

2023 Landgrove, Vermont
ANNUAL REPORT
For the year ending December 31, 2023



Four seasons of Landgrove, 2023

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - WARNING
Annual Town Meeting
March 4, 2024 at 6pm

The legal voters of the Town of Landgrove are hereby warned and notified to gather to transact the following business by floor vote on **March 4th 2024 at Town Hall, 88 Landgrove Road, Landgrove, Vermont.**

- Article 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.
- Article 2: To elect the following officers as required by law:

Office	Term length
Town Clerk	1 year
Town Treasurer	1 year
Select Board Member 1 (2027)	3 years
Select Board Member 2 (2025)	1 year
Lister	3 years
Auditor	3 years
Cemetery Commissioner	5 years
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1 year
Grand Juror	1 year
Constable	1 year
Trustee of Public Funds	3 years

- Article 3: To hear the reports of Town Officers and take action on the Auditors' Report.
 - Article 4 : To see if the Town shall authorize its Select Board to apply any surplus or unanticipated funds toward the proposed budget?
 - Article 5: Shall the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes on October 1, 2024 by delivery to Town Hall postmarked on or before that date?
 - Article 6: Shall the Town raise the budgeted monies necessary to pay Town expenses and obligations detailed in the Town Report for the 2024 year?
 - Article 7: Shall the voters of Landgrove approve an increase in the annual community appropriation to The Collaborative from \$750 to \$1,250?
 - Article 8: To transact any other non-binding business proper to come before said meeting, not acted upon in the preceding articles?
 - Article 9: Shall the Town agree to meet in 2025 on the first Monday before the first Tuesday in March (March 3, 2025) at 6pm for the annual Town Meeting?
- Dated this 25th day of January, 2024

by the Select Board Members of the Town of Landgrove







2023
ANNUAL REPORT
TOWN OF LANDGROVE
VERMONT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

AUDITORS

ELIZABETH DEE • TOVE STIGUM • CHARLIE HOWARD

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Landgrove Town Offices

Phone/fax: (802) 824-3716
Email: clerk@landgrove.vermont.gov
Mailing address: 88 Landgrove Road, Landgrove, VT 05148
Hours: Thursdays, 9am-1pm, or by appointment
Website: landgrove.vermont.gov

Town Clerk: Chrystal Cleary
clerk@landgrove.vermont.gov
Town Treasurer: Andrea Ogden
treasurer@landgrove.vermont.gov
Road Commissioner: Steve Hall
(802) 824-6622 (home)
Fire Warden: Karl T. Pfister
(802) 824-4663 (office)
Assistant Fire Warden: Jeremiah Evarts
(802) 683-0518 (for burn permits)
Select Board Chair: Steve Hall
selectboard@landgrove.vermont.gov

Community Resources

Londonderry Transfer Station:
www.londonderryvt.org/recycletransfer
Phone: (802) 824-5506
Closed Wednesdays & Sundays, go to web for specific hours

Londonderry Post Office: (802) 824-6571
Window hours: Mon-Fri, 8:30am-12 & 2:00-4:30pm
Sat 8:30am-11:30am

Londonderry Free Library: southlondonderryfreelibrary.org
Hours: Mon/Wed/Fri, 10:00am-5:00pm; Sat 10:00am-1:00pm

Flood Brook School: (802) 824-6811
Burr & Burton Academy: (802) 362-1775
Green Mountain Power: (800) 451-2877 (report outages)

Mountain Valley Medical Clinic: (802) 824-6901
Hours: Mon-Fri, 8:00am-5:00pm Phone: 24 hours

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 911

VT State Police: (802) 442-5421 (non-emergency)
Senators: Brian Campion, bcampion@leg.state.vt.us
Dick Sears, rsears@leg.state.vt.us
House of Representatives: Mike Rice, mikericevt.com

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

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TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Vital Statistics

Town of Landgrove, County of Bennington

Population	177 (up 20, Source: 2020 U.S. Census)
Voters	133 (down 4)
Area	5,586 acres
2023 Homestead rate:	\$1.8404 (up 5.66%)
2023 Non-homestead rate:	\$1.8870 (up 6.489%)
Number of Taxable parcels	207
Total Property Valuation	\$120,298,800 (up from \$119,790,230)
Students:	
PreK–8th grade	10 (down 3)
9th–12th grade	8 (up 4)

BIRTHS

None

MARRIAGES

Jennifer Marie Kopcienski married Alexis Bush, both of Flemington NJ,
on March 24, 2023, in Landgrove

Raye E. Cleary married Alexandr Keislyov, on June 3, 2023

Ryan Fanelli married Anna Preti in Crevalcore, Italy on September 30, 2023

DEATHS

John Stewart Ogden, May 27, 1967 to June 27, 2023

Robert N. Waite, April 25, 1945 to November 12 2023

Frances ‘Fritzi’ Mills, October 20, 2023

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Landgrove Checklist

LEIGH ADAMS	NATHALIE EMERSON	ROBERT JORDAN	TARA SABOL
RICHARD ADAMS	JENNIFER ESPOSITO	JILLIAN JOYCE	JAMES SCHRIEBL
JAMES AMEDEN	JEREMIAH EVARTS	ELY KEY	HOPE SOUCY
JOSEPHINE AMEDEN	KARA EVARTS	LESLIE KIMBALL	NATHALIE SOUCY
ANGUS BELLINGHAM	PIPPIN EVARTS	CHRISTOPHER KLINE	TOVE STIGUM
BEATRICE BELLINGHAM	QUINN EVARTS	FRANK KNAACK	JACK SWARTZENTRUBER
WHITNEY BELLINGHAM	RYAN FANELLI	VIRGINIA LAPRADE	JAMES SWARTZENTRUBER
HELENA BIGELOW	STEPHEN FANELLI	SUSAN LENOX	NATHAN SWARTZENTRUBER
JONATHAN BIGELOW	KATE FOSTER	ARIANA LEPPER	SONYA SWARTZENTRUBER
MARY BIGELOW	RYAN FOSTER	MARY LICATA	CHARLES SWEETMAN
MARY BIGELOW	BENJAMIN FREEMAN	HARRY LUX	MARION SWEETMAN
SANDY BLACK	SAGE FREEMAN	EMILY MALLARD	KAREN THOMSON
SARAH BOKENKAMP	SUSANNA GELLERT	JOHN MALLARD	PETER THOMSON
MARIEL BUTERA	CARINTHIA GRAYSON	JULIE MALLARD	EVELYN TOLBERT
AMANDA CARELESS	PRISCILLA GRAYSON	WILLIAM MCCAWE	JOHN TOLBERT
NICHOLAS CARELESS	SARA GREENFIELD	DANA MCNAIR	VICTORIA TOMKINSON
ASA CHALMERS	JOHN HADDEN	DYLAN MCNAIR	SARAH WAITE
CAMERON CHALMERS	REILLY HADDEN	MALCOLM MCNAIR	BROOKE WASSERMAN
MAE CHALMERS	STEVEN HALL	THOMAS MERKLING	JOHN WILEY
THOMAS CHECCHIA	CHARLES HARRIS	CLARENCE NICHOLS	JAMIE WYLIE
KELLY A CHHUN	CLAUDIA HARRIS	PAULINE NICHOLS	JOSHUA WYLIE
VIRIA CHHUN	SERENA HARRIS	ANDREA OGDEN	HELEN YOUNG
CHRYSTAL CLEARY	SUSAN HARRIS	BENJAMIN OGDEN	SCOTT ZIELINSKI
JEFFERSON CLEARY	THOMAS HARRIS	CHARLOTTE OGDEN	
ELIZABETH COLLINS	JAMIE HATHAWAY	MARY OGDEN	
ROBYN COLLINS	NANCIE HEINEMANN	TRAVERS PARSONS-GRAYSON	
SUSAN COLLINS	ANNA HENSON	JEREMY PETERS	
ELIZABETH DEE	COLLEEN HENSON	ALICE PETERSON	
KATHARINE DEGAN	CRAIG HENSON	KAREN PFISTER	
MATHEWS DEGAN	RACHEL HOULIHAN-PETERS	KARL T. PFISTER	
BRITTANY DOMBROSKI	CHARLES HOWARD	SARAH REED	
JACOB DOMBROSKI	GARRETT HUMPHREY	WILLIAM REED	
KEVIN DOMMENG	LISA JAGER	BROOKE SABOL	
SABRINA DOMMENG	RON JAGER	HAYLEY SABOL	
JOHN ECKHARDT	MARIAN JEFFERY	MATTHEW SABOL	
KIMBERLY ECKHARDT	MICHAEL JEFFERY	ROBERT SABOL	
LYNN ECKHARDT	JEAN JORDAN		

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Town Officers Elected

POSITION	NAMES	TERM EXPIRES
Moderator (1 year term)	Claudia Harris	2024
Town Clerk (1 year term)	Chrystal Cleary	2024
Town Treasurer (1 year term)	Andrea Ogden	2024
Select Board (3 year term)	Steve Hall (chair)	2024
	Will Reed	2025
	Michael Jeffery	2026
Board of Auditors (3 year term)	Charlie Howard	2024
	Liza Dee	2025
	Tove Stigum	2026
Board of Listers (3 year term)	Blair McCaw	2024
	Chuck Sweetman	2025
	Johnathan Bigelow	2026
Cemetery Commission (5 year term)	Dick Adams	2025
	Johnathan Bigelow	2026
	Mat Degan	2027
	Greg Eckhardt	2028
Collector of Delinquent Taxes (1 year term)	Susan Lenox	2024
Grand Juror (1 year term)	Claudia Harris	2024
Town Constable (1 year term)	John Wiley	2024
Trustee of Public Funds (3 year term)	Sarah Waite	2024
	Dick Adams	2025
	Andrea Ogden	2026
School Director (3 year term)	Ben Freeman	2026

Justices of the Peace

Claudia Harris, Virginia LaPrade, Steve Hall, Charles Sweetman

Justices of the Peace are elected by paper ballot during the November General Election for a term of two years. Term begins February 1 of the year following the election. All of Landgrove's JPs were elected in November 2022 and serve until 2024.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Town Officers Appointed by Select Board

POSITION	NAME	3 YEAR TERM EXPIRES
Zoning Administrator	Will Goodwin	2025
Planning Commission (includes ZA)	Harry Lux (chair) vacant	2025 2025
	Ryan Foster	2026
	Jeff Cleary	2026
	Mary Licata	2027
Zoning Board of Adjustment (includes all members of the Planning Comm, Except the Zoning Administrator)	Harry Lux (chair)	2025
Health Officer	Cameron Chalmers	2025
BCRC Member	vacant	
		1 YEAR TERM EXPIRES
Town Service Officer	Chair, Select Board	2025
Emergency Management	Johnathan Bigelow	2025
Forest Fire Warden	Karl T. Pfister	2025
Asst. Fire Warden	Jeremiah Evarts	2025
Road Commissioner	Steve Hall	2025
911 Coordinator	Will Goodwin	2025
CUD representative	Susan Lenox	2025

Please note that all Select Board-appointed Officers serve from January 1 of their appointment year to December 31 of the year listed here. The Assistant Town Clerk is appointed by the Town Clerk, and is Susan Lenox for 2024.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Minutes Landgrove Annual Meeting March 6 2023 6pm

Call to order at 6:04 PM

John Ogden opened the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lynn Eckhardt.

Chrystal Cleary read the voter checklist and performed roll-call.

All were welcomed by Select Board Chair John Ogden who welcomed State Rep Mike Rice for comments:

- Discussed agriculture initiatives and food reserve registry.
- Subsidized food for all school age children in Vermont will become permanent.
- Discussed CUD effort to provide internet to Landgrove and timeline for deployment.
- Provided contact information and email address to receive communications from his office.

John references Article 8 and Article 9, Nicole Wengerd from Neighborhood Connections

- Jonathan Bigelow asks if this is a one time for annual appropriations, or if it needs to be addressed each year.
- Chrystal asks about if the rides from Neighborhood Connections are free-answer is yes, transport is all free.
- John questions the amount in Article 9 as far as the dollar amount is concerned, Cameron Chalmers states that \$1,000 is not enough for the number of rides that could be needed. Greg Eckhardt agrees with Cameron's assessment. Sarah Reed questions dollars for prioritizing children and patrons of Neighborhood Connections.

John opens Article 1 for discussion Article 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.

- Jonathan nominates Claudia Harris for a term of 1 year.
- The Clerk casts 1 ballot for Claudia.
- Claudia welcomes new residents and reminds that only Landgrove residents may speak and vote, and reviews rules for Town Meeting.

Article 2: To elect the following officers as required by law:

- Clerk casts 1 ballot for:

Officer	Term length	Candidate	Nominated by
Town Clerk	1	Chrystal Cleary	Andrea Ogden
Treasurer	1	Andrea Ogden	Michael Jeffery
Selectboard	3	Michael Jeffery	John Ogden
Lister	3	Jonathan Bigelow	Chuck Sweetman
Auditor	3	Tovis Digum	Andrea Ogden

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Cemetery 1 2026	5	Jonathan Bigelow	Lynn Eckhardt
Cemetery 2 2027	4	Matt Degan	Greg Eckhardt
Cemetery 3 2028	3	Greg Eckhardt	Johnathan Bigelow
Collector Del. Taxes	1	Susan Lenox	Andrea Ogden
Grand Juror	1	Claudia Harris	John Ogden
Constable	1	John Wiley, Jr	John Ogden
Trustee of Public funds	3	Andrea Ogden	Tovis Digum

Article 3: To hear the reports of Town Officers and take proper action on the Auditors' Report.

- Motion to move Article 3, Michael Jefferey makes motion to move.
- John comments on Select Board report. May Bigelow questions about the Sand Shed project. John states that there will be a special meeting on the Sand Shed budget in the spring.
- Jonathan asks the question of combining collective resources with other towns to save funds. John comments that there have been thoughts, and further discussion occurs as needed, points out that some positions are collective between towns like the Zoning and Listers administrators.
- Greg asks about the purchase of a used plow truck to replace the current plow truck. Steve Hall comments on reasoning for purchase of a used truck.
- Greg talks about the Cemetery Commission report and discusses the idea for what to do with the any new cemetery space. Cameron mentions the idea of a "Green Burial" option.
- Chrystal speaks about dog licenses, the need for School District Election volunteers.
- Ben Freeman mentions his re-election and School Choice option issue regarding Article 15 on supporting School Choice.
- Claudia requests motion to approve Article 3, ayes have it.

Article 4: To see if the Town shall authorize its Select Board to apply any surplus or unanticipated funds toward the proposed budget?

- Claudia requests motion to move Article 4. John makes motion to move Article 4.
- Claudia requests motion to Approve Article 4, ayes have it.

Article 5: Shall the voters authorize payment of real and personal property taxes on October 1, 2023, by delivery to town hall postmarked on or before that date?

- Claudia requests motion to move Article 5, May makes motion to move Article 5.
- Ben made motion to approve Article 5, ayes have it.

Article 6: Shall the Town raise the budgeted monies necessary to pay Town expenses and obligations detailed in the Town Report for the 2023 year?

- Claudia requests a motion to move Article 6, Will Reed makes motion to move Article 6.
- Greg questions the purchase of the proposed fire truck fund for Londonderry.
- Discussion of resource response for Fire Alarms in the shared resource towns.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

- General discussion of escalating costs of fire trucks.
- Mary Licatta makes a motion to approve Article 6, ayes have it.

Article 7: Shall the Town of Landgrove raise and appropriate a yearly sum not to exceed \$3,900.00 for the purpose of funding, in part, a full-time position of Mountain Towns Recreation Director to be hired by the Town of Londonderry, pursuant to an inter-local agreement as established in 24 VSA 4901?

- Claudia requests motion to move Article 7, Will makes motion to move Article 7.
- Peter Thomson requests clarity on the request. Will provides commentary and reasoning. Andrea Ogden makes commentary on the addition of this resource relieves pressure on current volunteers. Chuck Sweetman requests clarity on who the towns are that would benefit from the position. Discussion of Landgrove share of the position compensation.
- Johnathan make motion to approve Article 7, ayes have it.

Article 8: Shall the voters of Landgrove approve an increase in the annual community appropriation to Neighborhood Connections from \$500 to \$1,000, annually?

- Claudia requests motion to move Article 8, Mary makes a motion to move Article 8.
- Ben makes a motion to approve Article 8: ayes have it.

Article 9: Shall the voters of Landgrove approve a new annual appropriation of \$1,000 to Neighborhood Connections for the Mountain Town Connector van transport service?

- Claudia requests motion to move Article 9, Greg makes motion to move Article 9.
- Michael makes a comment that Landgrove's contribution should be collective and not requests for one-off funding. He questions whether the initiative is actually successful and being used by the residents of Landgrove.
- Discussion of combining the dollar amount for a vote next year.
- Greg makes motion to approve Article 9, ayes have it.

Article 10: To transact any other non-binding business proper to come before said meeting, not acted upon in the preceding articles?

- Claudia requests motion to move Article 10, John makes motion to move Article 10.
- Blair McCaw mentions the US State Department, Homeland Security initiative to supporting pre-approved refugees, requests interest in the program.
- Hiring of an animal control officer, need for Dog Ordinance to assign responsibilities, then next step is to submit the ordinance for review.
- Mary makes a motion to approve Article 10, ayes have it.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Article 11: Shall the Town agree to meet in 2024 on the first Monday before the first Tuesday in March (March 4, 2024) at 6pm for the annual Town Meeting?

- Claudia requests motion to move Article 11, John makes motion to move Article 11.
- Lynn Eckhardt questions the time of day.
- Mary make motion to approve Article 11, ayes have it

Claudia thanks all volunteers, Lynn thanks the Road Commission.
Motion to Adjourn, ayes have it. Meeting is adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Susan Lenox, Asst Town Clerk

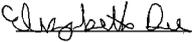


Catamount Trail in winter.



Auditors' Report

We, the undersigned auditors of the Town of Landgrove, performed an audit of the Town's financial statements of the year ended December 31st, 2023. We have reconciled bank statements monthly and consulted the audit checklist provided by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns in determining a review plan. In our opinion, the financial statements presented in the Town Report present fairly the financial position of the Town of Landgrove as of December 31, 2023.



Elizabeth Dee



Charlie Howard



Tove Stigum

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

General Fund Budget

		2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 PROPOSED
1	Revenue				
2	Copier	523.00	250.00	398.50	350.00
3	Current Use	48,259.00	48,000.00	46,082.00	46,500.00
4	General Fund Taxes Received	95,409.53	107,756.00	105,776.16	112,952.26
5	Grants	-	-	497.63	
6	Green Mountain Forest	2,388.00	2,400.00	2,559.00	2,600.00
7	Interest	8,354.89	3,000.00	22,475.47	25,000.00
8	Licenses & Permits	1,108.35	1,200.00	1,217.05	1,200.00
9	Misc General Fund Income	7.97	-	4.00	-
10	Prior Year Tax Income	9,209.03	-	-	-
11	Recording Income	4,300.00	3,500.00	2,510.00	2,500.00
12	Rental of Town Hall	701.00	701.00	701.00	701.00
13	State Ed Retained by Town	3,518.22	3,366.00	3,351.21	3,613.00
14	Total Revenue	173,778.99	170,173.00	185,572.02	195,416.26
15	Surplus Applied	20,000.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	
16	TOTAL	193,778.99	189,173.00	204,572.02	195,416.26
17					
18	Expense				
19	Appropriations				
20	Community				
21	Benn Cnty Assoc. Against Child Abuse	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
22	Flood Brook Athletic Association	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
23	Green Up Vermont	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
24	Health Care & Rehabilitation Serv.	166.00	166.00	166.00	166.00
25	Londonderry Vol. Rescue Squad	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,150.00
26	Mtn Towns Rec Director		3,900.00	-	3,048.00
27	Mountain Valley Medical Clinic	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
28	Neighborhood Connections	500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
29	N.C. - Transportation		1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
30	Phoenix Fire Company #6	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
31	So Londonderry Free Library	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
32	The Collaborative	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
33	Visiting Nurse Alliance	615.00	615.00	615.00	615.00
34	Total Community	12,581.00	17,981.00	14,081.00	17,279.00
35					
36	Town				
37	Cem Endowment	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
38	Cem Maintenance	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
39	Veterans Mem. Stone Wall, as voted	5,000.00	-	-	-
40	Fire Truck	2,500.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	7,500.00
41	Reappraisal Fund	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
42	Records Restoration	-	-	-	-
43	Town Hall Maint Fund	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
44	Total Town	20,000.00	18,500.00	18,500.00	20,000.00
45	Total Appropriations	32,581.00	36,481.00	32,581.00	37,279.00
46					
47	Taxes, Assessments & Fees				
48	BCRC	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
49	County Tax	8,134.91	8,150.00	8,327.32	8,400.00
50	Londonderry Landfill	19,884.03	19,840.00	19,839.69	20,000.00
51	SWNH Fire & Rescue Dispatch	10,218.00	10,423.00	10,423.00	10,500.00
52	VT League of Cities & Towns	1,295.00	1,329.00	1,329.00	1,371.00
53	Total Taxes, Assessments & Fees	41,531.94	41,742.00	41,919.01	42,271.00

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

General Fund Budget

		2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 PROPOSED
55	Admin Costs				
56	Payroll Expenses	5,000.65	5,500.00	6,291.06	5,692.50
57	Salaries				
58	Assistant Clerk	3,000.00	2,000.00	6,188.40	6,000.00
59	Assistant Treasurer	-	2,000.00	-	-
60	Town Clerk	16,936.17	17,444.00	17,396.62	18,005.50
61	Treasurer	14,169.64	14,595.00	14,554.23	15,063.63
62	School Director	1,100.00	1,133.00	1,133.00	1,172.66
63	Auditors Stipends	1,500.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,105.00
64	Select Board	3,300.00	3,399.00	3,399.00	3,517.97
65	Total Salaries	45,006.46	49,071.00	51,962.31	52,557.25
66					
67	Town Hall & Office				
68	Heating Fuel	3,400.95	3,500.00	2,866.09	3,000.00
69	IT Systems	3,909.74	3,700.00	4,410.74	4,000.00
70	Routine Maintenance	3,439.50	4,500.00	4,896.93	4,500.00
71	Supplies	4,103.73	3,000.00	3,554.92	3,000.00
72	Training	-	250.00	70.00	250.00
73	Utilities	3,269.72	3,000.00	5,090.16	5,000.00
74	Insurance	10,693.11	10,700.00	10,650.35	10,700.00
75	Legal	4,896.40	7,000.00	1,932.50	5,000.00
76	Accounting Consultant	-	1,000.00	180.00	1,000.00
77	Miscellaneous Expense	305.13	-	6,852.00	-
78	Town Lands	1,900.00	1,900.00	2,880.00	2,000.00
79	Town Report	1,825.50	1,825.00	2,050.87	1,825.00
80	Total Hall & Office	37,743.78	40,375.00	45,434.56	40,275.00
81					
82	Listers				
83	Lister Stipend	3,300.00	3,399.00	\$ 3,399.00	3,517.97
84	Tax Mapping	3,075.00	3,075.00	3,137.50	3,200.00
85	Assessor	4,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.04	5,250.00
86	Listers' Expenses	1,148.46	2,500.00	2,264.29	2,500.00
87	Total Lister	12,023.46	13,974.00	13,800.83	14,467.97
88					
89					
90	Zoning & Planning				
91	Zoning Administrator	4,415.25	6,000.00	7,414.04	7,000.00
92	Chair ZBA Stipend	500.00	515.00	515.00	533.03
93	Chair Planning Stipend	500.00	515.00	515.00	533.03
94	Misc Expenses	272.16	500.00	275.32	500.00
95	Total Zoning	5,687.41	7,530.00	8,719.36	8,566.05
96					
97	Total Expense	174,574.05	189,173.00	194,417.07	195,416.26

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

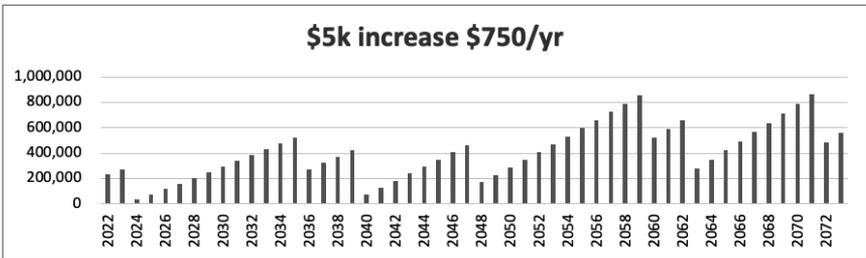
Roads Budget

	2022 ACTUAL	2023 BUDGET	2023 ACTUAL	2024 PROPOSED
1 Revenues				
2 Grants - State	8,196.40	8,000.00	4,500.00	84,500.00
3 Licenses & Permits	115.00	100.00	110.00	110.00
4 Roads Fund Taxes Raised	158,677.88	173,833.00	170,545.28	181,143.00
5 VT State Highway Aid	38,222.94	36,000.00	56,187.49	36,720.00
6 Total Revenue	205,212.22	217,933.00	231,342.77	302,473.00
7 Surplus Applied	32,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	
8 TOTAL	237,212.22	237,933.00	251,342.77	302,473.00
9				
10 Expense				
11 Salaries				
12 Road Comm Stipend	1,100.00	1,133.00	1,133.00	1,173.00
13 Total Salaries	1,100.00	1,133.00	1,133.00	1,173.00
14				
15 General				
16 Equipment Fund	30,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	40,000.00
17 Emergency Reserve Fund				27,000.00
18 Gas & Oil	13,285.66	12,000.00	16,710.62	15,000.00
19 Insurance Auto	3,328.00	3,500.00	3,371.00	3,500.00
20 Machine Maint & Repairs	11,340.59	15,000.00	27,095.67	15,000.00
21 Misc	4,139.77	2,000.00	2,741.67	2,000.00
22 Rent	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,000.00	6,500.00
23 Utilities	468.94	500.00	317.89	500.00
24 Total General	69,062.96	74,500.00	91,236.85	109,500.00
25				
26 Summer				
27 Chloride	2,800.00	2,800.00	245.50	2,800.00
28 Culverts	160.00	8,000.00	4,996.02	8,000.00
29 Ditching	12,722.50	15,000.00	325.00	15,000.00
30 Grading	5,092.00	7,500.00	2,736.00	7,500.00
31 Resurfacing	14,930.00	15,000.00	10,864.00	45,000.00
32 Roadside Mowing	6,430.00	6,500.00	6,250.00	6,500.00
33 Storm Repair	1,463.00	5,000.00	101,331.95	5,000.00
34 Misc Project	0.00	-	-	-
35 Total Summer	43,597.50	59,800.00	126,748.47	89,800.00
36				

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Roads Budget

		2022	2023	2023	2024
		ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
42	Sand & Materials	33,179.50	35,000.00	26,428.50	35,000.00
43	Supplemental Plowing	7,962.00	10,000.00	7,416.00	10,000.00
44	Total Winter	102,242.02	102,500.00	86,602.90	102,000.00
45					
46	Total Expense	216,002.48	237,933.00	305,721.22	302,473.00
47					
48	Surplus/(Deficit)	21,209.74	-	(54,378.45)	-



The Town Equipment Fund annual appropriation in the Roads Budget (line 16) was increased by \$5,000 this year to \$40,000 annually. The Town will be increasing the annual amount by \$750 a year to be able to meet the projected equipment replacement costs in the future.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Statement of Taxes Raised

As Tax Rates were Set	Non-Homestead	Homestead	Roads	General Fund	Total
Grand List Value	748,591.26	273,131.00	1,021,749.00	1,021,749.00	
Tax Rate	1.6114	1.5648	0.1701	0.1055	
Taxes to be Raised	1,206,279.96	427,395.39	173,799.50	107,794.52	1,915,269.37
As Originally Billed	1,206,279.96	427,395.39	173,799.50	107,794.52	1,915,269.37
Subsequent Adjustments	(20,374.54)	20,098.30	34.02	21.09	(221.13)
As shown on 12/12/23	1,185,905.42	447,493.69	173,833.53	107,815.61	1,915,048.24
				Collections	<u>(1,878,567.19)</u>
				Balance Outstanding	<u>36,481.05</u>
				Delinquent tax	36,478.05
				Other	3.00
					<u>36,481.05</u>



Prep for Town Meeting Day.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Town Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2023

	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	Change
Town Assets			
M&T Bank	15,705.79	36,173.02	20,467.23
Stifel Nicolaus	1,389,344.11	1,267,837.70	(121,506.41)
Petty Cash	135.86	17.18	(118.68)
Cemetery Assets			
M&T Bank	25,750.28	25,756.69	6.41
Public Funds at Stifel Nicolaus			
Cemetery	83,003.22	102,168.38	19,165.16
Conservation	31,679.54	38,363.18	6,683.64
Town Fund Balances			
	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	
Operating	207,248.56	248,961.31	41,712.75
ARPA Funds	27,677.50	20,453.93	(7,223.57)
Dog License Account	3,599.00	3,752.42	153.42
Fire Truck	7,500.00	-	(7,500.00)
Reappraisal	22,809.31	27,408.81	4,599.50
Records Restoration	10,609.98	10,644.98	35.00
Roads Equipment	245,000.00	280,000.00	35,000.00
Town Hall Maint.	28,092.79	30,592.79	2,500.00
Unallocated Reserve	299,261.57	79,498.70	(219,762.87)
Education Escrow	544,735.05	596,976.94	52,241.89

Reserve Funds can be found on page 22

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Operating Fund

Income

General Fund	185,572.03
Roads Fund	231,342.77
Del Tax Penalty	6,148.52
Transfer Station Income	880.00
Change in Undep Funds	-
Prior Year Voided Check	440.00
Homestead Penalty	942.14
Change in Payroll Liability	(731.27)
Operating Fund Year End Policy	125,148.00

Total Income **549,742.19**

Expense

General Fund	194,417.07
Roads	305,721.22
Transfer Station Expense	880.00
Del Tax Penalty Paid	7,011.15

Total Expense **508,029.44**

Balance as of 12/31/2023 **248,961.31**

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

Balance as of 12/31/2022	27,677.50
Income	
no additional income	-
Total Income	-
Expense	
Zoom Equipment	4,521.00
Large Format Printer/Scanner	455.79
Tech Equipment Removal	555.00
Annual online Land Records support	558.78
Admin Time for Tech Upgrades	1,133.00
Total Expense	7,223.57
Balance as of 12/31/2023	20,453.93

This money was awarded to the Town of Landgrove in 2021 as part of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. In 2023, we acquired zoom equipment, a large format printer for the town office and continued our emphasis on technology upgrades that will help us serve people remotely. The fund balance must be obligated by the end of 2024 and spent by the end of 2026.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

RESERVE FUNDS *pages 22-27*

Dog License Account

Balance as of 12/31/2022	3,599.00
Income	
Licensing Fees	502.00
Total Income	502.00
Expense	
IDS Dog Tags	113.58
State Animal Control	235.00
Total Expense	348.58
Balance as of 12/31/2023	3,752.42

This account is mandated by Vermont Statute 20 V.S.A. § 3624 to cover the costs associated with an Animal Control Officer, should the need arise. Landgrove currently does not have an Animal Control Officer on call.

Dog licenses are available at the Town Clerk's office any time after January 1st each year. For a spayed or neutered dog, the charge is \$9 and for an unaltered dog, the charge is \$13. After April 1st, a late charge of \$2 and \$4 will apply for altered and unaltered dogs, respectively. New puppies or dogs acquired after April 1 will be charged half of the regular fee.

Please note that rabies inoculations must be current before a license can be issued.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Education Escrow

Balance as of 12/31/2022 **544,735.05**

Income

2023 Tax Revenue	1,557,186.73
Education DT paid by URF*	31,150.36
State Payment - Municipal	614.00

Total Income **1,588,951.09**

Expense

FY23 June 1 State Payment	541,368.99
FY24 Taconic & Green payment	381,975.00
FY24 Dec 1 State Payment	610,014.00
Transfer FY23 Admin Fee to GF	3,351.21

Total Expense **1,536,709.20**

Balance as of 12/31/2023 **596,976.94**

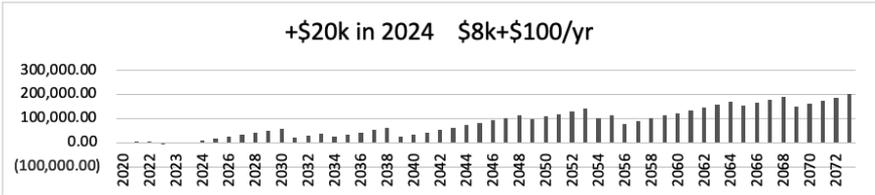
*Unallocated Reserve Fund

Because the Town is on a calendar fiscal year and the State Education system is on a July 1 fiscal year, we end every year with a large amount of committed Education tax in our Operating Account. The balance in the account at the end of the year is the projected amount of the June 1 payment (final FY24) due to the State of Vermont.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Fire Truck Fund

Balance as of 12/31/2022	7,500.00
Income	
Town Appropriation	6,000.00
Total Income	6,000.00
Expense	
Phoenix Fire Co	13,500.00
Total Expense	13,500.00
 Balance as of 12/31/2023	 -



This year, the Select Board increased the annual Town appropriation amount to the Fire Truck Fund (General Fund budget, line 40) to \$8,000 from \$6,500 and will increase the annual contributions by \$100 each year going forward. The Town will also need to fund the final payment of the new fire truck in 2024 from the Unallocated Reserve Fund in the amount of \$20,000. This will put the Town on track to be fully funded by the time the town is asked for the next fire truck contribution.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Reappraisal Fund

Balance as of 12/31/2022 **22,809.31**

Income

Town Appropriation 2,500.00

State of VT Equalization 221.00

State of VT Per Parcel 1,878.50

Total Income **4,599.50**

Expense

No Activity -

Total Expense -

Balance as of 12/31/2023 **27,408.81**

The Reappraisal Fund is held in reserve to cover the costs associated with a town-wide reassessment. Our last reappraisal was in 2020.

Records Restoration Fund

Balance as of 12/31/2022 **10,609.98**

Income

Town Appropriation -

Per Page - Recording Fees 1,235.00

Total Income **1,235.00**

Expense

Land Records Digitization Fee 1,200.00

Total Expense **1,200.00**

Balance as of 12/31/2023 **10,644.98**

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Road Equipment Fund

Balance as of 12/31/2022	245,000.00
Income	
Town Appropriation	35,000.00
Total Income	35,000.00
Expense	
No Activity	-
Total Expense	-
Balance as of 12/31/2023	280,000.00

This fund is used to minimize the impact to taxpayers of large equipment purchases used to maintain our roads. The current Town truck was purchased in 2010 and the grader was purchased in 2012.

Town Hall Maintenance Fund

Balance as of 12/31/2022	28,092.79
Income	
Town Appropriation	2,500.00
Total Income	2,500.00
Expense	
No Activity	-
Total Expense	-
Balance as of 12/31/2023	30,592.79

This fund is intended to grow gradually to help mitigate the cost of large projects such as, but not limited to, painting the exterior, renovating the interior or replacing the boiler.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Unallocated Reserve Fund

Balance as of 12/31/2022	299,261.57
Income	
No Activity	-
Total Income	-
Expense	
Phoenix Fire Co. - New Truck	6,500.00
Year End Adjustments	
Education Del Tax	31,150.36
Op Fund Year End Policy	125,148.00
Immaterial Tax Discrepancies	1.99
Sand Shed Relocation Project	
Sand Shed Land Survey	2,425.00
Sand Shed Wetlands Permit Engineering	1,615.00
Land Purchase	52,922.52
Total Expense	219,762.87
Balance as of 12/31/2023	79,498.70

The Select Board put into practice a cash flow projection model (Op Fund Year End Policy) which determines how much cash will be needed in the Operating Fund to cover ordinary expenses until the time the property tax payments are received in August and September. This year, the Select Board voted to move \$125,148 into the Operating Fund per this policy. That transfer is reflected in this report and on the Operating Fund page.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Trustee of Public Funds

The Trustees of Public Funds manage, invest and report on all real and personal property held in Trust by the Town. The Landgrove Trustees of Public Funds currently manage two funds—the Cemetery Endowment Fund and the Conservation Fund. Any future bequeaths which specify how the funds are to be used will also be managed by the Trustees. 17 V.S.A. § 2646(12); 24 V.S.A. § 2431.

From the 1997 Town Report, “The Cemetery Trust Fund had its beginning in 1941 when interested people made contributions in order to build a fund which could maintain the cemetery for years to come. These contributions, totally to date \$16,531.75, should remain untouched and only the interest from them should be used for the care and maintenance of the cemetery.” Upon further review of Town reports between 1941 and 2022, the Trustees have on occasion transferred a portion of the interest earned to the Cemetery Commission for maintenance expenses. The current board met in August 2023 and agreed to distribute the 2023 interest proceeds to the Cemetery Commission. It is expected, although not officially voted on, that these distributions will continue in the future.

The Conservation Fund was created out of excess funds raised by the Landgrove community in supporting the legal conservation of the Martin Field off Hapgood Pond Road. The interest on the fund is intended to support Landgrove property owners with costs associated with future land conservation efforts.

Detailed statements of both funds are available at the town hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Adams
Andrea Ogden
Sally Waite



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Trustee of Public Funds

Cemetery Endowment Fund

Balance as of 12/31/2022	83,003.22
Income	
Town Appropriation	1,000.00
Plot Sales	600.00
Interest & Dividends	1,507.45
Unrealized Gain on Investment	16,057.71
Total Income	19,165.16
Expense	
No Activity	-
Total Expense	-
Balance as of 12/31/2023	102,168.38

Conservation Fund

Balance as of 12/31/2022	31,679.54
Income	
Interest & Dividends	606.79
Unrealized Gain on Investment	6,076.85
Total Income	6,683.64
Expense	
No Activity	-
Total Expense	-
Balance as of 12/31/2023	38,363.18

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Vendor Payments Over \$5,000

	2023
State of Vermont	\$ 1,151,800
Taconic and Green Regional USD	\$ 381,975
Merrills X	\$ 163,875
James A. Young, PC	\$ 55,000
QuickBooks Payroll Service	\$ 33,402
Phoenix Fire Company #6	\$ 23,000
Ogden & Chalmers, LLC.	\$ 21,557
Town of Londonderry	\$ 20,720
Dorr Oil	\$ 16,711
United States Treasury	\$ 16,215
Curtis Merrill	\$ 15,500
Hunter Excavating, Inc.	\$ 13,672
Marc Waldo Landscaping	\$ 11,875
ATG Westminster, LLC	\$ 11,578
SWNH Fire Mutal Aid	\$ 10,423
Cincinnati Insurance Company	\$ 8,765
County of Bennington	\$ 8,327
SEAM Solutions	\$ 6,800
Landgrove Cemetery Commission	\$ 6,500
Ferguson Waterworks	\$ 6,094

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Annual Report of Collector of Delinquent Taxes December 31, 2023

Year	1/1/2023 Outstanding	Collections	Abatements	12/31/2023 Balance
2022	2,880.96	0		2,880.96
2023 (10/1)	145,298.23	108,820.18		36,478.05
	148,179.19	108820.18		39,359.01
Total Tax Collections		108,461.52		
Interest Received		1,180.59		
Remitted to Treasurer		110,000.77		
Del Tax Penalty Collected		6148.52		
Paid to Del Tax Collector		7011.15		

As of December 31, 2023, there are 10 properties with a balance due. 2022 has two properties outstanding. Information on delinquent tax properties is available at the Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lenox
Delinquent Tax Collector

Please note that taxes are due October 1st. Payments received or post-marked after that date are delinquent and subject to a penalty fee of 8% and interest of 1% for the first three months or part thereof, and 1.5% per month or part thereafter, as allowed under the laws of the State of Vermont.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Select Board/Road Commissioner Report

I would like to start by saying how heartbroken we are for losing John Ogden this spring. He embraced his role as the Select Board Chair and gave his heart and soul in everything he did for our Town. He is greatly missed. I'd like to thank Will Reed for stepping into the Select Board role for John and quickly getting up to speed with all that we are working on this year. I'd also like to acknowledge Bobby Waite's passing and his contributions to our town for many years.

We are excited to say we have finally been able to purchase land for our sand shed relocation project that the Select Board has been working on for decades. Our new land, located just north of The Landgrove Inn, was purchased from Tom Checchia. Rights of Way to this land were generously donated by Jay & Kathy Snyder and Karl Pfister. The Select Board has been working hard putting this project together attaining permits, surveyors and contractors to aid in the efforts needed in taking the initial steps in developing the land. The driveway is in, the site is cleared, and we are moving forward with the site and building design which we plan to present to the town early this summer.

In connection with our winter sand relocation project and wetland permit obligations, the Town will be restoring a portion of the old sand pile area back to a wetland habitat. We are excited to be working with Trout Unlimited on this project who will be overseeing the restoration work and funding the project. The work will include cleaning up the old sand pile site and restoring a good majority of the area back to wet lands while retaining parking for approximately 12 cars. We have also been working with VT State Fish and Wildlife to help mitigate the beaver issues that has been flooding Leurich Field. Our goal is to find ways to live with the beavers instead of trapping them which has proven to be a temporary fix, at best.

I'd like to thank Jay and CJ Merrill for all their hard work maintaining our roads throughout the year. Every aspect of our Town's roadwork has been more challenging with the new weather patterns we are experiencing. Persistent rain throughout the summer makes it hard to grade and work on road maintenance projects. Severe summer rain storms erode our road surfaces and winter rains produce icy roads and create multiple mud seasons. Our storm repair costs keep going up each year, and we are working harder than ever to repair and make our roads more resilient to these events. We will continue our ditching efforts and are planning on doing a large resurfacing project on our main road (Landgrove Road) this summer which will mostly be funded by a State Highway grant. This should help with our mud seasons and our ongoing, year round, pothole issues.

The Town is working on purchasing a new plow/sand truck this year. Our current truck is 13 years old and is becoming less reliable and more costly to maintain each year that passes. We hope to finalize the truck order in the next month to ensure we will have it for next year's winter road maintenance.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

As a reminder, we are doing our best to combat our seasonal road issues. We do live in a beautiful, small town in Vermont with 15 miles of dirt roads. We may have to relinquish our sense of control over Mother Nature from time to time and make ourselves another cup of coffee in the morning while we are waiting for the sand truck to come by or take a different route to Town when the roads start to break up in the spring. I think it is a small price to pay in order to call Landgrove our home. Thank you all for your patience when these events occur, and always feel free to reach out if you feel your road may need some attention.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Hall, Select Board Chair

Select Board meetings are held on the 2nd and the 4th Thursdays of each month at 8am at the Town Hall. Members of the public are always welcome to observe the meeting. Please contact the Clerk a week in advance of the meeting to get on the agenda. Also, please note that the minutes of the meeting are public record and are available at the Town Hall and on our website at landgrove.vermont.gov.



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Select Board: Sand/Vehicle Storage Report

The Town of Landgrove has been wrestling, for some years, with the problem of relocating the storage of winter sand and Town vehicles from the Luerich field site.

Luerich field is an open area and this location is deemed to be unsatisfactory by the Vermont Department of Environment and Conversation (DEC). This is due to the close proximity of the facility to the Utley Brook and the associated “run off” of sediment into the Brook.

The Town had been looking for a replacement site for a number of years but to no avail. However, three years ago, Tom Checcia, owner of the Landgrove Inn, offered for sale 4 acres of land at the North East corner of his property. This site is ideal as it is flat land that is shielded from the public view and will house a shed for the sand, gravel and salt and allow us to store the Town vehicles under cover.

Jay and Kathy Snyder, along with Karl Pfister, were kind enough to donate right of way across their land in order to facilitate access to the Landgrove Inn plot. The Town would like to thank Tom Checcia, Jay and Kathy Snyder and Karl Pfister for their generosity and community spirit in helping the Town solve what had become a 40 year insoluble problem.

General Site Requirements

The site is 4 acres and the access road is approximately 600 feet long. Initially it is planned to build two storage sheds. Each shed would be approximately 50 feet by 60 feet, one to house the sand and the other to house two vehicles. The remaining acreage would be to provide adequate screening to ensure that the facility is not visible from the road or adjoining properties. Final construction plans may differ from our initial thoughts.

The Select Board views this project in two stages:

Stage 1:

- Purchase of the land, clearing the site and creating the access road.
- Determine the exact location of the sand and vehicle shed.
- Move the sand pile and vehicles from Luerich field to the new site.

This stage is almost complete. Following a competitive bid with three operators, the project to clear the site and create the access road was awarded to Hunter Excavating. During the summer months we hope to move the remaining sand and vehicles to the new site.

Costs:

Stage 1 costs have been borne by the Town from its Unallocated Reserve Fund. Any costs have not been a burden on the Town of Landgrove taxpayers.

Land Purchase	\$48,000
Surveys	\$4,850
Permits	\$1,493
Legal	\$4,913
Site Clearing and Access Road	\$118,205
Wet Land Engineer Consultants	\$1,615
Total	\$179,076

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Stage 2:

- This stage will be the construction of storage sheds for the sand and vehicles.
- We have employed an engineering firm to determine the optimum location for the buildings on the 4 acre site and assistance in building design. The costs of this aspect is covered by a grant from Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC). Following the engineering phase, we will be able to determine the scope of construction along with a budget for costs.
- We anticipate that we will commence the construction project in 2025.
- The Town will need to raise money for this total project. We are working toward additional grants to apply to the construction project. If we are successful in obtaining further grants then any balance will need to be covered through a borrowing by the Town. Any borrowing will be subject to a Town vote.

Stage 2 costs are still to be determined but are likely to be in the region of \$500,000 to \$600,000. The combination of grants and monies raised will cover all costs associated with Stage 2 along with a portion of the costs associated with Stage 1.

Borrowings:

We are currently talking to the Vermont Bond Bank to raise the monies for this capital investment. The Vermont Bond Bank was set up by the State in order to serve towns such as Landgrove. It operates on a “pooled loan basis” and gives small towns access to the municipal bond market under the umbrella rating of the Vermont Bond Bank which is currently AA+.

This results in a more favorable interest rate than a town such as Landgrove would get standing on its own credit.

The term of the loan should equate to the useful life of the building, and we have looked at a term of 25 years. Currently interest rates for AA+ municipal bonds are around 4.8%.

Grants:

The Town is working with BCRC in order to obtain grants for this project and reduce the Town’s borrowing needs. To date BCRC have been very supportive and provided a \$20,000 grant to pay for the site to be professionally engineered. We are hopeful that more money will be available to the Town as the project advances.

Road Operations

Each winter, on average, there are 100 truckloads of sand delivered to the current site at Luerich field. With a 6” snowfall the Dump Truck will make 6 to 8 journeys to and from the site as it plows and sands the roads. With an ice storm, the journey increases to between 15 and 20 site visits. Plowing and sanding starts at 4 am and is generally completed by 1 pm. Grading in the summer is a much longer process and can take many days. As an example, the main road through Landgrove will take at least two days to grade.

The new sand shed will be capable of storing 1,300 to 1,500 yards of sand. The vehicle shed will house one Dump Truck and one Road Grader.

This project has taken over three years just to get to the end of Stage 1, due to the combination of permit, survey requirements and potential wetland issues along with Act 250 etc. and of course the COVID pandemic. As mentioned the problem of adequate and safe storage of the Town’s winter sand and vehicles has been with us for 40 years.

The Select Board led by John Ogden worked tirelessly as a team to achieve this result. It is just sad that John did not live long enough to share in the team’s success.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Zoning & Planning

Zoning Administrator Will Goodwin can be reached by emailing zoningadmin@landgrove.vermont.gov or calling (802) 824-3716 most Thursday mornings.

During 2023, a total of 9 land use applications were received, and one permit issued in 2022 was amended. Of these applications 3 were referred to the Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Adjustment, and 6 were reviewed by the Zoning Administrator.

A total of 10 Permits were issued Zoning in the following categories:

- 1 New Single-Family Dwelling
- 2 Residential Additions
- 3 Residential Accessory Structures
- 1 Accessory Dwelling
- 1 Pond
- 1 Boundary Line Adjustment
- 1 Variance

In 2023 The Planning Commission, and the Bennington Regional Planning produced a new set of zoning bylaws for Landgrove. As of this writing, these new bylaws will go into effect in February of 2024.

This amended set of Zoning Bylaws:

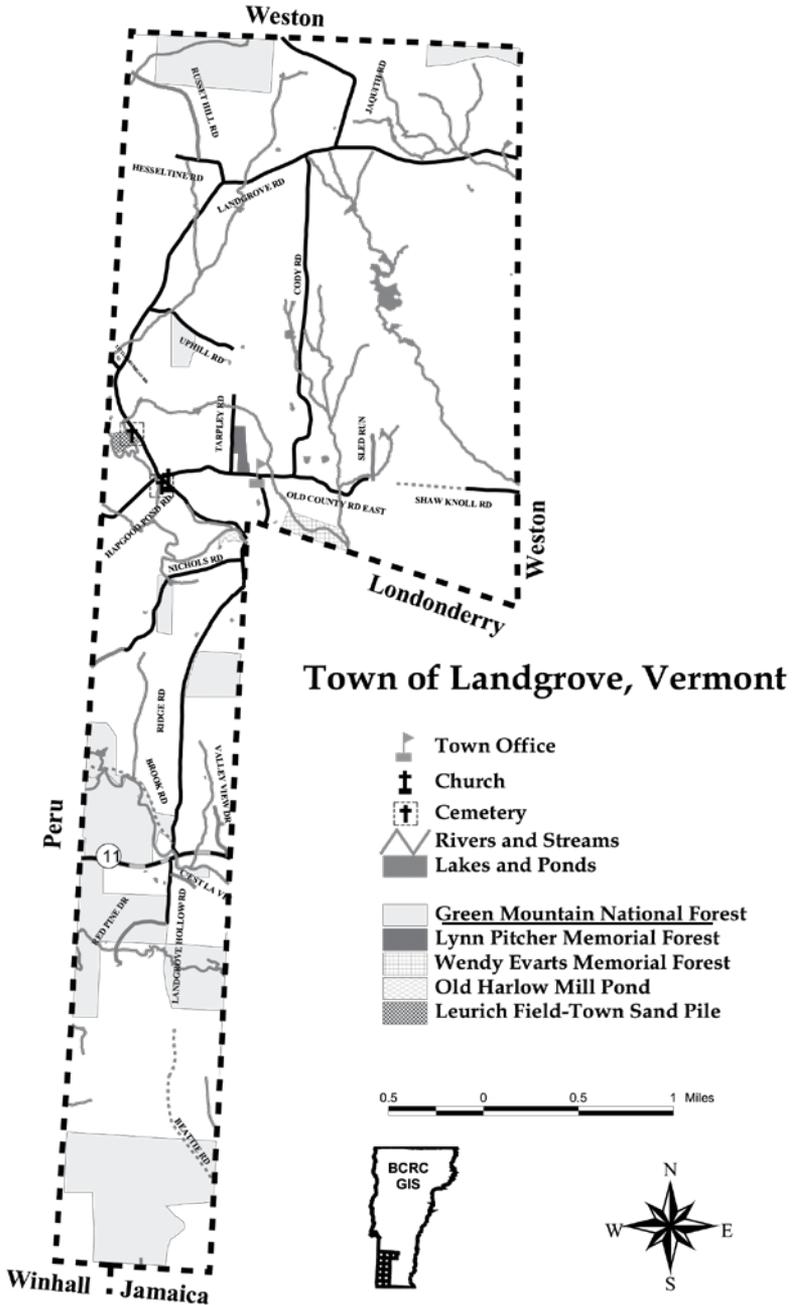
- Reflects changes in state laws regarding affordable housing, environmental conservation and building in flood zones.
- Clarifies rules that were open to interpretation and often widely misunderstood by the public.
- Has new rules on driveways and private roads to ensure safe access to all residences by fire trucks and ambulances.
- Increases the protection of steep slopes and ridgelines.
- Has a new section on subdivisions and PUDs to ensure that future development meets the goals of the town plan.
- Allows the Zoning Administrator to grant certain basic permits that don't need the input of the Planning Commission/ Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Lux (Chair)
Ryan Foster
Mary Licata
Jeff Cleary
Michael Morfit
Will Goowdin (ZA)

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Map of Town Lands



Map produced January 28, 2016 by BCRC.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Listers' Report

The listers had a pretty “normal” year. Of course, there continue to be new wrinkles from the State that once again impacted our work at the local level. Software updates, changes in reporting forms, new processes and just increases in demands added “fun” to being a lister.

Of special note, this past legislative session made moves to take over many, if not all, of the functions of the local listers! There are a number of reasons they put forth for this action (some were publicly stated and others rumored). They feel some towns are not doing reappraisals in a timely and/or appropriate manner and thereby costing the State money.

Moreover, because there are now over 150 municipalities that are under a required reappraisal mandate due to the COD and/or the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) formulas, the legislature did away with the statutory CLA requirement. Only the COD triggers reappraisals now. We also know that there are not enough firms that do this work presently in Vermont.

Furthermore, now, per legislative action, all towns will be mandated to do a reappraisal every six years. Landgrove has been doing it every six years, so no real concern here for Landgrove. The real concern, at the local level, if this all really happens, is that the local control for the towns (listers, selectmen, BCA etc) will be diminished if not totally gone. Our Town has been successful in carrying out and meeting lister responsibilities over the years because we are local townspeople, with the assistance of professionals, who live in and care about our Town. Happily, we are viewed as fair, open, professional, knowledgeable and understanding of our town. We visit every property whenever we do a reappraisal; and fairness, hard work, professionalism and equity have been hallmarks of the process. Town-wide reappraisals are always done with a professional consultant firm hired by the Town. How this would all work and the implications for towns and taxpayers, if indeed the State takes it all over, are real questions.

Interestingly, after some significant push back by some towns and organizations, the legislature authorized an implementation study, due December 2024, to review the proposed takeover process, the pros/cons, timing, processes, and staffing issues as well as the roles of the towns, town officials, and various State agencies. Stay tuned for legislative action based on the report. It is important for residents and town officials to monitor the situation and provide input to our legislators re: concerns, issues, and questions.

February through September continues to be our busiest time. Reviewing permits, doing site visits, and establishing valuations are key activities; and, of course, we are doing all the paperwork, reports, software data entry etc., for the State and our local property owners. Annually, we visit 10-15 properties with changes, new permits and projects not yet completed under permits from previous years. In 2023, we visited 11 properties. Current use information on properties is also reviewed annually per State request. We had just a few inquires from taxpayers about changes in their assessments, and information was provided. We had no grievance hearings and no appeals to the BCA or to the courts. In addition, changes and updates are made to the grand list and other required reports.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Certainly we continue to be most appreciative of Jeremiah Sund for his outstanding work as the part-time lister assessor/consultant/administrator. He is in his third year with us. His knowledge and expertise are appreciated, as are his data entry and software skills. He is well respected in the State and has good working relationship with the various State and private organizations.

Landgrove's 5,700 acres consists of approximately 275 parcels of which over 170 have structures. All the various State forms and reports were filed on time and were accepted. We are happy to report that, as a Town, we have managed our responsibilities in a timely and professional manner.

We should note that Equalized Education Grand List (EEGL) for Landgrove for 2023 is \$122,002,093. Our CLA for the year is 83.76%. This number is essentially how close a town's local assessments are to fair market value. A number below 100% means property is generally listed at less than fair market value; a number over 100% indicates the that generally speaking the property is listed at more than the fair market value. When the CLA falls below 85% or over 115 % the State requires a town-wide reappraisal. Quite honestly, some of the State data works on three year rolling average data and with the unbelievable real estate activity in last three to four years in Vermont, we are not be surprised to see many statewide reassessment requirements kicking in now! In fact, there are now over 150 out of 250 towns in the mandated reappraisal process! We shall be be getting that letter in 2024; however, the State its doing away with that calculation effective next year.

We also want to report that our 2023 COD (Coefficient of Dispersion) is 21.82%; a COD of between 10%-19% is viewed as "reasonable" where over 20% would require a State ordered reappraisal. We shall get a letter telling us to plan on doing that in the future. Again, the unusual real estate market over the last few years has had an effect here as well. We have been planning on keeping our six year cycle anyhow (2008-2014-2020); we expected to do in 2026. This could be pushed back when the State decides how to schedule each town in Vermont to meet the every six year reappraisal mandate.

Finally, we are pleased to report the Landgrove resident Kevin Dommenege has been sitting in, studying and learning about the job of lister for almost a year. We are appreciative of his interest and are hopeful that he will want to join the lister board in 2025.

As usual we would like to thank all taxpayers for their support and cooperation. This is a small wonderful town where people cooperate and help as a matter of course. It is certainly appreciated. Thank you.

Respectively submitted
Jonathan Bigelow
Blair McCaw
Chuck Sweetman

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Clerk's Report

Thank you once again for choosing me to serve as Town Clerk. I enjoy seeing everyone who comes by our office (and all of the dogs as well). I feel a lot of satisfaction in the work of recording, ordering and finding information for our Town, and making the improvements and trainings that make this work crisper and faster or more convenient.

2023 was a 'breather' year, putting the pandemic and 2022 elections behind us, while training and preparing for the activity that 2024 will bring with the Primaries and General Election. I have taken trainings this year on disability access to local government and 2024 Elections processes, and most recently the CISA (cyber security agency) and FBI training on election security and resources.

In office news, rearranging the vault gave us room to move the mylar surveys rack in, which created room in the office for a dedicated printer for those copying from the land records. The new printer has a larger glass and can take scans and copies of the bigger documents in our vault. We got rid of the extremely heavy fireproof safe around the corner as well, and I've reorganized all the Property Transfer Tax Returns (since the 1960's) to the main file cabinet.

Now that we have arrived in 2024, if you are a registered Landgrove voter, please consider volunteering on one or more of our 3 election days to help out! The first is the March 5th Presidential Primary and School District Election, followed by August 13th for the State Primaries, and November 5th, the General Election. Working a two hour shift at the election is a great way to help out your Town, to see your neighbors or get to know other townsmen you might not know by name yet. To sign up, please see me or email clerk@landgrove.vermont.gov

Our Town is grateful for the consistent and dedicated service at the polls of both John Ogden and Bobby Waite in nearly every election, and I will miss them both. We also will miss the volunteer enthusiasm of Michael and Christine Morfit, who have made their primary residence in California and will vote there now. It is important that Landgrovians take inspiration from each others' public service and step into your role in this little Town you love, with its small scale and personal feel. Please know that we would love you to come join us at elections, or as Justice of the Peace, or another office or committee and make our Town work smoothly, together!

Finally, annual reminder that Dog Licenses are ready now, and dogs must be licensed before April 1. Come see me to take care of this easy step, and bring that Good Dogue along for some pats and a cookie to go with their new green star license tag!

Voter registration is most often managed via the DMV, but can be managed through my office or on your own at any time online via Vermont's My Voter page olvr.vermont.gov

Thank you for allowing me to serve our Town, and I look forward to seeing you all as you come by throughout the year!

Chrystal Cleary, Town Clerk
2012- present

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Treasurer's Report

My report each year hits the same highlights—please consider using the online tax payment option through the town's website for your property tax payment and please remember to file your homestead declaration with the state by April 15th. These are the two simple actions you can take to prevent unnecessary aggravation and penalties. The US Postal Service continues to be slightly unreliable for tax payments—this year we had another 2-3 payments disappear somewhere between being mailed and arriving at the Town Hall.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have regarding the reports in this booklet. Each year we are taking small steps toward process control and increased transparency. This year, the town has hired the firm Mudgett, Jennett & Krogh-Wisner, P.C. to perform an independent audit of our books. That process is underway as I write this report and I look forward to their final report as a tool for further growth of the town's financial management.

On a personal note, this year was extraordinarily hard for me because of the death of my husband, John. I am so grateful for Chrystal, Susan, Will and Jeremiah – my Town Hall officemates. They shared the whole nine-year cancer roller coaster with me in weekly installments. Moving beyond the walls of the Town Hall, the rest of our dirt road community has been incredible in supporting our family. John was immensely fond of this place, not just as his childhood home but as a beautiful patch of earth with all its crazy weather, ponds and rivers, mountain bike and ski trails, and so many good people doing interesting things. So, thank you for making this such a special place for us to raise a family and live a life. He died full of gratitude for having the opportunity to drive these very special dirt roads with you.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Ogden, Treasurer

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

General Action Report—Asst. Town Clerk/Town Administrator

It has been my pleasure to support the Town's Officials and residents in the past year. Reporting to Chrystal and supporting Andrea, Will, and Jeremiah along with the Select Board, Cemetery Commission and the Historical Society has been more than interesting!

My position supports numerous areas, and as such I am involved in many technological improvements and upgrades, funded by the Covid based ARPA grants:

- Town internet: For the larger part of the past three years I've been working as the Communications Union District Representative representing Landgrove and working with the other Town CUD reps to get high speed internet installed in our Town and the entire CUD region. We successfully worked with Fidium Fiber (Consolidated Communications) to bring fiber availability to every home in Landgrove.
- Town Hall facilities: I was able to install two new keyless door locks for the Town Hall Main and Office entrances. These locks negate the need for physical keys, (which are frequently lost or misplaced), and allow for remote monitoring and logging.
- Wireless: This year, I upgraded the wireless access point to modern authorization in order to protect the Town's data and systems from potential breach, and assigned a guest wireless network which is segmented from the rest of the Landgrove network.
- Equipment: I replaced the large legacy office printer with a smaller, modern printer and under the guidance of Chrystal installed a dedicated guest scanner and printer for public use.
- Access: Also under the guidance of Chrystal, I configured a dedicated laptop for public use when searching the Land Records module.
- Zoom: I identified and configured Zoom equipment to support the Town's collaboration needs. The equipment is portable and can cover various rooms in the Town Hall.

This year, I had the pleasure of working extensively with Chrystal and the Select Board in consideration of an Animal Control Policy. This conversation required that I study the pertinent Vermont Statutes as well as conduct research on other towns and speak with select Landgrove Residents. As a result of this, I wrote an Animal Ordinance that was accepted by the Select Board and subsequently posted on the Animal Control page of the Town Website.

I also met with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and Trout Unlimited to assess how Landgrove should deal with the inconveniences of the beaver population given their large impact on the health of the wetlands and the different eco climates. (Trout Unlimited has been guiding and proposing financial support for the stream restoration at Utley Brook as the Town moves to remove the sand pile and equipment from streamside to the new site). I wrote a synopsis of findings and recommendations as an educational piece for the entire Town's information.

On the emergency readiness front, I worked with Chrystal to produce an emergency readiness page on the Town Website. I worked to update the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan, wrote the job description for the Town's Emergency Management Coordinator, and acted as the primary Town resource for FEMA regarding filing and reimbursement for damage from the July 2023 storm (continuing).

2024 finds opportunities for me to continue to support the Town in the upgrade of software and applications, refinement and creation of more policies and procedures, and anything else that comes my way that generally benefits the Town's Officials and residents.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Lenox

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Cemetery Commission

In the few years that I have been a member of the cemetery commission we have buried a brother, dear friends, military veterans, parents of friends, neighbors—so many wonderful people who have enriched our lives and added to the life of this town. Every member of the commission has family members who are interred in the South Cemetery. We are all deeply appreciative of this beautiful place where our loved ones have been laid to rest, and we know that many of you share that feeling. We are honored to be the current caretakers of this tradition and place. It means so much to us to be of use to family, friends, and neighbors during a tough time.

The Landgrove Cemetery Commission has had a busy and productive year. Members gathered in the Fall to do tidy up work at our two cemeteries. For the most part this involved removing sticks and plastic flowers and items. In addition, we went to two of Landgrove's "private" cemeteries (with permission of the landowners) to do significant cleanup work. Mat Degan showed up with a chainsaw, and we were glad for his careful work in removing some sizable trees. We hired Shea Funeral Home to work on a number of gravestones in the old cemetery. In all, work of this sort we benefit immensely from the expertise of longtime commission member Richard Adams. Though the slate, marble, and granite headstones and markers that predominate in our cemeteries seem immutable, like us, they are subject to time and weather. And so we fight the good fight, knowing full well that our efforts will ultimately be in vain. All will return to dust.

The regular upkeep of our cemeteries is performed by Marc Waldo, our sextant. Marc is particularly aware of the weekends and holidays that see more visits, and he and his team always make an extra effort to leave the cemeteries looking great for these times. Thank you, Marc. Greg and I work carefully with Marc to plan all burials and monument installations at the South Cemetery. Please reach out to me or Greg to arrange interments or monument work.

The Board completed a thorough review of our bylaws—many thanks to Greg Eckhardt who led us in this important work. In addition we put in a significant amount of time working to update and clean up our records. Mat Degan was a key player in this work. In all our work we were ably and cheerfully supported by Town employees Chrystal Cleary and Andrea Ogden. The Town is fortunate to have such pros working with and for us. Thank you, all. And a big thank you to Lynne Eckhardt who left the Board this year after many years of faithful service.

We have a waiting list for plots in the active cemetery, and we still hope to facilitate purchases of unused plots that families no longer want. However, the big task ahead continues to be to find land for, and then create, a new cemetery for future generations of Landgroviens. The Cemetery Commission will be turning its attention to this task in the year ahead.

continued on next page

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Cemetery Commission, continued

I would like to thank all the members of the Commission for their dedicated work this year. I would be remiss, however, to not mention Greg Eckhardt in particular. While we decided not to change the organizational structure of the Cemetery Commission, Greg and I have acted in every way as de facto co-chairs. I deeply appreciate the significant and excellent work he has done on behalf of Landgrove's cemeteries.

One significant change in our cemeteries is that we have reduced the amount of time that we are posting small flags at the graves of our veterans. We are doing this to more closely adhere to the guidelines of the U.S. Flag Code. Going forward we will have these flags displayed for approximately a week surrounding Memorial day and the Fourth of July.

Landgrove's cemeteries are always open to visitors, and we welcome donations that will go to the fund that supports their long-term upkeep.

On behalf of the Landgrove Cemetery Commission,
Jonathan Bigelow, Chair
Mat Degan
Greg Eckhardt
Richard Adams



Beebalm in summer.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Cemetery Operating Account

Balance as of 12/31/2022 **25,750.28**

Income

Town Appropriation	6,500.00
Burial Services	2,575.00
Plot Sales	3,185.00
Plots Sales Recording Income	60.00
General Donations	100.00
Change in Payroll Liability	45.90

Total Income **12,465.90**

Expense

Burial Expenses	1,975.00
Headstone Repair	2,075.00
Maintenance - Routine	7,350.00
Misc Expense	34.93
Recording Fees	45.00
Transfer to Endowment	600.00
Veterans Memorial Expense	356.61
Payroll Expense	22.95

Total Expense **12,459.49**

Balance as of 12/31/2023 **25,756.69**

As voted in Article 5 at the 2022 Town Meeting, at the conclusion of the Veteran's Memorial Project, the remaining balance of \$2,549.86 is now part of the Cemetery Operating Account with no restrictions. The project concluded in 2023 with the planting of 100 daffodils and 3 bushes.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Landgrove Historical Society

We had a year! Highlights were a summer piano concert and a summer-long show of photography by renowned photographer Hubert Schriebl.

Our office in the Town Hall is open on Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Our contact information is landgrovehs@gmail.com.

2023 Events

In April, we hosted the annual pancake breakfast. This event continues to be extremely popular. Pancakes, made by Ann and Rob Hausslein and maple syrup from Sugar Bob's Finest Kind, Landgrove Sugar Works and the Ameden Sugar House, were enjoyed by everyone.

An extremely successful Square Dance, held in the Bloom's barn on July 2, attracted about 150(!) participants. Dancing was led by the Turkey Mountain Window Smashers, who were amazed by the huge turnout.

On July 4, in partnership with the Landgrove Meeting House, David Eckhardt led the reading and discussion of Frederick Douglass's 1852 address on how the Declaration of Independence failed to address the issue of slavery.

Our summer show was "The Photography of Hubert Schriebl." Hubert came from Austria to Vermont in the early 1960's to teach skiing, and has been taking photographs ever since. His photography is well known throughout southern Vermont. He opened his show every Sunday as the Meeting House let out and continued to draw audiences through Labor Day.

And then came the event of the year, when UVM music professor David Feurzeig gave us a piano concert on the old piano in the Town Hall. This hadn't been tuned in decades, but a piano tuner came on four successive Thursdays to bring it back. Professor Feurzeig has a goal of playing a piano concert in every one of Vermont's 252 towns. We were #39, and somehow packed 62 people into the Town Hall. Local musician Michael Hammond accompanied him on guitar and vocals for two pieces. The concert can be heard at www.playeverytown.com/concerts/LANDGROVE.php

In August, Jonathan Bigelow led a walk through the cemetery and foundations of the Stone Farm in Peru. And in October, Jon gave a talk on old barns in Landgrove and elsewhere in Vermont.

Board of Directors:

Rob Badger, President

Meg Pennypacker, Treasurer

Christine Morfit, Secretary

David Eckhardt, Susan Goetze, Sally Ogden, Marion Sweetman, Jonathan Bigelow, Kathy Snyder, May Bigelow

Advisors:

Priscilla Grayson, Ann Ogden Hausslein, Andrea Ogden, Hope Pinkerton.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Piano Concert at Town Hall August 2023



Landgrove Historical Society hosted UVM professor David Feurzeig in his Play Every Town program.



David played a variety of songs on the piano, returned for the first time in over 50 years!



Rob fills in Landgrove on the map of towns David has played to date.



David played a duet with Michael Hammond.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Taconic & Green Regional School District Directors' Report

From Ben Freeman: It has been a pleasure to serve another year on the Taconic and Green Regional School District Board as the representative from Landgrove. I am immensely grateful and humbled by the level of care and effort our teachers, staff, administrators and fellow board members each contribute towards the education and support of all of our communities' youth. We are very lucky to live where we do! There are some significant projects on the horizon for our district and I encourage you to learn about them in the District Letter published here, in the Town Report, and in more detail in our Annual Report, available at the Taconic and Green website. If you have questions or want to share your thoughts about our District's schools, policies or plans, our annual meeting is on Tuesday, February 27 at 7:00 PM at MEMS. We have monthly meetings you can join in person or online, and I will also be at the Landgrove Town meeting on March 4th. If you have other questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at any time bfreeman@brsu.org.

From T&G's Board: Our full annual report is available at your Town Clerk's office or online at www.brsu.org/page/annual-and-town-reports. We hope you will read about the important issues facing our nine town district and give us your thoughts, especially regarding the possible regional middle school. When you get to the section on the budget, please note that Vermont has income sensitivity that reduces the property tax on primary residences for many people. Income sensitivity can also reduce renters' taxes.

We are trying something new for the Annual Meeting, which will be held at Manchester Elementary Middle School on February 27th. From 6 to 6:30 p.m. we are hosting an informal, get-acquainted time with Board members and some of our Senators and Representatives. There will be refreshments. From 6:30 to 7, Board members will be at several tables to discuss specific issues like the proposed district-wide middle school. At 7, the formal meeting begins, with floor votes including the election of the District Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer.

As always, voting on the budget, reserve funds, and high school tuition will be by Australian Ballot on Town Meeting Day, March 5th. You will not automatically receive an absentee ballot. If you want to vote by mail, you must request a mail ballot from your Town Clerk. Please read the Annual Report for detailed information as you consider the budget and the other issues listed in the Warning.

Developing a budget was only one of our tasks. Last year, the legislature considered some bills that would have severely limited high school choice in reaction to a U. S. Supreme Court decision that most of us think was wrong. District leaders appreciate the time our legislators spent conferring with us and avoiding a bad outcome. The issue will return this year. Other issues include the poor performance of the Agency of Education, including its delay in enforcing the antidiscrimination rules that took effect in 2022. Locally, a Board committee is studying the possibility of a regional middle school and welcomes everyone's input.

If you want to know more about how we operate, or comment on our work, please attend one of our meetings, either remotely or in person. We also welcome comments and questions by letter or email. We meet at least monthly. We begin at 6:30 p.m. and aim to end by 8:30. There is a ten minute public comment period at the beginning. Agendas, minutes, and information on how to attend remotely are available on the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union website: www.brsu.org/page/meeting-calendar.

Herbert G. Ogden, Board Chair

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Burr and Burton Academy Sending Town Letter



Burr & Burton
Academy

OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER

December, 19, 2023

Dear Sending Towns:

The Board of Trustees of Burr and Burton Academy has approved sending town tuition at \$20,966 for the 2024–2025 school year, a 4.9% increase. Our tuition for private pay individuals (i.e., non-sending towns) will be \$23,589.

In reaching this figure, the board sought first and foremost to maintain affordability to our sending towns. The Vermont tax commissioner estimates that statewide education spending will increase 12% and overall taxes will increase 18%. We hope our tuition increase of 4.9% will help offset these onerous figures. Our tuition remains well below that of any of the other historic town academies as well as many public high schools.

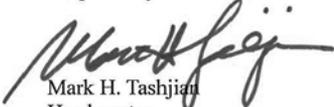
We also are deeply committed to the quality of education, and our costs will necessarily increase. We are supporting the faculty and staff in efforts to offset inflation not only in their lives, but in the face of skyrocketing healthcare costs, which are estimated to increase by 16% statewide this year. Our faculty and staff are the lifeblood of this school, and offering meaningful salaries and benefits allows us to attract and retain the absolute best teachers we can find.

We will also continue to keep a sharp eye on managing expenses so each dollar spent has maximum impact.

As always, our tuition does not cover the total cost of a BBA education. We supplement tuition revenues with private fundraising of \$1.5–\$2.0 million as well as an endowment draw of approximately \$1 million. In addition, we raise money privately for all capital projects so the beautiful facilities that serve all students come at no cost to taxpayers. No public debt, no public bonds.

Since 1829, Burr & Burton Academy has served the Northshire communities in partnership. We appreciate the support, and we do everything we can to continue to be a school that is a point of pride and worthy of support from all of you.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark H. Tashjian
Headmaster



Charley Stevenson
Chair of the Board of Trustees

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Londonderry Solid Waste Group Report

THE LONDONDERRY SOLID WASTE GROUP

Serving the towns of Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru, Weston and Windham

2024 Transfer Station Stickers are available and required to access the Londonderry Transfer Station. You can purchase one at any of the five-member town offices in person or on-line from londonderryvt.org.

In 2023, 420.23 tons of trash, 855.37 tons of construction/bulky waste, 75.45 tons of food scraps, and approximately 703.02 tons of recyclables were collected at the Transfer Station and transported to the landfill or in the case of recyclables sent through the Material Recycling Facility (MRF) to separate the various materials like glass, plastic, cans. There have been several times over this past year when people put trash and other non-recyclables in the recycling containers. This can contaminate the whole 30 yds. If in doubt, please ask the attendant.

The July flooding event took its toll on businesses and households alike. The Transfer Station collected flood debris from July to September and did not charge for disposal. The EPA helped with collection of hazardous waste by hiring a contractor to dispose of those items.

A new backhoe was purchased in 2023 to replace the old one that had over 10,000 hours on it. Over the last few years, the old backhoe required frequent and costly repairs. The purchase will mean the elimination of lots of downtime waiting for parts and service.

The Take It or Leave It Bay at the transfer station is a popular spot for giving new life to items no longer wanted or useful to the donor. This not only keeps items out of the trash, saves landfill space but offers free items for the taking. Unfortunately, the bay was closed for a short time due to trash or unusable items being left there. Please follow these simple rules:

NO Electronic Devices

NO Bedding

NO VHS Tapes

NO Broken or Unusable Items

NO Clothing/Shoes -bring to Thrifty Attic or put in textile bin in plastic bags.

ALL ITEMS should be in good, clean workable condition. When in doubt, please ask an attendant.

Beginning January 1, 2024, Screw-based Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs) and Four Foot (4'ft) General Purpose Linear Fluorescent Tubes will be banned from sale in Vermont. For more information contact: Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation- Mercury Education & Reduction Program www.mercvt.org.

The Londonderry Group ran two Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events in 2023. The 2024 dates will be the 1st Saturday in June and the 1st Saturday in October. The October 2023 collection was during a totally rainy day with 100 cars attending. Replacing toxic containing products with more eco-friendly products will help reduce the toxins in our homes and environment.

If you have questions, want to join the Londonderry Group's email list to receive alerts about special collections (hazardous waste & electronics), or if your school or business is interested in learning about ways to handle solid waste, organics, recyclables, and other materials please contact recycle@londonderryvt.org.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2023

Southern Vermont Communications Union District



Southern Vermont Communications Union District 2023: Our Fourth Year

The Southern Vermont Communications Union District (SoVT CUD) has had a very busy, and successful fourth year.

In September 2022, SoVT CUD and its partner, Consolidated Communications Inc. (CCI) were awarded a \$9,009,085 Act 71 Construction Grant to fund Phase 2 of fiber network construction in SoVT CUD territory. After Phase 1 was completed at the end of 2022, construction of Phase 2 began in early 2023 and was consistently ahead of schedule. To date, the Construction Grant has funded the passing of over 6,000 homes with fiber, including 1,300 that were unserved. Dozens of fiber distribution hubs (FDH) across all 14 member towns have been released for customer sales.

Phase 2 remained on track to be completed before the end of 2023, providing over 95% of homes in Bennington County with access to fiber optic internet service. With the wrap up of Phase 2, SoVT CUD has focused its efforts on providing service to the hardest to reach addresses that constitute Phase 3 of network construction.

In August 2023, SoVT CUD and CCI held a ribbon cutting event at Bromley Mountain in Peru to celebrate the near completion of the fiber network in Bennington County. The event was attended by Senator Peter Welch, and other local and state officials. There has been significant media coverage of SoVT CUD's success, including a segment from Greater Northshire Access Television (GNAT) and NBC Channel 5.

SoVT CUD is now focused on the approximately 20 hardest to reach addresses that constitute Phase 3. These addresses are primarily located in Arlington and Pownal and are unserved according to state data. The CUD has begun initial outreach to these property owners to assess the status of their internet service and build a finalized list of Phase 3 addresses to be covered under the CUD's universal service plan.

The CUD has greatly benefited from our partnership with the Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC). The administrative assistance and expertise in navigating the public funding arena provided by Community and Economic Development Specialist Jonathan Cooper and Regional Planner Callie Fishburn has been invaluable. The CUD is especially indebted to BCRC's ability to keep us grounded in the broad development efforts of the region.

More information can be found on the website: sovtjud.net

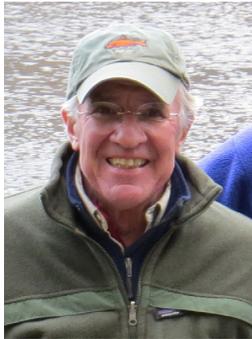
Springtime To-Do List

- Renew Dog License in March!
- Town Meeting Monday night at 6pm March 4. Potluck!
- Top off fuels and other heavy deliveries before Mud Season March 15 - April 30
- Homestead Declaration Deadline is April 15
- Green Up Day is May 4

IN MEMORIAM



John Stewart Ogden
May 27, 1967 to June 27, 2023



Robert N. Waite
April 25, 1945 to November 12 2023



Frances 'Fritzi' Mills,
October 20, 2023

Town of Landgrove
88 Landgrove Road
Landgrove, VT 05148

TOWN MEETING
THE HEARING
Mon. March 4 at 6pm

PRIMARY & SCHOOL ELECTION:
at Town Hall
Tue. March 5 8am-7pm