transportation decision-making.
- **Chittenden County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy:** With federal funding from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA), CCRPC completed a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in concert with the Addison, Rutland and Central VT regions -- collectively called the West Central Vermont CEDS. The CEDS identifies priority economic development strategies and projects and will be used by a variety of federal and state funding programs when making grant decisions. The West Central Vermont CEDS was approved by EDA in June 2023.
- **Housing:** The Building Homes Together campaign is a collaboration between CCRPC, Champlain Housing Trust, and Evernorth that focuses on the production of much-needed housing in Chittenden County through outreach, education, and advocacy efforts. The Building Homes Together 2.0 campaign was launched in fall 2021 with the goal of building 5,000 homes by 2025 for people of all incomes, including at least 1,250 affordable homes. Review the latest housing data, infographics, and press releases here. In 2023, the Legislature passed the HOME Act (S.100/Act 47) changing municipal zoning requirements in an effort to encourage more housing production.
- **Mapping Assistance:** The CCRPC has many mapping applications to assist municipalities with planning. Applications include dashboards, town plan mapping, zoning maps, thematic and analytical mapping of natural, cultural and transportation resources. CCRPC has also built an ArcGIS Urban model that supports land use scenario planning and impact assessment.
- **Regional Energy Planning:** The CCRPC continued initiatives to support the Region's Enhanced Energy Plan, Statewide Comprehensive Energy Plan, and emerging climate goals. With guidance from CCRPC's Long-Range Planning Committee's Energy Sub-committee, the CCRPC drafted the ECOS Plan's enhanced

energy plan sections to be consistent with the 2022 Department of Public Service's Energy Planning Standards. CCRPC shared guidance on how to address climate change in land use regulations with municipal planning offices and planning commissions, and via state-wide presentations with VT Fish & Wildlife. Lastly, with Drive Electric Vermont, the CCRPC engaged municipal planning offices regarding strategies on how to develop electric vehicle charger plans.

- **Regional Energy Implementation:** The CCRPC provided information regarding the federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, the Inflation Reduction Act, and electric vehicle incentives. CCRPC provided technical support to municipalities regarding the state-wide Municipal Energy Resilience Program for municipal buildings.
- **Public Transportation Planning:** The CCRPC remains engaged with Green Mountain Transit (GMT) in a wide variety of public transit planning projects and initiatives to support the continued development of a transportation system that is efficient, equitable and environmentally sustainable. Within the CCRPC's FY23 UPWP, \$442,840 was allocated to GMT for transit planning in Chittenden County.
- **Regional Technical Assistance:** This includes, but is not limited to, municipal technical assistance for various transportation issues, GIS mapping, and bylaw revisions, Act 250/Section 248 application reviews, grant administration and grant application assistance for plans, federal grant assistance, projects and initiatives at the local level.
- **Transportation Demand Management (TDM):** CCRPC and VTrans managed the second year of Park Your CARbon, formerly the Way to Go! Challenge. This outreach and education program encourages sustainable transportation by demonstrating the environmental and financial benefits of non-single occupant vehicle travel. The CCRPC participated in CATMA's inaugural Transportation Summit and their Transportation Coordinator (TC) Network program and events to learn from other TC Network members about employee TDM benefits and programs. TDM partners include: the Chittenden Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA), CarShare VT, the University of Vermont, Green Mountain Transit (GMT), Local Motion, Bird Bikeshare, Go! Vermont/VTrans, NetZero Vermont/Walk to Shop, and United Way.
- **Walk/Bike Planning:** The CCRPC completed the 2022 Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP), which serves as the active transportation element of the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The ATP includes a recommended regional network with prioritized project list, as well as programs and policies to support active transportation throughout the region. CCRPC staff collaborated with TDM partners and local municipalities to relaunch the regional bikeshare program. The CCRPC also promoted TDM strategies and provided bike/ped-related technical assistance to municipalities and businesses, assisted municipalities with bike/ped grant and UPWP applications, managed bike/ped-related UPWP projects, and conducted bike/ped counts on paths, designated bike lanes, and other roadways.
- **Clean Water:** The CCRPC continued to host the Clean Water Advisory Committee and the MS-4 Sub-Committee and provide guidance to the State on disposition of the Vermont Clean Water Fund. CCRPC staff also sit on the Lake Champlain Sea Grant Program Advisory Committee, and managed Design Implementation Block Grant projects on behalf of select towns to design stormwater treatment practices. The CCRPC supported education programs such as the Rethink Runoff on behalf of nine of our municipalities, assisted with watershed resiliency mapping, and participated in water quality-focused policy discussions. CCRPC appoints representatives to three different Basin Water Quality Councils which work with their Clean Water Service Providers (CWSP) to oversee the development and implementation of non-regulatory water quality improvement projects that reduce phosphorus loading into these streams and Lake Champlain. These three Councils are the Basin 5 Water Quality Council (BWQC) for the Northern Lake Champlain Direct Drainages, the Basin 7 Water Quality Council for the Lamoille River watershed and the Basin 8 Water Quality Council for the Winooski watershed. Bolton is in Basin 8. Additionally, CCRPC is the designated CWSP for Basin 5.

- Emergency Management:** CCRPC continued to staff the Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) which consists of two representatives from each municipality and others involved in emergency management in Chittenden County. The purpose of the REMC is to coordinate and support regional all-hazard emergency planning and preparedness activities to improve the region's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all disasters. CCRPC staff participate in a wide array of emergency management-related workshops and exercises to support our role in the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) when called upon. The CCRPC served as the local liaison between municipalities and the state to collect damage assessment information after significant storm events, helped with emergency preparedness for hazardous materials incidents, collected information from each municipality on annual implementation of hazard mitigation activities, and worked with municipalities to complete Local Emergency Management Plans. Finally, CCRPC assisted IEM, a national consulting firm, with completion of the [2022 Chittenden County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan](#) and its municipal annexes except for Colchester which developed its own stand-alone Local Hazards Mitigation Plan.
- Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) Compliance and Water Quality Planning Assistance:** CCRPC staff continued to work with all Chittenden County municipalities on meeting their MRGP obligations. This includes evaluating segments through Road Erosion Inventories (REIs), tracking and documenting upgraded segments and outlets, and reporting to DEC (see [REI dashboard here](#), click on upper right for individual municipalities). Staff also assists municipalities with the State's Grants in Aid (GIA) program, which allocates funding to participating towns for stormwater improvements related to the MRGP. In FY23, 14 Chittenden County municipalities signed up to participate in the GIA program. An estimated 33 non-compliant segments will be upgraded using the allocated \$410,000.
- Health Equity:** A grant from the Vermont Department of Health enabled CCRPC to work with all the RPCs in the state and Vermont Health Department staff to create the [Vermont Health Equity Planning Toolkit](#). CCRPC hosted a training on the healthy equity toolkit for the Planning Advisory Committee, shared health equity project information with the CCRPC's Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) and will work with the EAC as part of toolkit implementation. CCRPC staff also developed an [online Chittenden County Equity Mapping Tool](#) showing a collection of maps on race, disability, poverty status, and English ability.
- Traffic Alert:** CCRPC compiled and sent out 32 traffic alerts about activities impacting traffic in Chittenden County over 8 months (no alerts January-March).
- Chittenden County Park and Ride Plan Update:** This plan identifies opportunities for improvements to the existing facilities and evaluates the potential for new facilities that will benefit commuters and residents throughout Chittenden County and the adjacent communities. The [final plan](#) was completed in October 2022.
- VT Culverts:** [The VT Culverts website](#) can be used to view a town's bridges and culverts on a map, or in a chart based on condition or inventory date. CCRPC staff is one of two RPCs that manage the website. VT Culverts continues to gain traction in our region and throughout the state. At the end of June, 9 of our municipalities have actively used VT Culverts to inventory town-maintained bridges and culverts.
- Chittenden County Communications Union District (CUD):** CCRPC assisted [the CUD](#) as they started up to plan, contract, build, and manage infrastructure for high-speed internet access throughout Chittenden County. Mission Broadband was hired for consulting and project management services in June.
- Northwest VT Transit Oriented Development (TOD):** CCRPC received a grant from the US Department of Transportation in the fall 2022 to develop comprehensive plans for transit-oriented development for up to 12 communities across a five-county region in Northwest Vermont. The grant funding will also support planning work to improve bus services and/or commuter rail to connect economically disadvantaged rural residents to employment opportunities and services. Work will begin in late 2023.



- **Chittenden County I-89 2050 Study:** The CCRPC, in collaboration with VTrans, municipalities, and other interested parties, completed the I-89 2050 Study in late 2022. The study developed an implementation plan that will guide short, medium, and long-term transportation improvements to the corridor over the next 30 years.
- **Chittenden County Brownfields Program:** In May 2023, CCRPC secured a competitive EPA grant of \$500,000 for Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Planning over the next four years to aid property owners, potential developers and municipalities in investigating environmental issues before potential property redevelopment. The CCRPC has also received \$50,000 from ACCD in May 2023 for site assessment and cleanup planning with the potential to receive additional funds if more sites are identified needing such assistance.

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For further information about the CCRPC, please visit <http://www.ccrpcvt.org/> or contact CCRPC Executive Director, Charlie Baker: [cbaker@ccrpcvt.org](mailto:cbaker@ccrpcvt.org).





ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
 1021 Redmond Road  
 Williston, VT 05495  
 EMAIL [info@cswd.net](mailto:info@cswd.net)  
 TEL (802) 872-8100  
[www.cswd.net](http://www.cswd.net)

## Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) Fiscal Year 2023 Summary

The Chittenden Solid Waste District is a municipality created to implement solid waste management mandates legislated by the State of Vermont. The District is governed by a Board of Commissioners representing the communities of Chittenden County, Vermont.

### OUR MISSION

The Chittenden Solid Waste District's mission is to reduce and manage the solid waste generated within Chittenden County in an environmentally sound, efficient, effective, and economical manner.

### FINANCIALS

Thanks to continued conservative budgeting and belt-tightening, the Chittenden Solid Waste District remained on strong financial footing in Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023). The District's unaudited FY23 total operating expenses were \$11,977,611.33 and operating revenues were \$13,697,757.70 for a net surplus of \$1,720,146.37 to be used for general reserves.

### SOLID WASTE GENERATION AND DIVERSION

The residents, businesses, and institutions of our 18 member towns and cities generated an estimated 309,781 tons of materials to be managed in calendar year 2022, compared with 305,404 tons in 2021, with the increase likely due to increased construction and overall economic activity. Chittenden County continues to be among the national leaders in landfill diversion, with an estimated 67.8% of those materials recovered in 2022 via composting (food scraps, leaves, and yard trimmings), anaerobic digestion, blue-bin recycling, recycling of construction and demolition materials and other special materials recycling. The [2022 Diversion Report](#) is available on our website.

### MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

#### New Materials Recycling Facility Bond Approved by Voters

In the November 2022 General Election, Chittenden County voters approved authorization for the Chittenden Solid Waste District to issue general obligation bonds to fund a new Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) to sort and process blue-bin recyclables, and which will replace our current thirty-year-old MRF. The results showed over 80% voted in favor of the MRF ballot initiative.

CSWD will supplement the \$22 million in approved general obligation bonds and notes with funds from reserves and grants. The loans will be repaid from MRF operating revenue. The District will begin permitting and design in 2023 with construction completed in 2025.

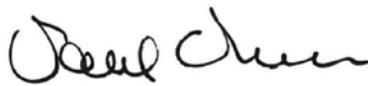
### **Improvements Made at Organics Recycling Facility**

Significant improvements were made at the CSWD Organics Recycling Facility (ORF) including site reconfiguration to improve operations and traffic flow, relocation of the commercial scale, renovation of an existing building to house the main office and the installation of a waterline to bring water further down Redmond Road. The improvements were made to increase efficiency in operations, improve traffic safety entering and exiting the facility, and to add yard waste collection for the public.

### **CSWD Administration Moves to South Burlington Offices**

COVID-19 demonstrated the necessity of healthy and safe working facilities and the shortcomings of CSWD's Administration offices at 1021 Redmond Road in Williston. Initially, CSWD planned to build its own administration building on its Williston property. After receiving several high estimates for the build, CSWD leadership decided that leasing office would be a more fiscally responsible choice. In April, CSWD staff moved into a property owned by the City of South Burlington and shared with the South Burlington Police Department at 19 Gregory Drive.

The complete CSWD Annual Report will be available in February 2024 at [CSWD.net](https://www.cswd.net).



**Paul Ruess**

*Chair, Board of Commissioners*



**Sarah Reeves**

*Executive Director*



## CUSI

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### *Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations*

50 Cherry Street, Suite 102  
Burlington, VT 05401  
Phone: (802) 652-6800  
Fax: (802) 652-4167

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Town of Bolton  
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway  
Bolton, VT 05676

Attn: Amy Grover and the Bolton Select Board

**FY 25 Cash Payment Due: \$1,071.00**

The above amount was calculated based on the participating agency paying 100% of its share of the operating cost for CUSI, based on the agency's percentage of population.

We appreciate all your continued support.

**Payments should be made payable to CUSI and mailed to:**

**Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations  
50 Cherry Street Suite 102  
Burlington, VT 05401**

**Attn: Tara Gonthier**

*Thank you very much!*

## TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

### Our Mission

*Our mission is to protect and support all children, families, and adults by strengthening our community's response to abuse through investigation, prosecution and intervention while fostering professional collaboration to promote education and advocacy regarding the prevention of abuse.*

### Who We Are

*The Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations (CUSI)* is a multi-agency task force dedicated to providing criminal response to reports of sexual assaults, serious child abuse and child fatalities. For 30 years, the primary focus has been to protect and support all children, adults, and families. CUSI defined what is now known as a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach to investigating crimes of this nature. The multidisciplinary team is the heart of CUSI and is composed of six police detectives, a unit director, a victim advocate, an in-house investigator with the Department for Children and Families (DCF), and a dedicated prosecutor from the Chittenden County State's Attorney's Office. We work jointly with mental health and medical providers, as well as with the Department of Corrections.

In addition, CUSI is co-located and partners with the *Chittenden Children's Advocacy Center (CCAC)*. CCAC collaborates with CUSI to emphasize the coordination of investigations and intervention. The CCAC is funded separately by local, state and federal grants.

*The CCAC provides many benefits including:*

- Prompt follow up to reports of abuse
- Consistent and compassionate support to the child and family
- A family friendly environment designed to create a sense of safety and security for children and adults
- Referrals to professionals with expertise in specialized disciplines
- Fewer victim interviews
- Increased successful prosecutions
- Victim Advocacy support on site

*The Chittenden Children's Advocacy Center continues as an accredited member of the National Children's Alliance with the latest re-accreditation occurring in May 2024.*

## Current Staffing

Det. Lt. Richard Weinisch, CUSI Director, Burlington Police Department  
Tara Gonthier, Executive Director of the Chittenden Children's Advocacy Center  
Det. David Hurwitch, Vermont State Police  
Det. Eric Dalla Mura, Burlington Police Department  
Det. Daniel Boyer, South Burlington Police Department  
Det. Nicole Peatman, Essex Police Department  
Det. Tom Chenette, Burlington Police Department  
Det. Elizabeth Fell, Colchester Police Department  
Elizabeth Dziobek, Victim's Advocate, Chittenden County State's Attorney's Office  
Meghan Swan, Family Services Worker, Vermont Department for Children & Families

## What We Do

The fundamental goal of CUSI is to conduct the highest quality criminal investigations for these types of crimes while meeting the emotional needs of victims and families. CUSI and CCAC investigate crimes in Chittenden County which consists of a population of approximately 171,857 residents. On average, CUSI investigates over 160 cases a year. 70% of those cases involve child victims. In recent years we have noticed an increase in the complexity of cases given the substantial increase in computer usage, social media, mobile devices and drugs.

We currently have two detectives that coordinate the Chittenden County Sex Offender Registry Compliance Check. Per the Vermont Sex Offender Registry, <https://vcic.vermont.gov/sor> searching by County, there are approximately 257 sex offenders in Chittenden County. CUSI maintains information pertinent to sex offender compliancy checks in Chittenden County and works with VCIC sex offender registry, US Marshalls, Probation and Parole and all law enforcement agencies in Chittenden County.

## CUSI Case Incidents & Sex Offenders by Location

July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

Town of Incident	CUSI Case Count	Sex Offenders
Bolton	0	0
Burlington	42	77
Charlotte	2	3
Colchester	18	22
Essex	17	49
Hinesburg	5	2
Huntington	0	2
Jericho	3	5
Milton	19	25
Richmond	3	5
Shelburne	5	10
South Burlington	15	18
St. George	1	0
Underhill	1	5
University of Vermont	1	0
Westford	1	2
Williston	9	9
Winooski	5	23
Out of County Assist	19	-
Out of State Assist	1	-
Unknown	12	
Community Service/SANE Kits	25	-
Total	204	257

## OUR COLLABORATORS

*The Chittenden Children's Advocacy Center*, collaborating with CUSI, is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit entity offering a range of services to children and families affected by these crimes. The primary goal of *The Chittenden Children's Advocacy Center* is to ensure that children are not further traumatized by the intervention system intended to protect them. This program has many benefits, with an approach that allows for faster follow-up to child abuse reports, more efficient medical and mental health referrals, fewer child interviews, more successful prosecutions, and consistent support for child victims and their families. It is our goal to support them and meet their emotional needs.

*CUSI* works closely with the statewide *Internet Crimes against Children Task Force (ICAC)*. ICAC expertise is frequently used during cases of computer-facilitated exploitation or when computer-generated evidence may strengthen a CUSI case. CUSI detectives work with the ICAC team and have received extensive training in computer forensics and online undercover operations.

CUSI may also work with *HOPEWorks*, and the *Forensic Nursing Program* at the University of Vermont Medical Center, including the *Childsafe Clinic*. We continue to work with other collaborative partners throughout the county and our state as well.

## FUNDING

The *Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations* maintains a specialized approach of improved protection and services for victims in our community. This Unit promotes cooperative efforts between the various agencies that are involved in the prevention, investigation, advocacy, medical, therapeutic treatment, and prosecution of cases to better protect and serve victims and their families. Part of that cooperative effort includes contributions from towns in Chittenden County to help sustain this specialized unit. The contributions help pay for space for this specialized unit to all be under the same roof, training, specialized forensic testing and help run our day-to-day operations. CUSI is unique as it is the only Special Investigations Unit in Vermont that is all under the same roof. We are very fortunate. Being able to do this helps cut down on retraumatizing the victim and their families.

The current funding formula is based on population and excludes those communities that contribute one or more full-time detectives to the CUSI operation. Town contributions are determined by the budget required to fund the CUSI organization for the year allocated proportionally to communities not contributing in kind services based on total population. CUSI is able to remain a successful unit due to the continued support of town contributions and without it we would not be able sustain this specialized unit which would be a huge detriment to the community.

## CUSI Director's Year In Review

2023 was a big transition year for CUSI and the CCAC that sparked a lot of positive change for the organization. We onboarded two new detectives for CUSI that replaced the two most senior detectives in the unit that had a combined 10 years of experience at CUSI. This change has given the opportunity for new CUSI detectives to expand their professional careers with this important role and they get to attend some of the best specialized trainings available that would not otherwise be possible without the funding that is available to our organization.

The CCAC Executive Director role underwent a transition from a long tenured person to the appointment of the current ED, Tara Gonthier. Tara proactively stepped up in an interim role during a tough period of vacancy and has done a great job in working to rebuild the CCAC back to the high level of service that everyone has come to expect from this organization.

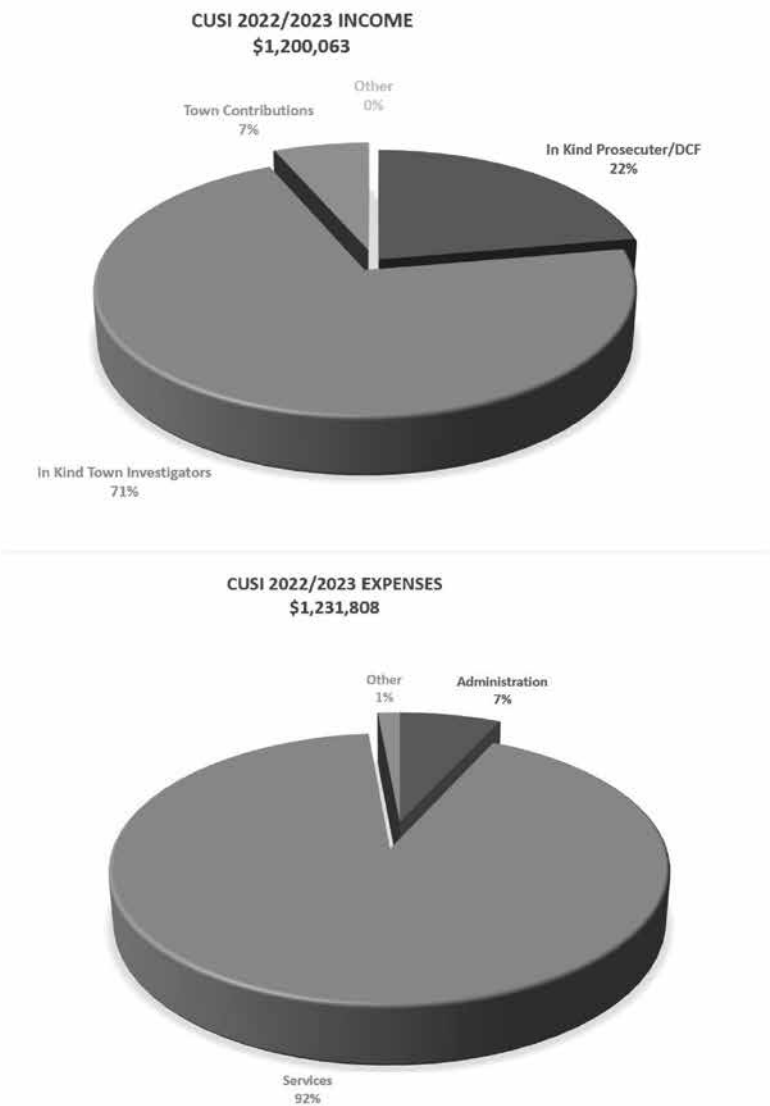
VA Dziobek proactively created a partnership with Eden Valley, a local mental health organization that specialize in youth trauma. This partnership provides Eden Valley with a location to host youth group sessions and provide CUSI with an ongoing relationship with a very coveted resource in the space of youth therapy. This allows for the prioritization of some of our most vulnerable child victims to obtain services that otherwise may have a wait list of a year or longer.

The team at CUSI has been working to update and upgrade our workspace to ensure that we maintain a comforting space for victims, professional partners, and everyone that uses our workspace. This includes amongst other things, new furniture, repainting of rooms, updated children's play space, etc.

Finally, CUSI underwent a technological advancement by transitioning to an IT company that specializes in Criminal Justice Information Security (CJIS). This ensures that our organization is CJIS compliant and is well protected from potential cyber-attacks and other information system threats. Equipment upgrades include the transition to a modern IP phone system, updated Wi-Fi services, and much needed server maintenance and upgrades.

We celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this past year. We are proud and committed to our work and to the communities we serve. We thank you for your continued support.

CUSI Annual Financial Report





## COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER

### ***2023 Annual Report to our Towns***

#### **Message to All Our Seniors: You're Why We're Here!**

##### **2023 Summary**

In 2023, more seniors than ever took advantage of the dozens of weekly programs and activities we offer. As many newcomers discovered, it's easy to participate just by showing up! No experience is necessary, there's no membership fee, and it's available to all our seniors free or with optional fees. Also, there is no physical "center." Everything we do takes place in spaces made available in our town facilities, libraries, schools and churches.

We've also begun to focus on community support activities that help seniors with different needs. The foot clinic we coordinate with the great support of Richmond Family Medicine and volunteer registered nurses is one example, and we're exploring others for 2024.

Simply stated, the Community Senior Center is woven into our towns' fabric, and provides extensive and diverse recreational, wellness and learning opportunities for seniors in our towns. And we're here for all of you!

##### **Here's why participation continues to grow.**

Over 500 area seniors participated in our activities and programs in 2023. We ask about their diverse interests and abilities, then identify others with those interests, find a volunteer who's enthusiastic about leading each new activity, and provide what's necessary to make it work.

The key is to offer what seniors want. And that opens our door to a growing number of seniors with interests that vary from needle arts to indoor ice skating.

### **Turning ideas into activities and programs.**

These are some of entries on our weekly newsletter activities and programs calendar that expands as seniors introduce new ideas:

- Script reading, with members taking on roles in the cast.
- Needle arts, where participants learn and share ideas.
- Pickleball outdoors when weather permits, and indoors when it doesn't.
- Socializing over coffee and conversation somewhere in each town.
- Planting, tending and harvesting at our Friendship Garden.
- Indoor ice skating, bowling, and softball like you've never experienced.
- On-line presentations by noted authors and historians.
- Popular card and table games.
- French and Spanish conversation.
- An on-line group that shares interesting life stories.
- A memoir writing class, and sessions to sharpen skills in writing anything seniors choose.
- Hiking, kayaking, and casual walks at locations throughout the county.
- Wellness activities including Bone Builders and on-line weight-loss support.
- For the musically inclined, group sing-a-longs and learning to play the ukulele.

### **Who does all this?**

Over 50 volunteers lead and coordinate activities and programs! They arrange schedules, facilities and equipment, coordinate transportation and communicate with participants. Some newcomers also volunteer to lead activities they recommend. Each

leader ensures that first-timers get enough instruction to “learn the ropes.”

### **What else does it take to make it all happen?**

Our weekly newsletter now goes to almost 900 email addresses. It describes current activities and programs and community events, and is loaded with articles and photos from senior contributors. The CSC website also tells people all about us. It includes our weekly newsletters, videos of past programs, and our community service initiatives.

Our cadre of volunteers also includes professionals who donate their time and expertise in such areas as accounting, communications and financial planning.

### **How do we fund it all?**

We’re proud of the many people whose donations let us realize the budget required to fund our activities and programs, and most importantly, to help provide a healthier, more enriching lifestyle for so many seniors. It also allows us to keep fees optional for activities such as bowling that have an associated cost.

We do it all without tapping into town tax revenues. We also appreciate the significant support our towns and local churches give us by providing the spaces we need. It’s a much better approach than having to support the cost of our own “bricks and mortar.”

### **What’s new for 2024?**

Three new members will add their skills to the CSC Board of Directors. We welcome the experience and energy that Debra

Herbst and Jess Handrik of Bolton and Darryl Smith of Richmond bring to help build on what we do.

Another new initiative involves CSC volunteers who will bring activities to seniors in their homes. Similarly, we'll continue our on-line programming started during the COVID isolation era that gives seniors at-home access to certain activities and to presentations by noteworthy speakers.

Looking ahead, we'll explore more ways we can serve seniors including those who can't attend activities in person. Once again, our volunteers, donors, towns and local organizations continue to make it all possible. Thank you!



*A winter walk to Honey Hollow.*

THE  
University of Vermont  
HEALTH NETWORK

Home Health & Hospice

Home Health Services for  
Adults and Children

Long-Term Care

Adult Day Program

Palliative Care

Hospice Care

McClure Miller Respite House

Ms. Amy Grover  
Town Clerk & Treasurer  
Town of Bolton

Dear Amy,

The UVM Health Network - Home Health & Hospice, with the support of Bolton, provides high-quality compassionate care to Vermonters, regardless of their ability to pay. Together we make a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Last year, Home Health & Hospice cared for ~4,000 individuals and families and provided millions in charitable care to people throughout Chittenden & Grand Isle Counties, including end-of-life care at the McClure Miller Respite House. Annual contributions from the 22 cities and towns we serve are vital to ensure we can continue to meet the needs in your community.

Attached you will find a report on Home Health & Hospice services provided in Bolton during our most recent reporting period (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) and our request for funding in FY2025.

By partnering with the UVM Health Network, we benefit from various cost efficiencies. However, **philanthropy remains essential to meeting the needs of our patients.** I welcome an opportunity to meet with your Selectboard or committee members to discuss our request and to answer any questions.

Our talented and compassionate front line caregivers work to provide the highest level of care where patients want to be – at home. Empowering people to receive care where they are most comfortable leads to better patient outcomes and lower costs for all. **Thank you for your continued partnership.**

Sincerely,



Maya Fehrs  
Director of Development

## UVM Health Network - Home Health & Hospice Request for Funding Town of Bolton

For FY2025, Home Health & Hospice (HHH) is requesting a contribution of \$1,000.

In our past fiscal year (July 2022—June 2023) HHH provided the following care to your neighbors in TOWN:

**# of neighbors served = 6**

HHH Service Provided	Visits to Your Neighbors
Nursing	57
Physical Therapy	21
Speech Therapy	5
Occupational Therapy	2
Social Work	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>
HHH	Hours
Personal Care Attendant	0

Cost of Care Provided to Your Neighbors	Amount
Total cost of HHH Care	\$25,944
Amount reimbursed to HHH*	\$17,913
<b>Unreimbursed Care</b>	<b>\$8,031</b>

\*reimbursed through Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, contracts and patient fees

Last year, HHH cared for ~4,000 people of all ages, regardless of their ability to pay. Your contribution helps ensure your neighbors can access innovative, high-value, compassionate care wherever they call home to keep them healthy, independent and active members of your community.

HHH requests annual contributions from each town and city in our service area. Your contribution is critical to supporting the **millions of dollars** in unreimbursed care we provided this year in Chittenden & Grand Isle Counties.

THE  
**University of Vermont**  
HEALTH NETWORK

**Home Health & Hospice**



# 2023 Annual Report for Bolton

## OUR PROGRAMS

Adult Home Health  
Hospice & Palliative Care  
McClure Miller Respite House  
Family & Children's Program  
Long-Term Care  
Adult Day Program  
Foot Care  
Wound Care

## CARING FOR RESIDENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

6

Number of  
Bolton residents  
the UVM Health Network—  
Home Health & Hospice  
cared for in the last year.



THE  
**University of Vermont**  
HEALTH NETWORK  
**Home Health & Hospice**



## Care at Home. For All Ages and Stages of Life.

Vermont's oldest and largest non-profit home health and hospice agency and the only Medicare-certified inpatient hospice residence. The University of Vermont Health Network— Home Health & Hospice is part of a health system. This ensures that care at home is integrated for individuals and families in Chittenden and Grand Isle counties.

## Experience Matters.

Our patient and family experience of care ratings surpass Vermont and National averages.

The way our patients experience care is important to us. [Medicare's Care Compare website](#) publicly displays our ratings, demonstrating that our patients and their caregivers rate us highly for home health and hospice care and would recommend our agency to their friends and family.

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## Town Meeting Report

### Rep. Theresa Wood & Rep. Tom Stevens

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#### *Highlights of the 2023 Session –*

The 2023 Session was one of big change in the personnel in the Legislature — 50 new representatives (of 150) and 10 new senators (of 30). The House of Representatives also had 9 new chairs of committees. This amount of change, according to long time members, is unprecedented since the change in representation in the 1960's. Going into the session, there were fears that we would not get much done due to the inexperience of the new representatives, but quite the opposite happened.

High on the list was the work done in Rep. Wood's Human Services Committee, where they worked to expand our child care system. Housing initiatives continued to take place in Rep. Stevens's General and Housing Committee. And the General Assembly moved to continue the Universal School Meals Program, making lunches available to all students; advocated and implemented extensions of the pandemic-era hotel programs in order to continue housing our homeless population; and continued investing in building new housing and rehabilitating old ones that may have been out of code. The General Assembly also voted to reform the bottle deposit system, approve the initial investments from the Opioid Settlement Fund, oversaw continued funding for the broadband build out and passed, the Affordable Heat Act, which establishes a planning process to assure that every Vermont family, not just the wealthiest, can afford to make the switch to cheaper, cleaner heat.

Here's a review of two of the most meaningful areas of legislation, housing and child care:

### **Housing**

First and foremost, the General Assembly passed over \$200 Million in funding for housing-related issues. Many of those dollars were allocated for continued construction of affordable housing, purchases of mobile homes intended to house formerly unhoused families, and investments in the creation of housing for middle-class Vermonters and first time homebuyers.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, when we received hundreds of millions of dollars from the federal government for housing, different organizations and developers have created or rehabilitated nearly 3,000 new living units, and are on track to have nearly 800 more by the end of 2025. This progress is important, and has successfully shown how much development can be done with the right investment. It is not cheap, and there will always be discussions about sustaining this pace.

We also know that we will not build ourselves out of this situation. Legislation this year will focus on continued investment and regulatory change, along with funding programs that will



help prevent evictions. Keeping tenants in their apartments by making sure property owners receive rent due is a proven way of reducing homelessness. This program succeeded in the months following the onset of the pandemic. By reinstituting this program, we hope to keep 1,000 households in stable housing situations long term, lessening our reliance on expensive hotel programs.

## Child Care

Vermont leads the nation in understanding the importance and investments needed to provide quality, affordable early care and learning opportunities for its youngest citizens. There are multiple benefits of these investments for children, their families, the workplace and businesses, and the Vermont economy. During the 2023 legislative session, landmark child care legislation was passed which will invest an additional \$125 million into the early care and learning system. Key elements of the legislation include the following:

- Increasing access for financial assistance to low, moderate and middle income families.
- Increasing the amount paid through the state's Child Care Financial Assistance Program to regulated providers
- Increasing the wages of early care and learning professionals
- Providing investments to ready providers for new families who will access services
- Expanding access through growth of existing providers and encouraging new providers, with an intensified focus on infants and toddlers
- Investigating the necessary steps to achieve full time Pre-K for all 4 year olds through a "mixed" delivery system; this means access either through public schools or through contract with public schools by private providers

While these investments are being rolled out in 2024 and 2025, the Department for Children and Families has an informational website that documents the progress towards implementing this landmark legislation. It can be found here: [Act-76-Status-Report.pdf \(vermont.gov\)](#).

When making an investment of this magnitude, it is critical to evaluate the results that are expected to be achieved. To that end, the bill also includes an evaluation component to be conducted by Building Bright Futures ([www.buildingbrightfutures.org](http://www.buildingbrightfutures.org)).

We continue to be honored to serve our communities and constituents and remain available for questions, comments and conversation about this report or any other issues or topics of interest to you. A wealth of information can also be found on our legislative webpage: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Theresa Wood, Chair  
Human Services Committee

Rep. Tom Stevens, Chair  
General and Housing Committee



**Our Community Cares Camp, Inc.**  
PO Box 503  
Richmond, VT 05477  
Email: [occcvermont@gmail.com](mailto:occcvermont@gmail.com)  
802-434-6006



Jana Brown ~ Connie van Eeghen ~ Jessica Johnson ~ Gretchen Muller  
Marikje Shelmandine ~ Kyle Silliman-Smith

November 6, 2023

Town of Bolton Selectboard  
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway  
Bolton, VT 05676

ATTN: Amy Grover, Town Clerk & Treasurer

Dear Bolton Selectboard,

Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC) continues our service to the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District through our primary mission of helping address food insecurity and creating an environment where every child can find success. We do this through our core values of providing fresh food that is lovingly and well prepared, where everyone has a place to discover new talents and learn leadership skills with enrichment activities. We foster a community of inclusiveness, diversity, and service, which is imperative to healthy, positive youth development. Children receive positive support from caring adults that help inspire children to envision their future and see themselves as a contributing member of our community. According to the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 84% of the Mount Mansfield Unified Union school district youth report having at least one adult or teacher they can talk to if they need help. The culture and relationships built during camp go beyond just the summer; the impact can last a lifetime!

OCCC serves as a vital resource to the Bolton Community by providing a free enrichment day camp and summer meals to Bolton children. It is our responsibility as members of the greater community to provide two free meals a day and positive experiences during the summer. This year, Bolton represented 27.9% of the campers. In all, 35 children, youth, and adults from Bolton benefited from OCCC. Therefore, we are requesting \$1,000.00 from the Town of Bolton to support this necessary community program that has clear benefits for participants and their families. As laid out in the Bolton Town Plan of 2017, Bolton's vision is to foster community connections and vibrant neighborhoods. Our Mission is to create a caring, nourishing community where every child can find success. OCCC supports your vision.

Our camp also addresses the opportunity gap, which prevents children from economically stressed families from accessing the extra enrichment activities like music, art, and sports that help build connections with peers and create a meaningful life. Multiple stressors like sickness, low income, family transitions, substance misuse, transportation, and homelessness can contribute to the opportunity gap. According to recent data from Hunger Free Vermont, roughly 2 in 5 people live in food-insecure households. It is challenging to raise children in our rapidly changing world, and this free camp allows everyone to have access to a summer food program and enrichment activities.

**Our Community Cares Camp, Inc. is a registered 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation.**

[www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org](http://www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/OCCCVT>

*Building a caring community - where every child can find success.*



### Our Community Cares Camp, Inc.

PO Box 503  
 Richmond, VT 05477  
 Email: [occcvermont@gmail.com](mailto:occcvermont@gmail.com)  
 802-434-6006



Jana Brown ~ Connie van Eeghen ~ Jessica Johnson ~ Gretchen Muller  
 Marikje Shelmandine ~ Kyle Silliman-Smith

Every year, our camp works tirelessly to bring our message to the community and beyond. We work hard to keep our budget low through fundraising, grants from private foundations, support from local businesses, community support, and in-kind donations. Our goal is to make camp accessible to as many children as possible. The financial support our camp receives determines how many children we can help. With COVID-19 in our environment, we are seeing an exacerbation of more and more children with trauma, social and emotional concerns, and mental health issues. Our Camp helps families fill that gap and relieve some family stressors.

The cost for a camper to attend our camp during the summer of 2023 was \$1,101.68. It costs the camp a total of \$116,097.02 for 86 campers. The cost for the 29 Bolton campers and CITs was \$28,643.68. This cost will increase for this year as the State of Vermont increased its minimum wage, and there were increases in most goods due to inflation and supply chain demands. We also incurred some unexpected food delivery charges for the first time this year.

We served 2,018 meals. With the new Vermont Universal meal change this year, all meals *during the school year* are entirely reimbursed. This is **different** for the summer. **Only** free/reduced children were reimbursed by the USDA significantly less at \$1432.93 as opposed to last year's reimbursement of \$10,025.90. We are committed to providing freshly prepared meals with food purchased from local farms and businesses. Locally sourced food enabled children to meet nutrition requirements for growth and development.

Over the past 14 years, we provided programming where children were engaged, active, and happy with the variety of activities. However, we would only have the success we do with the support from so many community entities, funders, and volunteers. Camp, in general, is such a positive place because of the love and energy everyone puts in day in and day out. The memories created will undoubtedly last them a lifetime, and we are already looking forward to summer 2024!

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Parent  
 Executive Director

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FY24 Budget

FY 24 Budget

FY24 Budget			
INCOME		EXPENCES	
Grants	55,000		
Income	100,000		
Restricted Income	1,000		
In-Kind	4,600	Advertising	100
	160,600	Bank Fees	300
		In-kind	4,600
		Meetings	100
		Other Costs	1000
		Postage, Mailing	1000
		Print/copy	100
		Accounting Fees	1500
		Outside contracted services: Staff from Peace and Justice Ctr to provide workshop/PD to staff for diversity and equity.	2000
		Telephone	20
		Books, subscriptions	150
		Fundraising expense	250
		Accident Ins	230
		Directors/Officers Ins	1950
		General Liability Ins	1400
		Workers Comp Ins	2100
		Food	9000
		Payroll Processing Fee	2000
		Payroll Tax	10000
		Salaries	118000
		Supplies	3300
		Transportation & Mileage	1500
			160,600.00
			\$160,600

10/19/2023



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2023 Our Community Cares Camp was another fun summer! We completed our 14th summer offering a free camp! Each summer seems to pose its own uniqueness. This year, we had the flood disasters, which people are still reeling from today. The camp and MMUUSD were closed for a week. Each year, we seem to come back stronger despite any adversity that comes our way. We operated the camp as we have traditionally done. Children were engaged, active, and happy with the variety of activities we had this year, from field trips to STEM.

OCCC assisted our loving community this summer after the flood event by organizing and operating a pop-up meal site at Richmond Congregational Church. This event was free to anyone who could get to the meal site. We mobilized many people throughout our community. The event was posted as a Facebook event and was posted and reposted on Front Porch Forum in many towns. We heard from people as far away as New York and Maine, all wanting to assist. Drop-off meal collecting centers were at Palmer's Maple in Jericho and Trinity Baptist Church in Williston. We received a great start from Feeding Chittenden, who was ready and eager to jump in and help. They donated 100 premade meals, two boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables, and a box of various-size diapers. People brought large batches of food for us to heat and serve walk-ins. We also asked for water, containers for meals-to-go, and non-perishables for the households who didn't have power. When people came to eat, we sent them meals to go, and then they could "shop" the tables of non-perishable foods. OCCC brought meals to Richmond Rescue, the Town Garage, the Fire Station, and the Fire Station in Bolton. Richmond was under a boil water notice. We brought large batches of food, individual meals, and non-perishables to Richmond Terrace and the Sterling House for three days.

Dozens of food boxes were delivered to families throughout Richmond and Bolton. Many food boxes were prepared for working groups around the area, such as on Esplanade St., Johnny Brook Rd, and in Jonesville. We contacted Chittenden County Hunger Counsel, and OCCC brought three carloads of food to a distribution center in the Barre/Montpelier area once the roads were opened. OCCC also delivered five carloads of non-perishable items to the Cambridge/Johnson area as their food shelf was wiped out. One carload was dispersed by walking door to door (tent to tent) to people who had no power or water. OCCC received such generous amounts of non-perishable items that we brought boxes to our local Richmond food shelf and the Hardwick Food Pantry.

We aim to continue our mission of giving back and helping provide for our community. Many OCCC members, from the chefs, campers, directors, and staff who, helped in many ways. They delivered, prepared, heated, served, organized, and lovingly sat with people who came to eat. Food is our Love Language.

Before the flood event, we knew the demand for our camp was high. Within ten days of opening the summer registration, we had 66 registrants and needed to pause the registration and start a waitlist. We knew that additional registrations would come in from guidance counselors, principals, and clinicians.

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We ultimately took everyone on the waitlist, and they registered and attended camp. One late request came in after camp had started, and we could not accommodate them as that group already had 25+ campers.

We continue our service to the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District through our primary mission of helping address food insecurity and creating an environment where every child finds success. We do this through our core values of providing fresh food that is lovingly and well-prepared. We foster a community of inclusiveness, diversity, and service. Children and youth have a place to discover new talents and learn leadership skills. During camp, children receive positive support from caring adults and help inspire them to envision their future and see themselves as contributing members of our community.

Our Community Cares Camp and many partner organizations are committed to helping end food insecurity in our area. Our camp also addresses the opportunity gap that arises when children from economically stressed families cannot afford the extra enrichment activities like music, art, and sports that help build connections with peers and create a meaningful life. It is challenging to raise children in our rapidly changing world. There can be multiple stressors like sickness, low income, family transitions, etc.

This summer, we provided three pieced-together weeks of food and fun at our summer camp with a caring and safe environment. The MMUUSD Transportation Department helps lift barriers and provides support for our program. Our camp works tirelessly every year to bring our message to the community and beyond. Based on the support our camp receives, we can help that many children. Our goal is to take as many families and children as possible. Even with the COVID-19 pandemic over, we are still seeing an exacerbation of more and more children with trauma, social and emotional concerns, and mental health issues. In addition, families continue to face challenges with childcare care hardships, child protection concerns, substance abuse, family violence, and incarceration. Our camp helps families fill that gap and relieve some family stressors!

Our financial numbers are not quite in for this year. Our Fiscal year ended on September 30th. We are still waiting for invoices and payments to arrive. There were increases in our expenses. The State of Vermont increased its minimum wage, and there were increases in most goods due to inflation and, supply chain demands, and new fuel charges. The camp also received funding from new grantors.

This year, we had 86 registered campers. Some of our later registered campers were by school request, homelessness, and doubled-up households due to the floods. Of that, 29% were new campers, and 71% were returning. An important piece to note is that roughly 47% of our campers have a support plan in school. Most of our campers are mainstream students. We are excited to have campers who attend alternative class environments find success at OCCC.

We served 2018 meals in three weeks to OCCC campers, Part 2, RES COVID Recovery Program, and staff. The USDA meal counting process changed from only free and reduced children's meals being reimbursable to all meals being reimbursed during the school year. This is **NOT** the case for the summer. **ONLY** children who are free/reduced are considered reimbursable meals. For us this year, that is 346 meals, which is only 17% of our total meals. We will be reimbursed about \$1,400 instead of years past at \$8,000 - \$10,000. This was a significant difference for us. Our school district is not considered free and reduced by criteria set by the State of Vermont. As a result of meals being provided at no cost to children

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over the last couple of years, very few families had an incentive to complete the free and reduced meal forms. OCCC has a plan for this to be included as part of the camper registration process.

We packed so much fun, exploring, friendships, music, and more into every minute of camp! Our camp only had two field trips due to the stormy summer. We had our traditional visit from CLiF (Children's Literacy Foundation). CLiF had a guest speaker who is also a local author, Jon Churchman. We received an autographed book of *The SheepOver*. All of our campers, Part 2, children attending the Extended School Year, and the COVID Recovery program chose two new free books to take home.

Campers enjoyed our Art Program again this year. Campers created weaving projects, explored many items from nature to make paintings, and really loved Perler bead creations. Friendship bracelets were a big hit this year. Many "monsters" and habitats were made out of the plethora of materials in the maker space.

We were outside every chance and played games like kickball, wallball, gaga ball, badminton, basketball, soccer, and chalk art. In addition, we had several "water days" with different water activities, water balloons, sponge painting, etc. Buddy Dubay taught children to explore music, instruments, and singing.

Our Cooking Program, led for the third year by Kira Mincar, a UVM Graduate with a bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Food Science, was again back to its total capacity! Cooking continues to be a favorite among all ages of campers. There were many healthy "pizza face" creations, smoothies, ice cream, ice pops, muffins and more! We had our ever-popular Chopped Competition for the LAC group. The panel judged them on Best Breakfast, Best Non-Cook Foods, Best Dessert, and Best Presentation. There were several days of planning before the big event. It was a fun time had by all!

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) had its second summer. The campers loved making volcanoes and seeing what happens when certain compounds are mixed together! Campers made journals, older campers built balloon-powered cars, played with oobleck, and explored how vinegar reacts with different household items! They built fabulous creations with marshmallows and toothpicks, styrofoam, and Q-tips.

The kitchen has two strong women veteran chefs, Stephanie Lafreniere, the Head Chef from Bolton, and Angela Boisvert of Jericho. In addition, we are fortunate to have Jack Rock this year to lend his expertise to the kitchen. They worked as a team, bringing our Offer vs. Serve food program through supply chain issues and thoughtfully preparing fun and healthy meals for our campers and staff. We had fresh smoothies, house-made muffins, chicken caesar, pizza, fresh fruit/veggies, homemade chicken soup, and a salad bar. It's great to see all the campers choosing healthy options. It was so heartwarming to see campers sitting together. They sat with friends, made new friends, and enjoyed freshly prepared meals!

Our staff of counselors, counselors in training, and directors are an essential part of the camp! We had an outstanding group this summer. Many are students from MMU, Essex High School, and CHMS. Some were new, and others were returning counselors and CITs. In addition, OCCC had several college students working with us this summer. The culinary team, as well as our hands-on staff, complete full days of orientation and training. We are fortunate to have Howard Center Clinicians and First Call continue providing some of our training. This year, we feel fortunate to have the expertise of the Peace

**Our Community Cares Camp, Inc. is a registered 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation.**

[www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org](http://www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/OCCCVT>

*Building a caring community - where every child can find success*



**Our Community Cares Camp, Inc.**  
PO Box 503  
Richmond, VT 05477  
Email: [occcvermont@gmail.com](mailto:occcvermont@gmail.com)  
802-434-6006



and Justice Center provide us with information and insight as a part of staff training. We are so excited to have dedicated and talented teens and staff!

Our last day of camp culminated with a talent show by the campers, field day events, and an obstacle course. And, of course, we had ice cream!

Many thanks for support from the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District, Camels Hump Middle School, and the Transportation Department at MMUUSD. Their help made this camp successful for our community's children and teens!

We cannot express our gratitude for the support from local towns, churches, lodges, grantors, and most importantly, our friends and community members who donate because they all recognize the excellent camp's benefits for now and the future.

Our Community Cares Camp continues to be a staple in the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District. We would not have any of the success we do without the support from so many community entities, funders, and volunteers. The camp has such a positive vibe because of the love and energy everyone puts in day in and day out. The experiences campers have will undoubtedly last them a lifetime, and we are already looking forward to summer 2024!

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Parent  
Executive Director

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802-434-6006

# Charts

## 2023

	# of Campers	% of Campers	# of CIT	# of Counselors & Staff	Lives Touched
Bolton	24	27.9	2	9	35
Huntington	27	31.4	0	7	34
Jericho	7	8.1	1	4	12
Richmond	28	32.6	6	17	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>132</b>

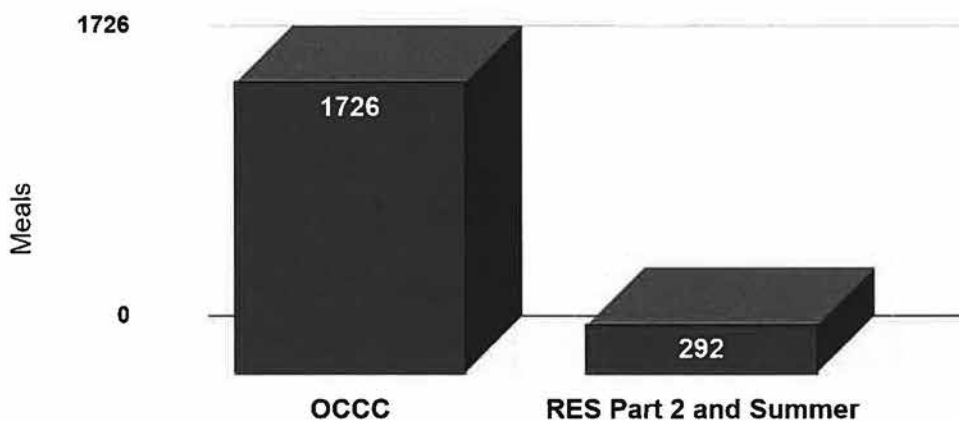
## 2022

	# of Campers	% of Campers	# of CIT	# of Counselors & Staff	Lives Touched
Bolton	24	25.8	3	5	32
Huntington	32	34.4	3	8	43
Jericho	6	6.45	1	7	14
Richmond	31	33.33	6	11	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>99.98</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>137</b>

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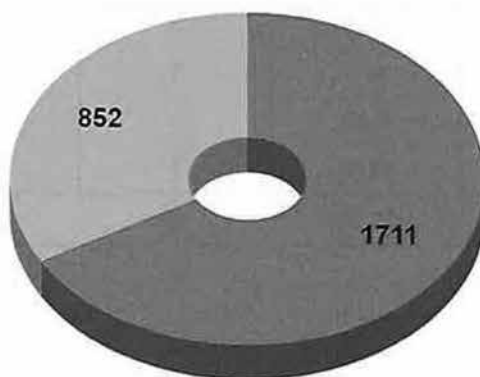
**Summer 2023  
Meals by Program**



**2018 Total Meals Served**

**Summer 2022  
Total Meals Served 2563**

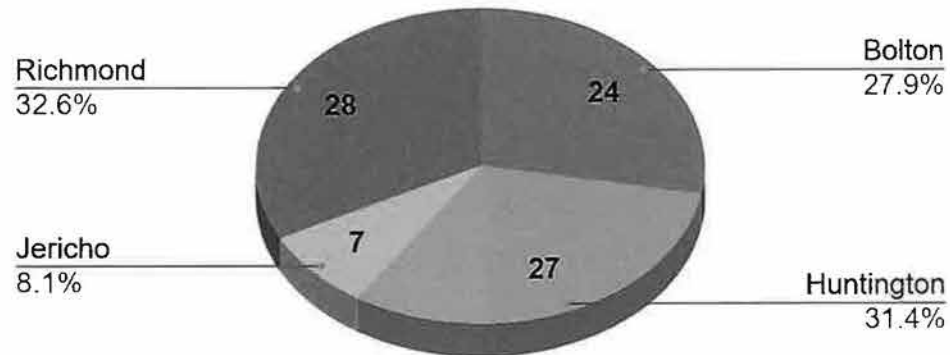
● Lunch ● Breakfast



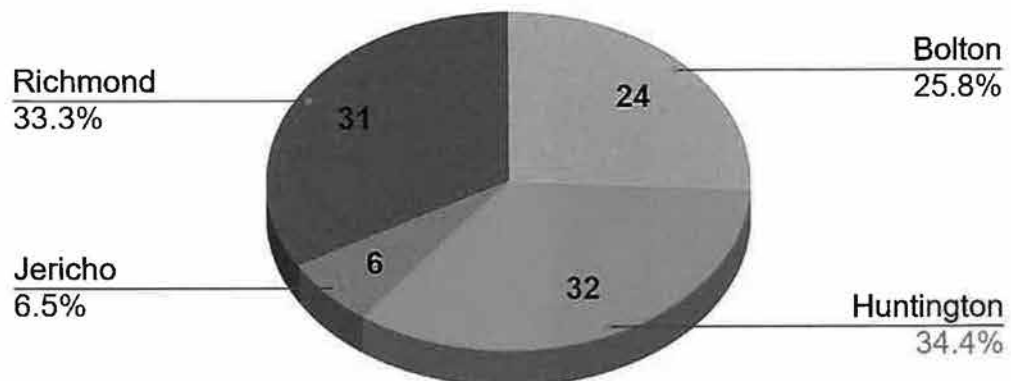
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**Campers By Town  
 Summer 2023**

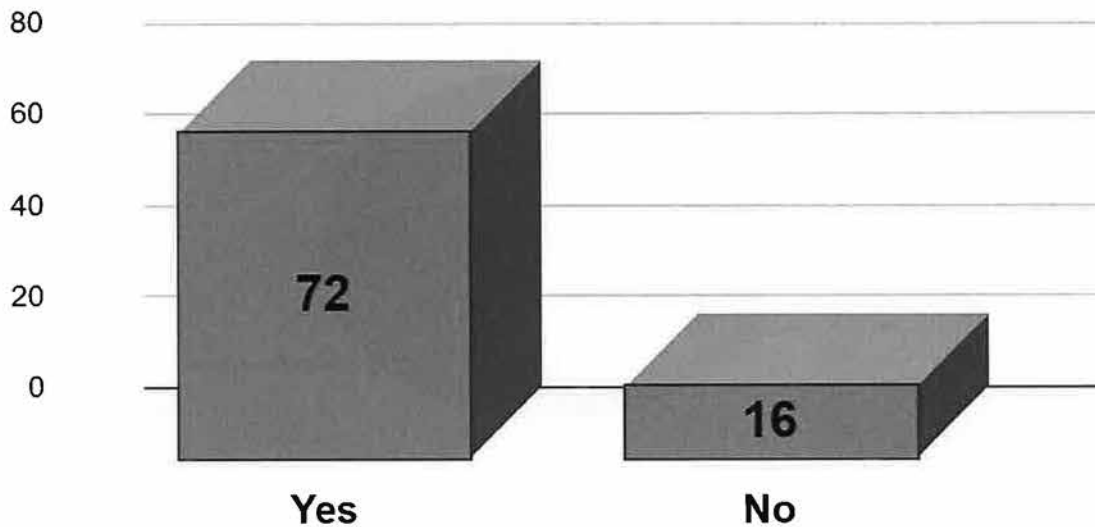


**Campers By Town  
 Summer 2022**

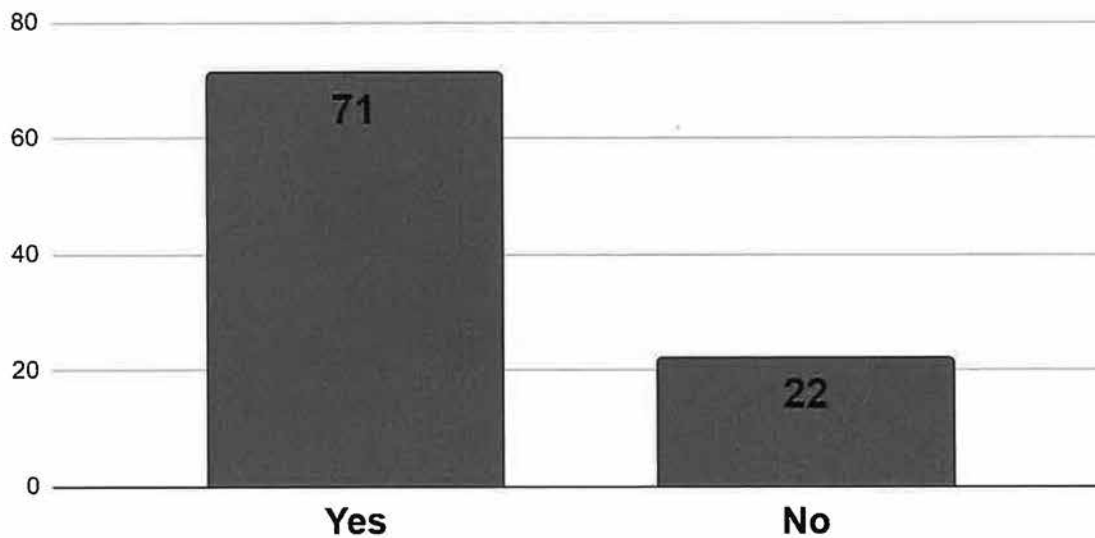


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## **Campers Used Transportation Summer 2023**



## **Campers Used Transportation Summer 2022**



**Our Community Cares Camp, Inc.**

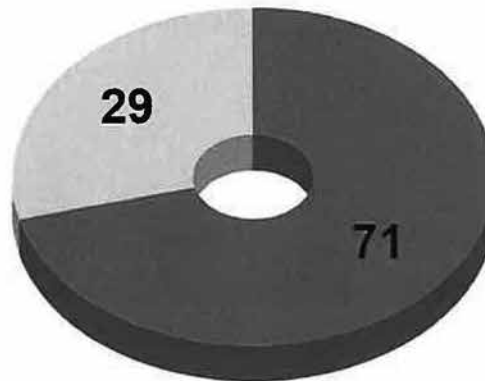
PO Box 503

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Email: [occcvermont@gmail.com](mailto:occcvermont@gmail.com)

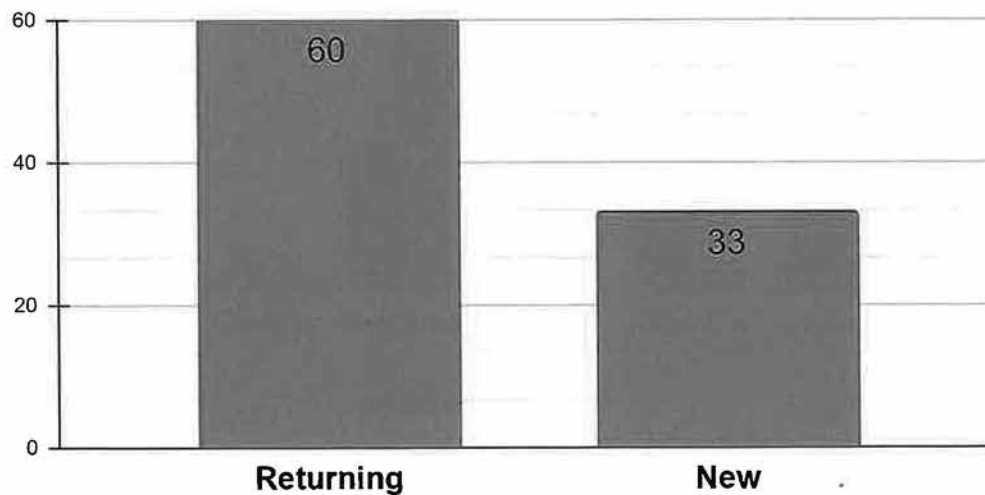
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**Campers New and Returning  
Summer 2023**



● Returning ● New

**Returning and New Campers  
Summer 2022**



# Our Community Cares Camp, Inc.

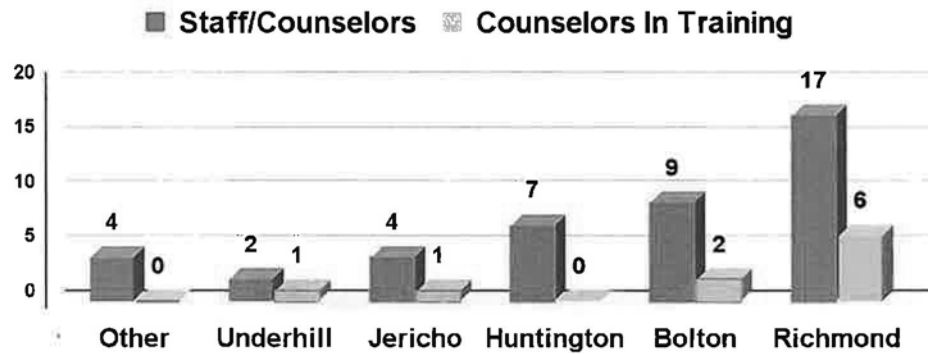
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## Staff By Town

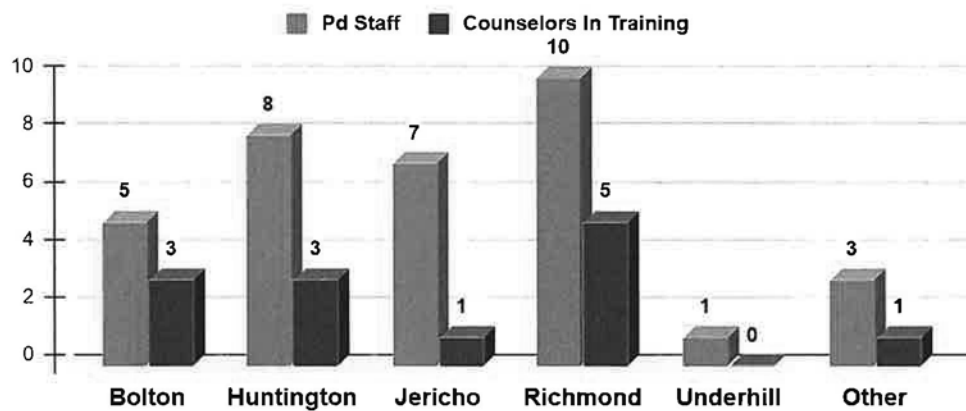
Summer 2023



## Staff/Counselors and Counselors In Training

## Counselors In Training and Pd Staff

Summer 2022



## Staff By Town



## Our Community Cares Camp

### Mission, Vision, & Core Values

#### **Mission:**

Creating a caring, nourishing community for Chittenden East children where every child can find success.

#### **Vision:**

Developing a rich culture of community that includes health, safety, happiness, gratitude and citizenship that the campers carry with them throughout their lives.

#### **Core Values:**

**Nutrition:** Combating food insecurity by serving campers two meals a day prepared with fresh, high-quality food and helping them make healthy food choices.

**Community:** Fostering an inter-generational community of inclusiveness and diversity, and service. Encouraging campers to continue service in their greater community.

**Opportunity:** Offering access to a variety of activities such as art, music, sports, creative play, gardening, and cooking.

**Discovery:** Supporting each child to discover new talents, for each child to glimpse more of their potential.

**Encouragement:** Create positive, supportive relationships with caring teens and adults, reinforcing good choices in food and behavior.

**Empowerment:** Inspiring children to envision their future and work for the common Good.

**Racial Equity:** Learning to understand, see, and disrupt racism in our community.

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*Building a caring community - where every child can find success.*

## PROJECT ALL TOGETHER NOW

Project All Together Now (ATN) is a community based and youth led organization that works to ensure equitable mental health and wellbeing across our five town school district. ATN has come about from 7 years of community efforts to support youth in our community around isolation, suicidality, the pressures of substance use conformity and a general lack of things to do for everyone in rural Vermont. We operate within the MMUUSD providing our youth with support, aid, and opportunities such as jobs, internships, recreation and the ability to express themselves in the community with all their great ideas and talents.

Project All Together Now – Equitable mental health & wellbeing from a youth and community-based organization.

## RICHMOND RESCUE ANNUAL REPORT

This last year was the busiest in our history. We went on 1,252 calls and transported 750 patients between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023. Our volunteers and employees were excited to get more opportunities to keep their skills sharp.

Public education and outreach have been a big focus of the last year. Early in the year, we gave away more than 100 bicycle helmets to children who live in our service area. We also had a booth set up at the Vermont City Marathon Expo where we engaged with many runners and traded a few minutes of CPR instruction for a delicious stick of Cabot cheese or some Slopeside Maple Syrup.

We took delivery of Richmond Rescue Car 1 in the spring. Car 1 is a Ford Explorer outfitted to provide a medical response when our ambulance is not available. It gives us more flexibility in our everyday response and also allows our backcountry rescue team to transport their equipment more easily.

The other big purchase we made was adding two LUCAS Devices to our ambulances. Lucas Devices perform chest compressions instead of EMTs doing it manually. The device improves rescuer safety and never needs to take a break.

Statistics from 2023:

Total requests for service: 1,252

Calls for service in Bolton: 107

Calls for service on I-89 in Bolton: 29

Average ambulance response time in Bolton: 18 minutes

Number of active volunteers in 2023: 45

Total volunteer hours: 22,101

Address signs made in 2023: 81

Total address signs made since the start of the program: 1,112

The coming year will see the delivery of a 2023 Ford F550 ambulance. We were able to return our 2014 ambulance to the factory where they removed the patient care compartment and mounted it onto the new chassis. Remounting an ambulance in this way saves about 30% over buying a completely new ambulance.

Beyond responding to 911 calls, we are proud to offer several other public health services. We continue to offer affordable E911 address signage, courses, and bystander trainings through our CPR training center and car seat fitting. As a public health organization, we consider these initiatives central to our mission.

We are grateful for the privilege of serving our communities and look forward to the coming year.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors and Members of Richmond Rescue



# Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

**Burlington Local Health Office | 108 Cherry Street, Suite 102, Burlington, VT  
802-863-7323 | AHS.VDHBurlington@Vermont.gov**

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. **The Burlington Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Chittenden County.** Some highlights of our work in 2023 are below. For more information, visit [HealthVermont.gov/local/burlington](https://HealthVermont.gov/local/burlington)



## Women, Infants & Children (WIC), Family and Child Health

Our office served over 2,000 pregnant women, new mothers and young children this year. Our WIC staff provides families with healthy foods, nutrition education, breast/chest feeding support and referrals to health care providers and community resources. While we recently celebrated the return to in-person services, we still offer appointments over the phone so that everyone can easily use WIC services. Learn more at [www.healthvermont.gov/wic](https://www.healthvermont.gov/wic).



## Emergency Preparedness

The Burlington Local Health Office supported community members impacted by the historic flooding this summer. Across the state, our staff helped at flood resource centers, gave out water test kits and shared information in our communities about how to stay safe. We prepare for future public health emergencies by working with community partners such as schools, hospitals and emergency personnel to ensure preparedness to distribute medicine, supplies and information.



## Healthy Communities

Health is affected by more than just healthcare. Transportation, housing, education, food access, social connections and economic opportunity also play a role. Throughout the year, our office has worked with towns, schools, worksites, health care providers and other community organizations. These groups work together to evaluate the health and equity needs of our community and help create local policies and projects to improve the community's health and quality of life for all ages.



Scan to access  
the report online



## **Vermont League of Cities and Towns**

*Serving and Strengthening Vermont Local Government*

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

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

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

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

## TIME TO SPAY & NEUTER CATS & DOGS and LICENSE!

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

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

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

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

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

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator: VSNIIP      Executive Director: VVSa

## **WATERBURY AREA SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

14 Stowe St.  
Waterbury, Vt. 05676  
802.244.1234

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November 1, 2023

### **To the voters of the town of Bolton:**

The Waterbury Area Senior Citizens Association (WASCA) once again needs your financial support to carry out the vital work it does to enrich the lives of seniors in Bolton. This letter serves as our formal **request for funding of \$1,000**, which is the same amount that you allocated last year.

We are proud to report that WASCA delivered over 18,000 meals to homebound seniors in Waterbury, Duxbury, Bolton, Moretown and Middlesex in FY24. 685 of those nutritious “Meals-on-Wheels” were delivered to residents in Bolton, enabling them to live independently in their homes, comfortably and securely, for as long as possible.

For other seniors who can get out and about, our dining room and community gathering space in downtown Waterbury welcomes them Monday through Friday for a hot meal, good company and engaging activities. In the last year alone, we served over 2,000 congregate lunches in our dining room.

Whether at the Center, or through the Meals-on-Wheels program, the seniors we serve are never turned away and never receive a bill. However, local and federal funding cover only a fraction of our overall operating expenses.

The average cost to provide a meal is \$11.87. We receive \$3.80 per meal in Federal funding through the Older Americans Act and, new this year, \$.84 per meal from the State. This leaves a shortfall of \$7.23 per meal. That is why the financial support of the towns we serve is so critical.

On behalf of our seniors, thank you!

#### **Contacts:**

Justin Blackman, Board Chair  
Maureen White, Treasurer

**Funding Request: \$1,000**

## SCHOOL SECTION

### Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District Our Schools' Reports





## **Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District**

10 River Road Jericho, VT 05465

P:802-434-2128 F:802-899-4001

[mmuUSD.office@mmuUSD.org](mailto:mmuUSD.office@mmuUSD.org)

[www.mmuUSD.org](http://www.mmuUSD.org)

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**January 24, 2024**

### **Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District Annual Report**

The Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) Annual Report will be available February 14, 2024. The report will include a proposed 2024-25 school district budget, tax rate information and a review of operations, activities and assessment results for Mount Mansfield Unified Union's nine schools:

- Smilie Memorial School (PK-4)
- Brewster Pierce Memorial School (PK-4)
- Jericho Elementary School (K-4)
- Richmond Elementary School (PK-4)
- Underhill ID School (Preschools)
- Underhill Central School (K-4)
- Browns River Middle School (Grades 5-8)
- Camels Hump Middle School (Grades 5-8)
- Mt. Mansfield Union High School (Grades 9-12)

The Annual Report can be found at your local town office, public school, MMUUSD Central Office or online at <https://www.mmuUSD.org/>. Upon request, a printed copy will be mailed to you by calling 434-2128.

If you have questions, please contact the Central Office at 434-2128 or by email at [mmuUSD.office@mmuUSD.org](mailto:mmuUSD.office@mmuUSD.org).

## Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District Our Schools



### Smilie Memorial School

**Derek Howard, Principal**

**Enrollment: Prek-4 65**

This has been a wonderful year at Smilie Memorial School. It was my pleasure to welcome new and returning faculty and staff back from summer. New staff included Bolton residents Savanna Phillips and Stephanie Lafreniere who joined the team as para educators K-4 and Maureen Locker who joined our preschool team. In collaboration with Brewster Pierce Elementary School, we also welcomed Elbridge Minor who works as our integration specialist, supporting teachers with students who need additional support to access their learning.



After an abnormal summer, Bolton experienced flooding that impacted our community in many ways. At Smilie Memorial School, we pushed forward to create the best learning environment for our community. The art room was transformed with the replacement of flooring, removal of an old elevator and the removal of old shelving. During this process, we uncovered a mural that was painted 30 years ago by some of our parents. The mural will now be updated and renewed by our current students.

A fence was installed at the rear of the school preventing student access to Joiner Brook and it defines our school property. New tunnels were placed in the playground for students to explore.

At the entrance of the school, the Smilie Memorial School sign, which was designed a few years ago by one of our former parents, had an addition to it. Our former Principal, Barbara Tomasi-Gay, generously had a carving made called the "Welcoming Bear" to adorn the right side of the Smilie Memorial school sign. The black bear cub was created by Charlie O'Brien, from "Where The Bears Are", in Stowe. We are touched by this kind gift from Barbara. She hopes that it will delight staff, students and family members for years to come.



We are now planning a fundraiser to replace and redesign the Smilie School playground for the 2024/25 school year, as some of the old elements need to be replaced.

At the start of the 2023/24 school year, we introduced after-school clubs three nights a week to help support parents who work beyond 2:30 pm - this opportunity also extends learning opportunities for our students. The clubs included art, music, sports, and outdoor activities.

In May 2023, the Smilie Community Association funded a resident artist to work alongside our art teacher and students to produce two murals for the school gym. One of the murals shows the History of Bolton since 1790 and the other shows the watershed for the whole town of Bolton. Our mural project this year will be in liaison with the local indigenous communities depicting the landscape pre-1790.

### **Student Growth**

The Smilie faculty have been meeting weekly as a Professional Learning Community (PLC) analyzing data to improve learning for all students. Weekly the teachers and support staff look at academic data from different curriculum areas including Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies. As part of our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), student support staff feedback to teachers on the social emotional supports and interventions being implemented for students. Faculty meetings occur twice monthly, the agenda for these is set by our guiding coalition that also meets twice monthly. The collaboration between all staff, parents, and community is what makes Smilie Memorial School a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students.

### **School Safety**

One of the first priorities this year has been to teach and reteach all of our school drills. This included fire drills, option-based drills, securing the building, hold in place and our evacuation drill. The evacuation drill is becoming a community event where the local fire department escorts the school to the fire station where we learn about bus evacuations, fire safety and get to meet our local volunteer firefighters.



### **School/Community Connections and Experiences**

Fall 2023 was busy with the safety training, field trips to the Audubon and Shelburne farms, outdoor climbing with Petra Cliffs, all school hikes and lots of outdoor learning.

Smilie Memorial School believes that students benefit from outdoor learning experiences in many ways providing an experiential setting for learning in all subjects. Our belief in outdoor learning is not at the expense of traditional learning. At Smilie Memorial School we use outdoor learning to enhance our students' learning experience. Moving into winter we used our local partners of the Catamount Ski Trail Association, Cochran's ski area and Bolton Valley to provide experiences including Nordic and Alpine skiing and snowboarding.



On Memorial Day, our students visit Bolton Cemetery to pay tribute to our service men and women by placing flags on gravestones and listening to the last post being played on a bugle.

Smilie Memorial School continues to grow as the center of its community. We are preparing students to become independent Middle school learners while giving them lifelong happy memories.



## **Brewster-Pierce Memorial School**

**Sally Hayes, Principal**

**Enrollment: PreK-4 101**

This year has been an incredible year of growth and learning for our students. Our staff, families and community work together to create a nurturing learning environment which allows the children of Huntington to thrive and reach their full potential. Our dedicated and skilled staff collaborate to provide enriching learning opportunities for all of our students, fostering academic and social/emotional growth. Our Partners in Education, parent group, is an integral part of our learning community, they are essential partners in supporting and enriching learning at Brewster-Pierce. Family and community members volunteer at BPMS in many ways including helping to serve lunch every week, assisting with the Book Fair, organizing families to clean out and add new plants to garden beds, teaching a small algebra group, leading fundraising events, appreciating the BPMS staff throughout the year are some of the ways PIE supports BPMS. PIE supported amazing learning opportunities during this year which included practicing the basics of Capoeira with our artist in residence, Fua, field trips to the Montshire Museum and ECHO, building a Gaga Ball Pit, providing alternative seating options and other teaching resources. We are grateful for the continued support of our families, the hard work of PIE makes us a stronger, enriched learning community. Our students and staff also experience many community connections throughout the year. This year we welcomed the Huntington Fire Fighters for fire safety learning, we enjoyed our annual hike day at Sleepy Hollow, we invited many Special People to a luncheon in November and we welcomed veterans at All School Morning Meeting.

Every day students are learning, growing and making connections between literacy, science, social studies, math and social emotional learning. Throughout the school week students also



experience physical education, music, art, library, guidance and STEM enrichment. During the past year we have continued to adjust our teaching practices to support student's readiness for reading and language development. Our literacy practices are responsive to the needs of each reader and are embedded in rich and meaningful learning contexts, which include speaking/communicating, listening, and writing. In PreK-2nd grade we focus on building strong phonemic awareness, auditory practice, and phonological awareness, understanding the letter and sound connection. In PreK-Fourth, we work to develop language comprehension and vocabulary knowledge to ensure we are providing a comprehensive approach to literacy instruction. We continue to work on combining content in order to provide opportunities for children to make connections and deepen their understanding of concepts. Our math practices continue to include a strong foundation using visual models and building a deep conceptual understanding of foundational math concepts. Mathematicians build on repeated practice of foundational skills which provide a strong scaffold for harder math concepts. Social and emotional learning continues to be an important part of learning every day. Staff help children work through identifying strong emotions and learning strategies for self regulation. We continue to prioritize managing peer relations and self management. This year we have been working on developing goals for social/ emotional learning based on age and developmentally appropriate expectations.



Our staff continues to focus on integrating themes of equity, diversity and inclusion in our teaching practices, our goal is to embed this work into the culture of our school. Classroom teachers and Mollie, our school librarian, continue to add culturally responsive books and content to our classroom libraries and school library. Adding new titles enriches opportunities for

students to learn about multiple perspectives and see diverse representations in characters, stories and themes. We understand that the success in this important work will in part be



measured by how we can engage our students in these dialogues in compassionate and developmentally appropriate ways.

Infusing wellness practices into the daily lives of students and staff is a priority at Brewster- Pierce. Every single day our students and staff get a lesson in healthy eating. The rainbow of food choices at breakfast, snack and lunchtime offers the opportunity to fuel our bodies with nutritious foods. Peter, Hilary, Anne and John work tirelessly each week to provide the highest quality food program possible, and we all benefit every single day. We also teach composting and recycling practices throughout the school day. Students help gather recycling and

compost which provides a rich hands on experience. This year BPMS was awarded the Recycle Rally trophy for the second consecutive year. The CSWD Recycle Rally challenges teams of

students and teachers to raise awareness about proper management of their resources and protect the planet.

Outdoor Education is embedded into our school culture and learning. Brewster-Pierce students get to learn and thrive in their outdoor classrooms every week. The preschool forest classroom is very close to school in a beautifully wooded area with some hills for climbing. During this year our preschool team worked hard to add several new elements to the preschool forest including a new natural climbing structure, some climbing ropes, a platform surrounding a tree, two covered sandboxes and two swings. Preschool students are learning outside every single day and many of the topics for learning are chosen by them and are connected to the plants and animals that live in this special place. Kindergarten through fourth grade students also spend a day each week learning outdoors enjoying their own special learning space in the Community Forest. Outdoor learning provides opportunities to foster land stewardship and develop a deep connection to the land. We are grateful to access the Huntington Community Forest for learning and recreation every week.



### Jericho Elementary School

**Todd Rohlen, Principal**

**Enrollment: K-4 324**



It is another great year of learning and fun here at JES! As most of you know, our beloved counselor of 30+ years, Tim Lane, retired, leaving big shoes to fill. Luckily, our new counselor, Kerrie

Colleran, has proven up to the task. She has been doing an amazing job supporting students, helping them navigate various issues, and teaching guidance classes for each classroom. These classes teach social skills, emotional management skills, and more. Kerrie has been super responsive to parents and families, so if you need anything from her, don't hesitate to reach out.

One big focus of the District and of JES has been working to have more effective literacy instruction, especially for our early readers. We are working strategically to keep the parts of our programs that were beneficial to learning, like a workshop model. This type of model allows teachers to meet with individuals and groups during reading blocks while kids continue to learn.

We are also adding new components to help kids learn to read more effectively. One example is a daily phonics program, called Heggerty, for K and 1st, that has proven to have big rewards. We have also implemented a new word study program, the University of Florida Literacy Institute, or UFLI. This is K-4 and will help with decoding words, spelling, and much more. While Jericho and the District have a far better success rate with literacy than the state average, we are looking to make it much more successful.



I really appreciate our teachers not only having high expectations for learning everyday, but making learning engaging and interesting for the children. There are creative ways to learn and demonstrate learning in all subject areas. Outdoor learning and enriching off campus experiences continue to be big parts of learning here at JES. We have so much good learning around our gardens, in our outdoor learning spaces, and more. So far this year we've had trips to Shelburne Farms, sailing on Lake Champlain, VT State Parks, and more! Stay tuned for Sno-motion and

more field trips to come during springtime! Teachers have also utilized "giving" to help with learning. The students have organized food drives and fundraisers, helping to raise their awareness of people (and animals) in need.



We worked creatively to have a whole school Open House this year. Building size and lack of parking space can get a bit tricky when hosting many people. However, we staggered people arriving based on last name, and that worked really well. There was always parking and room in the school. Both families and teachers reported that they were able to connect more personally than they would have if everyone had been there at once. It was also great to have families be able to see the whole school, UA teachers, previous teachers, and more. With our large enrollment, we may have to get creative to have family events, but we will continue to work on this.

I also want to give a big shout out to our parent organization, Partners in Education. They have hosted great events, like a fall campus clean up, the Harvest Fest, and more. Working with our PE teacher, Glenn Steinman, PIE was instrumental in getting our amazing new ice rink installed. This was funded through donations and from the town, but all completed through the volunteer efforts of our PIE members. They are also funding the return of an Artist-in-Residence here at JES. This spring, we will welcome Jeh Kulu, a west African drumming and dance company, in for a week to work with each class on west African dance! Stay tuned for more details on that. If you would like to get involved with PIE, they meet here at the school the first Wednesday of each month, or reach out to the office here and we can help.

Thank you to our JES families and the larger Jericho community for your continued support in making our school such a special place!



## Richmond Elementary School

**Jeremy Rector, Principal**

**Enrollment: PreK-4 340**

It is my pleasure to present the 2023-2024 information for Richmond Elementary School. RES is a vibrant learning community that values equity, curiosity, and growth, and last school year our educators collectively focused on three main goals to promote a thriving educational environment for all of our young learners. Those three priorities were to:

- Establish effective routines, procedures, and community norms
- Build a stronger sense of community, and
- Nurture joy in learning.

In the spirit of continuous improvement over time, we believe an important next step for us this year is to reflect on our journey so far, and intentionally review and refine our actions to ensure best practices for all students. To that end, I am delighted to share the progress we have made in these areas, as well as speak to our professional commitments for the 23-24 school year.

Over the course of several faculty meetings last year, we came together as a staff to reflect on who we are as practitioners and to refine what we believe in. We used a backwards-design model to create a collective, guiding document to use to ground our decision-making and interventions this school year. Together, we identified that we are a school that believes:

- Our teaching and learning systems must be flexible and responsive, and must take the whole-child into consideration.
- Our school environment must provide each student exactly what they need to flourish as individuals and members of the community.
  - Emotional regulation and pro-social skills are essential components to successful learning.
  - Our curriculum decisions and implementation must be based on the needs and interests of our students, and teachers will drive curriculum utilizing evidence-based best practices, data, and targeted assessments.
  - Our school community is one in which everyone feels safe, valued, and connected.



This "Vision" outlined above is what the educators at RES aspire to, and is what we will continue to focus our energies on over

the next few years. This framework offers a compass for our continuous improvement plan moving forward, and is the foundation for which we determined this year's goals from.

RES educators aim to elevate our school's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) processes to improve our methods for teaching social and emotional learning (SEL). SEL is not only interconnected to all forms of learning, but it is also essential to promoting mental health and wellness and a deep sense of community. We continue to prioritize common planning times for teachers, and allocate dedicated time for Professional Learning Communities (PLC). These steps to align professional schedules continue to allow our educators to collaboratively plan lessons, share best practices, and refine instructional strategies. With these common times and professional opportunities, educators have also been empowered to reinstate and revitalize community events aimed at promoting celebration and gratitude among our students and families. New community events this school year, such as the Lantern Walk, have provided valuable opportunities for students, teachers, parents, and staff to come together, to share common experiences, and to build a sense of unity and shared pride with one another in our accomplishments. In a significant stride towards inclusivity and enriching our students' educational experience, we are thrilled to also announce the successful establishment of a new, inclusive playground on the front of our campus that is geared toward our K-4 students, and a new multi-structured playground on the side of our building designed for our youngest learners. Both playgrounds are designed to foster collaboration, physical activity, and imaginative play, ensuring that all children can actively participate. These thoughtful expansions reflect our commitment to create an inclusive and holistic learning environment that empowers every child to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.



As we welcome the new year of 2024 at Richmond Elementary School, we remain dedicated to the collective vision that guides us. We will continue to strive to create an inclusive and holistic learning environment, keeping evidence-based practices and intentional feedback mechanisms



in mind to inform our efforts along the way. Our belief is that the progress we have made and our professional commitments for this new year will continue to pave the way for a future where every member of the Richmond Elementary School community thrives!





## Underhill Central School

**Jennifer Cote, Principal**

**Enrollment: K-4 140**

Underhill Central School is full of positive, rich, and engaging experiences for all learners. Building community and a sense of belonging is a core value at UCS. We kicked off the school year with a Welcome Back Picnic and have included families and caregivers in the following events: open house morning, zucchini race, turkey trot, mask parade and various classroom celebrations. It's important to open our doors and maintain strong relationships between school and home.



All School Meeting is a regularly scheduled event at UCS. Students enjoy getting together with others to have a mindful moment, celebrate, share experiences and sing. It's a special time to have our entire community together. This winter all students will once again participate in our district's ski and snowboard program at Cochran's. Additionally, each grade level has created exciting opportunities for students. Our 3-4 teams are working with the Floating Classroom program at the Community Sailing Center in Burlington, 1-2 classrooms "traveled" during the month of December to explore cultures across the world and our Kindergarten classrooms toured Chapin



Apple Orchard and are immersed in play-based and outdoor learning experiences. Everyone at UCS continues to enjoy our beautiful outdoor space especially with the addition of the new all access path.

UCS is dedicated to our district's equity initiatives. Our staff utilize the district's Anti Bias Anti Racist (ABAR) council's lesson to reflect on our experiences and ensure we embrace the unique backgrounds, identities and perspectives of our community. We have recently explored the following dominant culture traits: perfectionism and the right to comfort personally and in staff meetings. Our equity work continues to move forward as we reflect and examine our own biases and assumptions.

Staff continue to strengthen our multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) to ensure all students learn at high levels. Our guiding coalition leadership group meets every other week to discuss our current systems and ways to support all learners. Professional Learning Communities meet

weekly to analyze student data, plan for instruction and assessments and identify students who need additional support. We believe that all students are our students at UCS and we use MTSS to support students in a timely manner.

We continue to put a lot of energy into meeting the social and emotional needs of our students. Staff use responsive classrooms to build community and create calm learning environments where everyone's academic and social and emotional needs are met. The following schoolwide expectations are explicitly taught to the whole group and small group or 1:1: We ARE Kind, We ARE Honest, We ARE Respectful and We ARE Responsible to ourselves and each other. UCS is also working with Annie O'Shaughnessy to strengthen our restorative practice efforts which is complementary to social and emotional work completed school wide, in the classroom and through sessions with the school counselor.

Over the last few years, we have transitioned to a structured literacy approach. Classroom teachers are implementing new curriculum and assessment plans that include revised benchmark understanding and learning targets and a scope and sequence for phonics. We are using a variety of new resources for instruction and our system of support to ensure all learner's needs are met. During early release and district curriculum committees, staff reflect and revise our practices as we interact with current research and engage in professional development.



UCS is a vibrant and welcoming community. Our staff care deeply about the students and families at UCS. We are committed to ensuring all students feel a sense of belonging and are engaged in their learning community.



### **Browns River Middle School**

**Kevin Hamilton, Principal**  
**Rebecca Marsh, Assistant Principal**

**Enrollment: 5-8 370**

Over the past year, Browns River Middle School students and staff have focused on building a stronger community through our student advisory program known as NEST. This year we are focusing on building a sense of belonging in our school when we meet in small multi age level groups each Wednesday morning.





We are working with the Vermont Council on the Arts and Barbara Paulson, our artist in residence, to help bring this sense of community to life by cooperatively working on a project that will be displayed at the end of the school year.

We recognize the importance of having our student community feel safe and supported in order for them to be successful as learners.

Our teachers continue to collaborate closely on the scope and sequence of the curriculum with the teachers at Camels Hump Middle School. Teachers are professionally supported by the academic coaches who work in both buildings and help us to remain closely aligned in our work in order for our students to have an equitable learning experience as they transition to MMU. The Wednesday early release days continue to be valuable time for our staff to have common time to plan and adjust student instruction based on reviewing student data.



The participation rate in co-curricular activities at BRMS continues to be extremely high with well over 90% of our students participating in at least one after school program. Students have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities including: Art, Music, Drama, Writing, Athletics, Engineering, Cooking and many other choices. Many improvements were made to our recess area this summer and are looking to make some additional improvements this spring. The basketball court was resurfaced, a new outdoor volleyball court was installed, and we are currently working on developing a 9 hole disc golf course. Much of this work

was completed through private donations and grants from the towns of Jeicho and Underhill.



### Camels Hump Middle School

**Gretchen Muller, Principal**  
**Joe O'Brien, Assistant Principal**

**Enrollment: 5-8 329**

The 2023-2024 school year has been off to a fantastic start for Camels Hump Middle School. We welcomed 97 new 5th grade students along with several new teachers and a new assistant

principal. Our Mountaineer population of 329 students has demonstrated incredible motivation, resilience, positivity, flexibility and effort through the first trimester. The collaborative and intentional planning by our teachers and special educators shines through every day with high student engagement and joy in classrooms.



With another new school year brings more opportunities for our staff to continue with professional learning offered by our instructional coaches and our ABAR (anti-bias/anti-racist) faculty work group. Our teaching and support staff continue to elevate the learning experiences for all students ensuring differentiated and inclusive instruction with clear and common student learning goals across content areas that are aligned with Brown River Middle School. The CHMS staff also continue to bring a lens of equity into all learning and social settings at CHMS.



The beginning of the school year our staff continued work from last year to review, revise and implement new mission and vision statements along with collective commitments or belief statements that define what we do each and every day at Camels Hump Middle School. Our new vision statement or North Star is *"We strive to be Compassionate Humans Motivated to Succeed"*. Our new mission statement is: *"CHMS is here to create an inclusive learning community in which we support one another to be accountable for learning actively and collaboratively and to think creatively and critically. We encourage each other to grow, face challenges and live responsibly, while having fun and contributing positively."*

An integral part of working towards our vision and mission and collective commitments has been our advisory program. While Camels Hump has incorporated advisory into the school day over



the years and tried different approaches, the last year and half we've maintained a consistent advisory program. Our students are in small groups of 8-10, with grade-level peers and an advisor. This group of students and advisor stays together for all four years of middle school. The advisory time creates opportunities for students to make strong connections and maintain ongoing relationships with their peers and a trusted adult. Advisory provides time to have thoughtful discussions, learn from one another and enjoy each other through community building activities.

We are proud of all our Mountaineers and grateful for such a dedicated, supportive and collaborative staff!



## Mt. Mansfield Union High School

**Michael Weston, Principal**  
**Krystina Fernandez, Assistant Principal**  
**David Marlow, Activities Director**

**Enrollment: 9-12 710**

The 2022-2023 school year was one in which we took many steps toward meeting our ultimate goal of graduating “Effective Engaged Citizens”. Specifically we took steps to help our students develop academic independence and advocacy skills. These two skills are crucial for involved citizens and, we believe, for MMUHS graduates. To



assist our students in acquiring and mastering these skills we give them an opportunity to practice them in generalized settings, such as Advisory and co-curriculars. We would be remiss if I did not point out that 91% of all MMUHS students participate in at least one co-curricular activity and many are in multiple activities. MMU continues to see students achieve academic success in many areas: MMU students achieved a proficient score on 78% of the AP Exams taken, MMUHS students take the SAT during their junior year and our scores continue to exceed state and national average, and our students earned 94% of their Proficiency



Based Graduation Requirements on schedule.

The 2022-2023 school year was capped off by the 56th Graduation Ceremony held in the MMUHS gymnasium, the first to be held there in over 20 years. There were 208 members of the Class of 2023 and they celebrated their graduation on a rainy Saturday morning. This class dealt with a lot in their time at MMU and it was fitting that they demonstrated their ability to overcome adversity right up to the end of their time with us. Their ability to deal with what is in front of them without complaint and with an attitude of togetherness is one that we all can learn something from. The Class of 2023 has spread out across the globe and I know they are representing CougarNation admirably. Finally, we want to thank our community for all you have done to create an environment that allows students to develop into the people they can be.





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