



Pumpkin on the bridge at Halloween

2022 Landgrove, Vermont
ANNUAL REPORT
For the year ending December 31, 2022

TOWN OF LANDGROVE—WARNING

Annual Town Meeting March 6, 2023 at 6pm

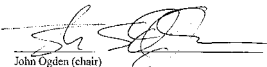
The legal voters of the Town of Landgrove are hereby warned and notified to gather to transact the following business by floor vote on March 6th 2023 at Town Hall, 88 Landgrove Road, Landgrove, Vermont.

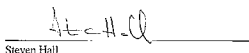
- Article 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.
- Article 2: To elect the following officers as required by law:

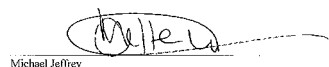
Office	Term length
Town Clerk	1 year
Town Treasurer	1 year
Select Board Member	3 years
Lister	3 years
Auditor	3 years
Cemetery Commissioner 1 (2026)	5 years
Cemetery Commissioner 2 (2027)	4 years
Cemetery Commissioner 3 (2028)	3 years
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	1 year
Grand Juror	1 year
Constable	1 year
Trustee of Public Funds	3 years

- Article 3: To hear the reports of Town Officers and take proper 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, 2023 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 2023 year?
- Article 7: Shall the Town of Landgrove raise and appropriate a yearly sum not to exceed \$3,900 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?
- Article 8: Shall the voters of Landgrove approve and increase in the annual community appropriation to Neighborhood Connections from \$500 to \$1,000, annually?
- 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?
- Article 10: To transact any other non-binding business proper to come before said meeting, not acted upon in the preceding articles?
- 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?

Dated this 26th day of January, 2023
by the Select Board members of the Town of Landgrove


John Ogden (chair)


Steven Hall


Michael Jeffrey

2022
ANNUAL REPORT
TOWN OF LANDGROVE
VERMONT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

AUDITORS

ELIZABETH DEE • TOVE STIGUM • CHARLIE HOWARD

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

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:	John Ogden (802) 366-0317 (cell)

Community Resources

Londonderry Transfer Station:

<http://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

On-call 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, mike@mikericevt.com

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Table of Contents

Warning 2022 Annual Town Meeting	1
Vital Statistics	4
Landgrove Checklist	5
Elected Officers.....	6
Officers Appointed by Select Board	7
Minutes of Town Meeting 2021	8
Auditors' Report.....	10
General Fund Budget.....	11
Roads Budget.....	14
Statement of Taxes Raised	16
Town Balance Sheet.....	17
Operating Account	18
ARPA Funds.....	19
Reserve Funds	20
Vendor Payments	24
Statement of Delinquent Taxes Collected.....	25
Road Commissioner Report.....	26
Select Board Report	27
Cemetery Commission.....	28
Clerk's Report	30
Treasurer's Report.....	31
Landgrove Historical Society	32
Map of Town Lands	33
Listers' Report.....	34
School Report.....	36
Trustees of Public Funds.....	38
Zoning & Planning.....	39
Londonderry Solid Waste Group Report.....	40
Southern Vermont Communications Union District Report	41

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Vital Statistics

Town of Landgrove, County of Bennington

Population	177 (Source: 2020 U.S. Census)
Voters	137 (up 4)
Area	5,586 acres
2022 Homestead Rate	\$1.7418 (down 5.42%)
2022 Non-Homestead Rate	\$1.7720 (down 6.67%)
Number of Taxable parcels	206
Total Property Valuation	\$119,790,230 (up from \$118,505,900)
Students:	
PreK–8th grade	13 (up 2)
9th–12th grade	4 (down 5)

BIRTHS

Wilder Howard Dombroski on January 27, 2022

Henry Needham Degan on September 11, 2022

MARRIAGES

Nathaniel Houston and Lauren Strauss on August 27, 2022

Thomas J. Merkling and Nicholas J. Boak on September 10, 2022

DEATHS

No Death Certificates were recorded in Landgrove in 2022



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Landgrove Checklist

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

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Town Officers Elected

POSITION	NAMES	TERM EXPIRES
Moderator (1 year term)	Claudia Harris	2023
Town Clerk (1 year term)	Chrystal Cleary	2023
Town Treasurer (1 year term)	Andrea Ogden	2023
Select Board (3 year term)	Michael Jeffery	2023
	Steve Hall	2024
	John Ogden	2025
Board of Auditors (3 year term)	Tove Stigum	2023
	Charlie Howard	2024
	Liza Dee	2025
Board of Listers (3 year term)	Johnathan Bigelow	2023
	Blair McCaw	2024
	Chuck Sweetman	2025
Cemetery Commission (5 year term)	Johnathan Bigelow	2023
	Jay Snyder	2023
	Greg Eckhardt	2023
	Lynn Eckhardt	2024
	Dick Adams	2025
Collector of Delinquent Taxes (1 year term)	Andrea Ogden	2023
Grand Juror (1 year term)	Claudia Harris	2023
Town Constable (1 year term)	John Wiley	2023
Trustee of Public Funds (3 year term)	Andrea Ogden	2023
	Sarah Waite	2024
	Dick Adams	2025
School Director (3 year term)	Ben Freeman	2023

Justices of the Peace

**Claudia Harris, John Ogden, Virginia LaPrade, Steve Hall,
and 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 - 2022

Town Officers Appointed by Select Board

POSITION	NAME	3 YEAR TERM EXPIRES
Zoning Administrator	Will Goodwin	2025
Planning Commission (includes ZA)	Harry Lux (chair)	2025
	Michael Morfit	2025
	Mary Licata	2024
	Ryan Foster	2024
	Jeff Cleary	2023
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	2024
Emergency Management	John Ogden	2024
Forest Fire Warden	Karl T. Pfister	2024
Asst. Fire Warden	Jeremiah Evarts	2024
Road Commissioner	Steve Hall	2024
Assistant Town Clerk	Susan Lenox	2024
911 Coordinator	Will Goodwin	2024
CUD representative	Susan Lenox	2024

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.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Landgrove Remote Annual Meeting Info Session February 28, 2022 6pm by Zoom

About 30 attendees participated in the remote session, which was headed by Select Board member John Ogden, moderated by Town Moderator Claudia Harris, and minutes taken by Clerk Chrystal Cleary

Call to order at 6:01pm

John Ogden welcomed everyone to our second annual remote info session and directed participants to the warning in the Town Report. He stated the widely-shared sentiment that we hope this will be the last year we have to be remote and can gather again in person next spring for Town Meeting the way we used to and love.

Jeff Cleary apologizes for missing page 2 of the General Fund budget in his layout of the Town Report. A full pdf version of the TR is available on the town website, and a separate pdf of just the 2 pages of the General Fund is also available there.

There was no discussion after the reading of Articles 2, 3 and 4

John Ogden read Article 5, which requests \$5,000 in funding for construction of a stone wall at the Veterans' Memorial. Chrystal Cleary of the Veterans' Memorial Committee explained that the proposal since received from the craftsman is actually about \$2,700 and the project is unlikely to run over budget.

The reading of Article 6, a non-binding resolution expressing interest in participation in the construction of a multi-town community field house in Manchester garnered much discussion. Cynthia Gubb from the Fieldhouse group was present in the session to field questions and concerns. The website for the project is www.northshirefieldhouse.org

Michael Jeffery stated for the record -but with his Select Board hat off- that due to the private initiation of this project, combined with the residents having to pay for access even if the Towns vote to approve public money that this project is a folly and not well thought through.

Susanna Gellert asks about access considerations for low income families. Cynthia G. replied that the project would be half private, half public funded and that membership figures are projected to be 'reasonable' and in proportion for other similar venues in the state, citing the slate of membership prices.

Chrystal Cleary asked what happens to the projected contribution numbers if half the Towns vote no? Cynthia answered that the project would be downsized or private fundraising increased.

Blair McCaw noted that the materials about the Fieldhouse were impressive and that the vote was only to proceed with further investigation of the project. He asked in what way participating Towns would have input? Cynthia explained that each Town would appoint a representative to the Fieldhouse Board.

Susanna Gellert asked how this came to be on our ballot, if the Select Board put it there? Chrystal explained the petition and voter % signature process for bal-

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

lot articles. The Fieldhouse group got the question on the ballot in nine towns, largely following the footprint of the Taconic and Green school district.

Will Reed was curious about the cost per property owner? Cynthia replied that Landgrove's share of the cost would be \$109,000, and the Select Board would decide how to raise that amount, whether through a bond or increase in taxes or from saved money. Cynthia's quick estimation of the contribution based on a \$330,000 property toward a bond might be \$14.90/year. Treasurer Andrea Ogden worked out approximately .10 more to the existing town tax rate, which would put it very close to 2.00.

Ben Freeman and Jillian Joyce asked what input opportunities there might be regarding included features of the Fieldhouse. Cynthia described adjustments that have already been made based on community feedback, removing the tennis courts and pool, and directed any interested to visit the website (noted above) and contact the Group through that.

Michael Jeffery reminded all in attendance that the Town is facing extraordinary expenses this year with the Sand and Road Dept facility and land purchase upcoming. Auditor Charlie Howard noted the \$311,000 in the unallocated Reserve Fund, which Michael noted will be needed for the "Sandbox." John Ogden explained that this fund is not to be spent outright, but to make funding as affordable as possible, and that Best Practice is to maintain a certain amount in the fund available for catastrophe.

Liza Dee asked if tenants/renters would be eligible to join the Fieldhouse at the same rate as property owners? Cynthia said yes. Katharine Degan asked if the Town doesn't vote to approve participation in the project, would there not be an opportunity to contribute in the future? Cynthia said probably not. Dana McNair asked if there would be membership rates for people from non-participating Towns, and Cynthia cited those, which are available on the Northshire field house website.

John read Article 7, which was about the date for meeting in 2023, hoping we can really be live and in person again, noting (with affection) that it is also traditional at this point in our annual meeting for Lynn Eckhardt or Sally Waite to raise objection to the evening-before meeting time and propose a daytime meeting on Town Meeting Day, which is also traditionally voted down, but that he doesn't see their names on the zoom screen to do it this year. There is no further discussion of Article 7.

Claudia Harris, Moderator, relayed that Dr. Roger Fox - longtime physician for our mountain towns - called to express his deep gratitude for the support the community and towns have always shown for the clinic. Dr Fox is retiring this June, and the community is grateful for his work and care of us all. Charlie Howard thanked the Select Board for doing a fine job.

Meeting Adjourned 6:44 PM

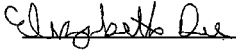
Minutes taken, always respectfully, by Town Clerk Chrystal J. Sherritt Cleary

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

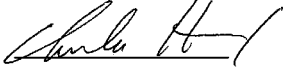
Auditors' Report

We, the undersigned auditors of the Town of Landgrove, performed an audit of the Town's financial statements of the year ended December 31st, 2022.

We wish to report that all accounts are in balance.



Elizabeth Dee



Charlie Howard



Tove Stigum



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

General Fund Budget

	2021	2022	2022	2023
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
1 Revenue				
2 Copier	810.60	500.00	523.00	250.00
3 Current Use	49,343.00	50,000.00	48,259.00	48,000.00
4 General Fund Taxes Received	88,534.47	95,880.00	95,409.53	102,356.00
5 Grants	237.49	-	-	-
6 Green Mountain Forest	2,331.00	2,300.00	2,388.00	2,400.00
7 Interest	11,229.40	3,000.00	8,354.89	3,000.00
8 Licenses & Permits	1,425.00	1,000.00	1,108.35	1,200.00
9 Misc General Fund Income			7.97	-
10 Prior Year Tax Income	29,818.18		9,209.03	
11 Recording Income	3,770.00	3,500.00	4,300.00	3,500.00
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
14 Total Revenue	188,200.14	156,881.00	173,778.99	164,773.00
15 Surplus Applied	16,999.52	20,000.00	20,000.00	19,000.00
16 TOTAL	205,199.66	176,881.00	193,778.99	183,773.00
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	3,000.00
26 Mountain Valley Medical Clinic	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
27 Neighborhood Connections	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
28 Phoenix Fire Company #6	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
29 So Londonderry Free Library	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
30 The Collaborative	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
31 Visiting Nurse Alliance	615.00	615.00	615.00	615.00
32 Total Community	12,581.00	12,581.00	12,581.00	12,581.00

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

		2021	2022	2022	2023
		ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
33					
34	Town				
35	Cem Endowment	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
36	Cem Maintenance	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
37	Veterans Mem. Stone Wall, as voted		5,000.00	5,000.00	-
38	Fire Truck	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	6,000.00
39	Reappraisal Fund	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
40	Records Restoration	1,000.00	-	-	-
41	Town Hall Maint Fund	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
42	Total Town	16,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	18,500.00
43	Total Appropriations	28,581.00	32,581.00	32,581.00	31,081.00
44					
45	Taxes, Assessments & Fees				
46	BCRC	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
47	County Tax	6,891.98	7,000.00	8,134.91	8,150.00
48	Londonderry Landfill	21,887.46	19,885.00	19,884.03	19,840.00
49	SWNH Fire & Rescue Dispatch	9,969.00	9,500.00	10,218.00	10,423.00
50	VT League of Cities & Towns	1,258.00	1,295.00	1,295.00	1,329.00
51	Total Taxes, Assessments & Fees	42,006.44	39,680.00	41,531.94	41,742.00
52					
53	Admin Costs				
54	Payroll Expenses	5,072.32	5,500.00	5,000.65	5,500.00
55	Salaries				
56	Assistant Clerk	1,378.00	2,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00
57	Assistant Treasurer	620.00	2,000.00	-	2,000.00
58	Town Clerk	16,636.60	16,985.00	16,936.17	17,444.00
59	Treasurer	13,884.59	14,210.00	14,169.64	14,595.00
60	School Director	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,133.00
61	Auditors Stipends	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	3,000.00
62	Select Board	4,400.00	3,300.00	3,300.00	3,399.00
63	Total Salaries	44,591.51	46,595.00	45,006.46	49,071.00
64					



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

		2021	2022	2022	2023
		ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
65	Town Hall & Office				
66	Heating Fuel	1,947.24	2,500.00	3,400.95	3,500.00
67	IT Systems	3,348.59	3,700.00	3,909.74	3,700.00
68	Routine Maintenance	3,670.10	6,000.00	3,439.50	4,500.00
69	Supplies	3,909.57	3,000.00	4,103.73	3,000.00
70	Training	28.00	250.00	-	250.00
71	Utilities	2,172.63	2,200.00	3,269.72	3,000.00
72	Insurance	10,554.00	10,500.00	10,693.11	10,700.00
73	Legal	5,497.80	5,000.00	4,896.40	7,000.00
74	Accounting Consultant	1,224.00	2,000.00	-	1,000.00
75	Miscellaneous Expense	21.00	-	305.13	-
76	Town Lands	1,830.00	1,800.00	1,900.00	1,900.00
77	Town Report	1,400.00	1,500.00	1,825.50	1,825.00
78	Total Hall & Office	35,602.93	38,450.00	37,743.78	40,375.00
79					
80	Listers				
81	Lister Stipend	3,300.00	3,300.00	3,300.00	3,399.00
82	Lister Administrator	830.00	-	-	-
83	Tax Mapping	3,075.00	3,075.00	3,075.00	3,075.00
84	Assessor	750.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	5,000.00
85	Listers' Expenses	417.78	500.00	1,148.46	2,500.00
86	Total Lister	8,372.78	11,375.00	12,023.46	13,974.00
87					
88					
89	Zoning & Planning				
90	Zoning Administrator	6,494.45	6,500.00	4,415.25	6,000.00
91	Chair ZBA Stipend	500.00	500.00	500.00	515.00
92	Chair Planning Stipend	500.00	500.00	500.00	515.00
93	Misc Expenses	451.12	700.00	272.16	500.00
94	Total Zoning	7,945.57	8,200.00	5,687.41	7,530.00
95					
96	Total Expense	167,100.23	176,881.00	174,574.05	183,773.00
97					
98	Surplus/(Deficit)	38,099.43	-	19,204.94	-

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Roads Budget

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
1 Revenues				
2 Grants - State	51,702.20	15,000.00	8,196.40	8,000.00
3 Licenses & Permits	105.00	100.00	115.00	100.00
4 Roads Fund Taxes Raised	170,405.48	159,500.00	158,677.88	173,833.00
5 VT State Highway Aid	37,738.76	35,600.00	38,222.94	36,000.00
6 Total Revenue	259,951.44	210,200.00	205,212.22	217,933.00
7 Surplus Applied	28,078.00	32,000.00	32,000.00	20,000.00
8 TOTAL	288,029.44	242,200.00	237,212.22	237,933.00
9				
10 Expense				
11 Salaries				
12 Road Comm Stipend	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,133.00
13 Total Salaries	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,133.00
14				
15 General				
16 Equipment Fund	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	35,000.00
17 Gas & Oil	5,922.49	6,500.00	13,285.66	12,000.00
18 Insurance Auto	3,261.00	3,500.00	3,328.00	3,500.00
19 Machine Maint & Repairs	11,640.86	15,000.00	11,340.59	15,000.00
20 Misc	9,406.56	1,000.00	4,139.77	2,000.00
21 Rent	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
22 Utilities	583.05	600.00	468.94	500.00
23 Total General	67,313.96	63,100.00	69,062.96	74,500.00
24				
25 Summer				
26 Chloride	0.00	2,500.00	2,800.00	2,800.00
27 Culverts	3,186.18	8,000.00	160.00	8,000.00
28 Ditching	8,775.00	15,000.00	12,722.50	15,000.00
29 Grading	4,795.00	7,500.00	5,092.00	7,500.00
30 Resurfacing	0.00	15,000.00	14,930.00	15,000.00
31 Roadside Mowing	6,250.00	6,500.00	6,430.00	6,500.00
32 Storm Repair	3,393.00	5,000.00	1,463.00	5,000.00
33 Misc Project	16,271.38	15,000.00	0.00	-
34 Total Summer	42,670.56	74,500.00	43,597.50	59,800.00
35				

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

		ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
36	Winter				
37	Deicer	5,665.75	6,000.00	7,426.48	7,500.00
38	Contracted Plowing	37,362.98	40,000.00	24,300.00	30,000.00
39	Machine Rental	12,500.00	12,500.00	12,500.00	15,000.00
40	Road Repairs	7,012.50	5,000.00	16,874.04	5,000.00
41	Sand & Materials	31,645.00	40,000.00	33,179.50	35,000.00
42	Supplemental Plowing			7,962.00	10,000.00
43	Total Winter	94,186.23	103,500.00	102,242.02	102,500.00
44					
45	Total Expense	205,270.75	242,200.00	216,002.48	237,933.00
46					
47	Surplus/(Deficit)	82,758.69	-	21,209.74	-



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Statement of Taxes Raised

As Tax Rates were Set	Non-Homestead	Homestead	Roads	General Fund	Total
Grand List Value	736,709.25	282,293.00	1,018,984.00	1,018,984.00	
Tax Rate	1.5214	1.4912	0.1565	0.0941	
Taxes to be Raised	1,120,829.45	420,955.32	159,471.00	95,886.39	1,797,142.16
As Originally Billed	1,120,829.45	420,955.32	159,471.00	95,886.39	1,797,142.16
Subsequent Adjustment:	(9,834.35)	4,506.41	(538.69)	(323.88)	(6,190.51)
As shown on 1/10/23	1,110,995.10	425,461.73	158,932.31	95,562.51	1,790,951.65

Collections	(1,788,070.73)
Balance Outstanding	<u>2,880.92</u>
Delinquent tax	2,880.95
Other	<u>(0.03)</u>
	<u>2,880.92</u>



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Town Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2022

Bank Balances

	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	Change
Town Assets			
M&T Bank	13,252.64	15,705.79	2,453.15
Stifel Nicolaus	1,433,553.00	1,389,344.11	(44,208.89)
Petty Cash	200.00	135.86	(64.14)
Cemetery Assets			
M&T Bank	18,924.26	25,750.28	6,826.02
Public Funds at Stifel Nicolaus			
Cemetery	97,128.69	83,003.22	(14,125.47)
Conservation	38,391.15	31,679.54	(6,711.61)

Town Fund Balances

	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	
Operating	800,870.91	207,248.56	(593,622.35)
ARPA Funds	21,820.29	27,677.50	5,857.21
Dog License Account	3,413.91	3,599.00	185.09
Fire Truck	5,000.00	7,500.00	2,500.00
Reappraisal	18,238.31	22,809.31	4,571.00
Records Restoration	8,474.98	10,609.98	2,135.00
Roads Equipment	215,000.00	245,000.00	30,000.00
Town Hall Maint.	25,592.79	28,092.79	2,500.00
Unallocated Reserve	311,101.00	299,261.57	(11,839.43)
Education Escrow	-	544,735.05	544,735.05

The change in the Operating Account Balance from 2021 to 2022 is primarily due to the transfer of funds to newly established Education Escrow. Detail of that account can be found in the Town Reserve Fund section of this report.

Reserve Funds can be found on page 20

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Operating Account

Balance as of 12/31/2021 **800,870.91**

Income

General Fund	173,778.99
Roads Fund	205,212.22
Education Tax Income	
Del Tax Penalty	9,555.76
Transfer Station Income	720.00
Homestead Penalty	686.55
Change in Payroll Liability	(2,303.71)

Total Income **387,649.81**

Expense

General Fund	174,574.05
Roads	216,002.48
Establish Education Escrow Account	581,230.11
Transfer Station Expense	760.00
Del Tax Penalty Paid	8,705.52

Total Expense **981,272.16**

Balance as of 12/31/2022 **207,248.56**



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

ARPA Funds

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

Balance as of 12/31/2021	21,820.29
Income	
State of Vermont	23,526.35
Total Income	23,526.35
Expense	
Digitization of Land Records	13,557.30
New Printer/Scanner	1,562.31
Technology Infrastructure	1,674.53
Computer Upgrades	875.00
Total Expense	17,669.14
Balance as of 12/31/2022	27,677.50

This money was awarded to the Town of Landgrove in 2021 as part of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. In 2022, we completed the digitization of the land records, upgraded the town internet and computers. The balance in the fund will be used to acquire zoom equipment for hybrid meetings in the future.



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

RESERVE FUNDS *pages 20-24*

Dog License Account

Balance as of 12/31/2021	3,413.91
Income	
Licensing Fees	611.00
Total Income	611.00
Expense	
IDS Dog Tags	90.91
State Animal Control	335.00
Total Expense	425.91
Balance as of 12/31/2022	3,599.00

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 - 2022

Education Escrow

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 creation of this account is part of a goal of further transparency in the town accounting. The balance in the account at the end of the year is the projected amount of the June 1 payment (final FY23) due to the State of Vermont.

Balance as of 12/31/2021	-
Income	
Opening Balance as of 1/1/22	581,230.11
2022 Tax Revenue	1,479,675.52
Education DT paid by URF*	2,473.53
State Payment - Municipal	508.00
Total Income	2,063,887.16
Expense	
FY22 June 1 State Payment	577,711.89
FY23 Taconic & Green payment	383,191.00
FY23 Dec 1 State Payment	554,731.00
Transfer Admin Fee to GF	3,518.22
Total Expense	1,519,152.11
Balance as of 12/31/2022	544,735.05

Fire Truck Fund

Balance as of 12/31/2021	5,000.00
Income	
Town Appropriation	2,500.00
Total Income	2,500.00
Expense	
No Activity	-
Total Expense	-
Balance as of 12/31/2022	7,500.00

This fund was established in 2020 for the purpose of spreading out the tax impact of supporting the purchase of new fire equipment by the Phoenix Fire Department in Londonderry. The Select Board has increased the amount contributed each year from \$2,500 to \$6,000 in the 2023 budget.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Reappraisal Fund

Balance as of 12/31/2021	18,238.31
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Income

Town Appropriation	2,500.00
State of VT Equalization	218.00
State of VT Per Parcel	1,853.00

Total Income	4,571.00
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Expense

No Activity	-
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Total Expense	-
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Balance as of 12/31/2022	22,809.31
---------------------------------	------------------

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 12/31/2021	8,474.98
---------------------------------	-----------------

Income

Town Appropriation	-
Per Page - Recording Fees	2,135.00

Total Income	2,135.00
---------------------	-----------------

Expense

No Activity	-
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Total Expense	-
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Balance as of 12/31/2022	10,609.98
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In 2021, the preservation of our Grand Lists was completed, therefore the Select Board removed the \$1,000 appropriation from 2022 budget.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Road Equipment Fund

Balance as of 12/31/2021	215,000.00
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Income

Town Appropriation	30,000.00
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Total Income	30,000.00
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Expense

No Activity	-
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Total Expense	-
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Balance as of 12/31/2022	245,000.00
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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 12/31/2021	25,592.79
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Income

Town Appropriation	2,500.00
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Total Income	2,500.00
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Expense

No Activity	-
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Total Expense	-
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Balance as of 12/31/2022	28,092.79
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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 - 2022

Unallocated Reserve Fund

Balance as of 12/31/2021	311,101.00
Income	
No Activity	-
Total Income	-
Expense	
Transfer to cover Ed Del Tax	2,473.53
Misc Tax Payment adjustments	0.15
Sand Shed Land Survey	7,433.25
Sand Shed Wetlands Permit	1,932.50
Total Expense	11,839.43
From General Fund Surplus	-
From GF And Roads Budget Surplus	-
Balance as of 12/31/2022	299,261.57

Vendor Payments Over \$5,000

State of Vermont	\$ 1,134,875
Taconic and Green Regional USD	\$ 383,191
Town of Landgrove	\$ 165,120
Merrills X	\$ 108,818
QuickBooks Payroll Service	\$ 35,319
Town of Londonderry	\$ 20,644
Ogden & Chalmers, LLC.	\$ 18,582
Merrill's Excavating	\$ 18,500
United States Treasury	\$ 15,195
Dorr Oil	\$ 13,286
Landgrove Cemetery Commission	\$ 11,500
Recordsforce, Inc.	\$ 11,042
SWNH Fire Mutal Aid	\$ 10,218
Cincinnati Insurance Company	\$ 8,720
County of Bennington	\$ 8,135
Marc Waldo Landscaping	\$ 8,095
Sidney Services	\$ 7,474
Point of Beginning	\$ 7,433
Cargill	\$ 7,426

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Annual Report of Collector of Delinquent Taxes December 31, 2022

	1/1/2022			12/31/2022
Year	Outstanding	Collections	Abatements	Balance
2020	6,168.64	6,168.64		-
2021	3,040.39	3,040.39		-
2022 (10/1)	147,133.45	144,252.49		2,880.96
	156,342.48	153,461.52	-	2,880.96

Total Tax Collections	153,461.52
Interest Received	3,725.86
Remitted to Treasurer	157,187.28
Del Tax Penalty Collected	9,555.76
Paid to Del Tax Collector	8,705.52

As of December 31, 2022, there are two properties with unpaid taxes from 2022. All prior years are current. Information on delinquent properties is available to the public at the town office.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Ogden
Delinquent Tax Collector



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Road Commissioner Report

While 2022 didn't bring us any one single major event, we are continually challenged throughout the year with multiple mud seasons and an abundance of icing events.

While our ditching, culvert and gravel resurfacing efforts are helping with the spring mud season, we are faced with larger temperature swings during the winter that are creating our biggest challenges. Managing mud and ruts mid-winter requires perfect timing before the roads re-freeze and become too hard to grade.

These temperature swings also bring more icing events. Winter rain is probably our biggest challenge as it is a very time consuming process to carry sand from the sand pile and spread to all of the roads. We can only carry and spread so much sand before we need to return to the sand pile to reload. Buffum Hill alone can take 4 to 5 loads of sand to complete on the really icy days, and if it is raining hard while doing so, it has to be done again soon after it is completed. The last few years we have hired Ogden & Chalmers to help reach the smaller and further out roads quicker, and we continue to look for ways to decrease the time it takes to get all of our roads sanded and safe.

Thanks for your patience as we deal with Mother Nature, and always feel free to let us know if any of our roads need attention.

Steven Hall
Road Commissioner



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Select Board Report

Another year, and another big “Thank You” to all of you that pitch in to keep Landgrove, functioning and thriving. There are many opportunities to contribute here in our little community. I hope that all of you that are contributing will continue to do so, and I hope that those of you that are looking to contribute will reach out and we will get you involved.

2022 was a busy year on the Select Board. It contained the usual projects and issues that are mentioned here in most of my SB reports, but it is what’s coming in 2023 that is probably more interesting to discuss here in this year’s report.

Much of the last few months have been spent laying the groundwork for some things that we hope we will move into the completion column in the next year or two. We are not ready to declare it with 100% certainty, but it seems highly likely that we will have a special meeting this spring to come up with a plan to finance and build the ever-elusive sand shed so that we can move our sand pile and equipment away from Leurich Field. Which means it will also be time to start making plans for Leurich Field to make it an easier to use and more valuable community resource. In addition, and again far from a certainty, we are told that 2023 is the year that the town fiber buildout will begin. This, of course, is something that we have very little control over, but, rest assured, we are doing everything we can to keep the project moving forward. The Select Board and the Road Commissioner are also going to look at implementing some changes to the winter roads maintenance. Specifically, we are going to be looking at purchasing some new equipment that should make it easier for Jay and our roads team to manage the ice storms that seem to be more and more common these days. These purchases are coinciding with our current plow truck reaching the end of its useful life. All these projects are quite significant for the town. We would love to have as many of you all involved in the process of moving them forward as we can. Make sure you pay attention to the Select Board warnings, agendas, and minutes so you know when they come up and when input is appropriate.

One last thing that I will mention here, and I hope it will also be discussed in person at Town Meeting, is that the amount of money that we are raising through taxes continues to creep up every year. I’m not referencing education taxes, which we have very little control over, but instead our General Fund and Roads budgets. Those of us that are managing the day-to-day functions of Landgrove have been noticing for a while that the reality of the world that we live in is that it is becoming more labor intensive and expensive to govern even a tiny town like Landgrove. We are seeing much more difficult weather and the car and truck traffic on our roads continues to increase. Our legal spending is continuing to rise as town issues get more complicated and are often no longer solved within the boundaries of our community. The state and federal governments continue to place higher expectations on towns, and meeting those expectations is requiring more money and worker hours. These things are not necessarily bad, but they are important to understand in the context of governing a small town in Vermont in this current era. Again, the Select Board would love to hear feedback on this topic.

The Select Board meets twice a month, and the public is always welcome. Please come to these meetings with any and all ideas, criticisms, compliments, or constructive advice.

Respectfully submitted, John Ogden, 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 - 2022

Cemetery Commission

The Landgrove Cemetery Commission, acting under the auspices of the Selectboard, is responsible for Landgrove's cemeteries—their upkeep, the selling of plots, and providing information to families as they prepare to inter their loved ones in a beloved place.

The commission has three new members: Jonathan Bigelow, Matt Degan, and Greg Eckhardt. We hope that these newly appointed members will be voted in by the town on a more permanent basis at our town meeting. We would like to thank Jay Snyder for his many years of service, and Lynn Eckhardt, who continues to serve, for her years as Chair of the commission. Thanks are also due to commission member Richard Adams who has taken on several monument restoration projects with unflagging care and expertise. Greg Eckhardt trimmed several trees in the “new” South Cemetery. And of course, we continue to benefit from the guidance and work of Monk Ogden. As has been done for years, commission members met in May to plant flags at the graves of our military veterans. Marc Waldo is the sexton, and he and his team continue to provide valuable service to the town in this role.

The great challenge and wonderful opportunity facing the current board is to find the location of Landgrove's next cemetery. As of this writing there are only two more cemetery plots for sale in Landgrove. This does not mean that the cemetery is “full;” the plots in our current cemetery allow for multiple burials, so burials will continue for quite some time in the South Cemetery. Your commissioners are committed to honoring the dead in our current cemeteries by caring for these treasured spaces in a respectful manner. And we are equally committed to providing future generations the same opportunity to be buried in this beloved town. We who are fortunate to have plots are the beneficiaries of the efforts and commitment of past generations—we hope to pass it forward.

Accordingly, we welcome any suggestions that would help us with this goal. In particular, if you have a piece of land that you would be willing to give or sell to the town we are very interested in speaking with you.

On behalf of the Cemetery Commission, respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Bigelow, Chair



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Cemetery Operating Account

Balance as of 12/31/2021	18,924.26
---------------------------------	------------------

Income

Town Appropriation	6,500.00
Veterans Mem Approp., as voted	5,000.00
Plot Sales	5,750.00
Plots Sales Recording Income	120.00
General Donations	100.00

Total Income	17,470.00
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Expense

Veterans Memorial Expense	2,500.00
Routine Maintenance	6,225.00
Misc Expense	178.98
Paper Statement Fees	20.00
Recording Fees	120.00
Transfer to Endowment	1,600.00

Total Expense	10,643.98
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Balance as of 12/31/2022	25,750.28
---------------------------------	------------------

Note:

Cemetery Balance includes \$2,906.47 held
in reserve for the Veterans Memorial Project.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Clerk's Report

Thank you once again for allowing me to serve the people of Landgrove and its needs as a Town. This year was busy with midterm elections, and Landgrove again turned out in top numbers for each: Best in Vermont for the General Election and second only to Victory for the state primaries. Thank you to all of our election day volunteers who work a shift at the polls or come in to count. Anyone who is a legal voter in Landgrove can serve - just contact me at my Clerk email to get included in the signup! clerk@landgrove.vermont.gov

This year, I appointed Susan Lenox as Assistant Town Clerk, and she has brought her calm and professional demeanor and sense of humor to the office, and taken several things off my plate which frees me up to serve in a more organized and crisper way in the variety of duties I need to pay attention to. Notably, Susan has taken onboard most items related to Select Board minutes, warnings and grant organizing. Her expertise in technology has been a very valuable asset to the Town, sourcing and setting up a new Brother multifunction copier/scanner when our old one dramatically bit the dust (tossing out a spring, even! Boing!), phone system, hard drives and sourcing a new teleconference system that will make remote and hybrid meetings much easier. This will significantly help the Planning Commission with their meetings. This new system has arrived and is being tested and configured now, and will be installed soon.

Our land records are 100% digitally scanned and preserved, indexed and available via an online portal at landgrove.LR-1.com. Deeds are watermarked and can be viewed for free and copies may be purchased for a couple of bucks, if needed. This system allows access to public land records when our office is not open and makes the work of your surveyors, lawyers and title searchers more efficient when they come by as they have already been able to search the index and know the exact book and page they need to lay eyes on.

Finally, this year we have approximately 70 dogs living in Town, nearly triple the 24 that were licensed when I began Clerking 10 years ago. Now is the time to renew annual dog licenses, as they all expire April 1 and penalty fees are added to the regular fee. Let's get every dog licensed in time! Come see me at Town Hall - I love to see all the LandgROVERs! - or pay online at the PAYMENTS tab at the Town Website and I can mail you the license and tags if I have the rabies certificates on file. You can also email me a Rabies certificate.

Respectfully submitted,

Chrystal Cleary, Clerk

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Treasurer's Report

This year more people took advantage of the online tax payment option available through the town's website. This system has the advantage of providing the taxpayer with an immediate record of payment. There was an increase in frustration with payments made through the regular mail or through bank bill payment systems (which also relies on the USPS). In one case, a bank payment was postmarked September 22 but did not arrive at the Town Hall until mid-November.

I continued to work closely with the auditors and the Select Board toward the goal of increased process control and transparency. Please feel free to ask any questions about information presented in this report.

Please remember to make sure that your Homestead Declaration is filed with the State of Vermont by April 15th. This process is usually linked with filing your federal and state income taxes, but if you file for an extension, it can be easily missed. The Homestead Declaration deadline does not get extended along with the income tax extension – the deadline remains April 15th.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Ogden, Treasurer



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Landgrove Historical Society

Our continuing goal is to gather documents, photos and artifacts of historical significance to Landgrove, and to make the collections accessible to the public.

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.

As in previous years, we responded to requests for genealogical information about former Landgrove residents and others with a connection to the town.

2022 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 and Landgrove Sugar Works, were enjoyed by everyone.

An extremely successful Square Dance, held in the Bloom's barn on July 2, attracted an unusually large group of local families and their returning relatives. Dancing was led by the Turkey Mountain Window Smashers, who were amazed by the large 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 "Lester Cody: A Man for all Seasons" highlighted by a video titled "Monk and Lester" made by Mac Christopher. The 20 minute video is available on vimeo at vimeo.com/735164802/1cb3ade97e. The video won an Award of Excellence for exceptional work in the annual competition for the Vermont Historical Society's League of Local Historical Societies and Museums Achievement Awards.

In August, Jon Bigelow led a walk through the ruins of the Abbott Farm Mill.

In partnership with the Landgrove Meeting House, the Society hosted a talk in October by Steve Leach, a veteran, Civil War historian and Civil War re-enactor. His talk was on the role of Vermont soldiers at Gettysburg.

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

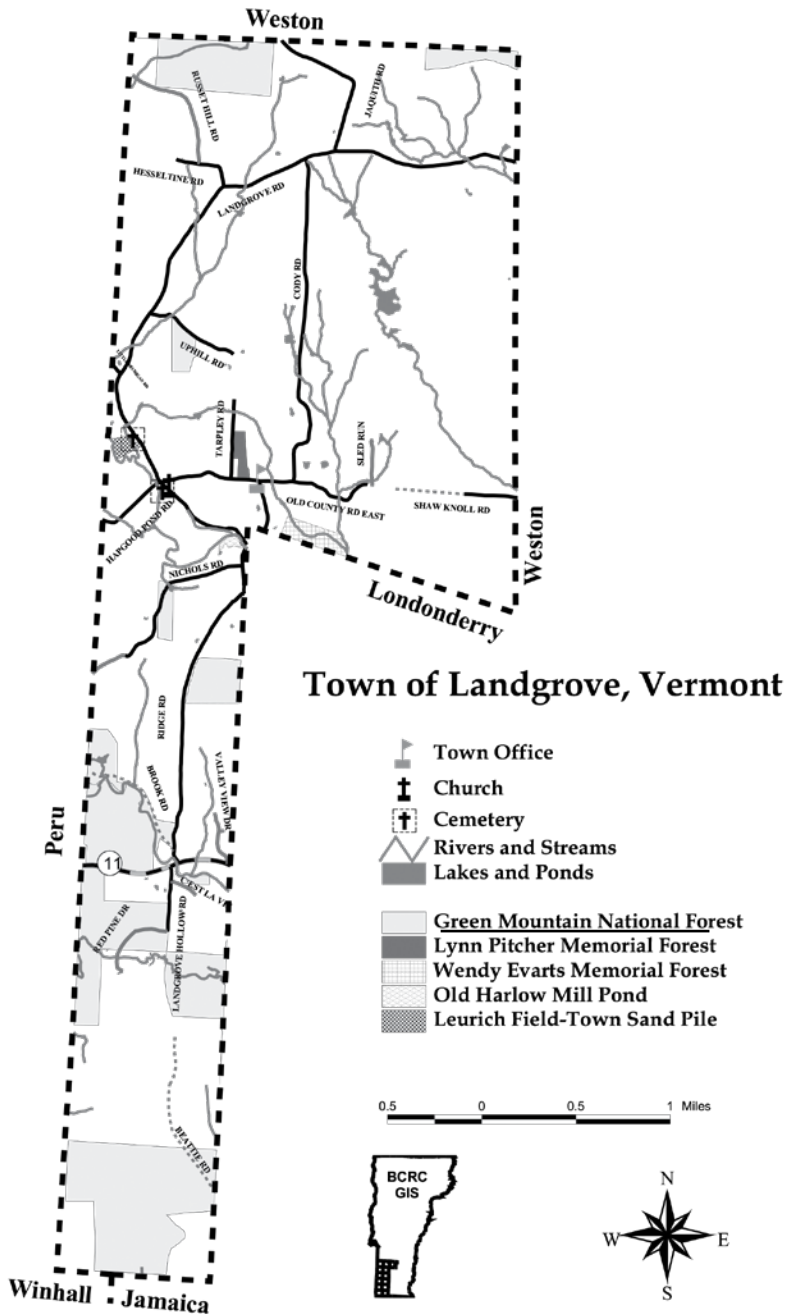
Anne McClaren

Andrea Ogden

Hope Pinkerton

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Map of Town Lands



Map produced January 28, 2016 by BCRG.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Listers' Report

The listers had another busy year, as there are always new wrinkles from the state that impact our work at the local level. The continuation of what seems as the “normal” demands/changes at the state level, along various software updates added to our normal workload.

Training and education for listers to keep current are ongoing processes. Two of our listers (Blair and Jonathan) recently this winter spent four full days of extensive in person education in Montpelier.

February through September continues to be our busiest time. Reviewing permits, doing site visits, and establishing valuations are key activities; as well as doing all the paperwork, reports, software data entry etc. for the state and our local property owners.

Certainly we are most appreciative of Jeremiah Sund for his outstanding work as the lister consultant/administrator. He is in his second 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. All this helps us to understand what changes could be coming down the line.

As usual, we also want to thanks our state adviser Cy Bailey for his valuable, hands on work with our lister board. We also appreciate the work of Will Goodwin, our planning and zoning administrator, for his help in coordinating permits for our review and eventual site visits. We continue to review and carry forward as necessary the permits for the last three years plus until permitted projects are completed.

This past year we visited 13 properties with changes based upon approved permits and activity on those permits from April 1, 2021 to April 1, 2022. We also did file reviews on some other properties as a result of a variety of other changes/adjustments. With the land curve adopted three years ago, annually all current use parcels had to be reviewed for the state and for us as well. We had just a few inquiries from taxpayers about changes in their assessment; those few folks were basically seeking more information on the process and rational. We had no grievance hearing requests; nor did we have any appeals to our local BCA or the courts.

As we say every year, the increase in the responsibilities and the ever-evolving complexities of lister positions continues to be a concern throughout the state. We are happy to say that, as a town, we have managed those responsibilities in a timely and professional manner.

Landgrove's 5700 acres consists of approximately 220 parcels of which over 165 have structures.

All the various state forms and reports were filed on time and were accepted. We should note that Equalized Education Grand List (EEGL) for Landgrove for 2022 is \$118,038,191. Our CLA (common level of appraisal) for the year

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

is 86.32%. This 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 but 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 years in Vermont, we would not be surprised to see more statewide reassessment requirements in the future! In fact, there are now over 170 out of 250 towns in the mandated reappraisal process! We could be getting that letter next year. Realistically, our historical "every 6 year reappraisal" (2026) might be in 2025.

We also want to report that our COD (coefficient of dispersion) is 16.45%; a COD of less than 10% is considered "excellent" and reflects a relatively high level of equity across taxpayers' assessments. A COD of between 10%-19% is viewed as "reasonable" where over 20% would require a state ordered reappraisal. Again, the unusual real estate the last few years has an effect here as well.

Finally 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. Thank you.

Respectively submitted
Jonathan Bigelow
Blair McCaw
Chuck Sweetman



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Taconic & Green Regional School District Directors' Report

It has been another unusual year in our schools. We are deeply grateful to everyone who works in our District for shouldering extra work, quickly figuring out new ways to do things, and always putting our children's learning first. It has not been easy!

Although we are through the worst of the COVID-related challenges, we are by no means out of the woods. In particular, the pandemic worsened an already existing teacher shortage. Also, the lack of substitute teachers and support staff has been exhausting for many in the schools as well as at home. We have become more aware of the limits and effects of extended remote learning, and we are trying hard to help students regain skills and behaviors that declined during their time at home with little contact with school or with each other.

Our focus has primarily been on ensuring that the Superintendent has adequate structures and supports to deliver the best possible education for all the students in our District. We are a Policy Governance board, so we do not micromanage details like bus routes and lunch menus. Instead, we emphasize creating clear, ambitious, and achievable expectations for student outcomes.

In 2021, we asked for input on several fundamental questions about the purpose of schools in today's world and what the District should strive for. Over 600 people gave us their opinions, helping us revise District goals and policies (available on our District website). One topic that has lasting interest is whether it makes educational and financial sense to establish a single middle school for all nine towns in our District. We need input on this and will create opportunities for community engagement. We also publicize our meetings on electronic bulletin boards like Front Porch Forum and in the local print media, and our part of the Supervisory Union website can be used for comments. Public input is important, and we wish we had more!

Our proposed budget would result in a lower overall tax rate for all sending towns – if property values had not shot up. When property values rise, our towns' Common Level of Appraisal falls. This increases the tax bills for people who do not benefit from income sensitivity. The increase in the value of residential real estate has more than canceled out the decrease in the base tax rate, so tax bills are up. More details on the budget and related tax rates are at www.brsu.org or in our printed report, available from the supervisory union office (802) 362-2452 or your Town Clerk. Everyone is invited to attend any of our monthly board meetings in person or on Zoom, or to reach out directly with any questions or concerns.

We are glad that the state's careful response to the pandemic has enabled us to resume the usual Annual District Meeting on February 28th, 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 March 7th at your normal polling place or earlier by mail. 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 do this by Monday, March 6, 2023 or go to your Town Clerk and pick up a ballot.

Respectfully submitted,

Taconic and Green Regional School District Board of Directors

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Burr and Burton Academy Sending Town Letter



Burr & Burton
Academy

December 21, 2022


Dear Members of our Sending Towns:

The Board of Trustees of Burr and Burton Academy has set the tuition for the 2023–2024 school year at \$19,987, a 4.1% increase. In reaching this decision, we have sought to balance the challenges of inflation, which has been running at an annual rate of approximately 8%, while maintaining affordability for you. The entire increase will be passed on to our faculty and staff, the lifeblood of our school. It is our goal to help them partially offset the challenge of inflation while they continue to dedicate themselves to each and every student we serve.

Since 1829, Burr and Burton has strived to be the best possible high school for our community. We will continue to raise money privately not only to support annual operations, but also all capital projects. Each year, our fundraising contributes approximately \$1 million toward operating costs, and all of our buildings and grounds have been purchased and built through private philanthropy.

We are extremely grateful to work in partnership with you. Thank you very much for your support.

Respectfully submitted,


Mark H. Tasljian
Headmaster


Edgar T. Campbell
Chair, Board of Trustees



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Trustees 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. It is the policy of the current board to reinvest the interest earnings of the fund with the goal of future growth.

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

Cemetery Endowment Fund

Balance as of 12/31/2021	97,128.69
Income	
Town Appropriation	1,000.00
Plot Sales	1,600.00
Interest & Dividends	1,293.94
Unrealized Gain on Investment	(18,019.41)
Total Income	(14,125.47)
Expense	
No Activity	-
Total Expense	-
Balance as of 12/31/2022	83,003.22

Conservation Fund

Balance as of 12/31/2021	38,391.15
Income	
Interest & Dividends	520.53
Unrealized Gain on Investment	(7,232.14)
Total Income	(6,711.61)
Expense	
No Activity	-
Total Expense	-
Balance as of 12/31/2022	31,679.54

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Zoning & Planning

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

During 2022, a total of seven land use applications were received, and one application was carried over from 2021. Three of these applications were referred or appealed to the Development Review Board, five were reviewed by the Zoning Administrator.

A total of 7 applications were issued Zoning Permits in the following categories:

- 0 New Single-Family Dwellings
- 1 Residential Additions or Alterations
- 4 Residential Accessory Structures
- 0 Accessory Dwellings
- 0 New Commercial Buildings
- 0 Commercial Additions/Alterations/Change of Use
- 0 Sign
- 0 Ponds
- 1 Boundary Line Adjustments
- 1 Subdivision
- 0 Permit extensions
- 0 Appeal of Zoning Administrator's Decision
- 0 Notices of Violations Issued for Zoning non-compliance

In 2023, a major task of the Planning Commission will be the review and revision of the town's By-Laws. Periodic updating of town By-Laws is required by state law. The Commission hopes to complete an initial draft by summer, with public hearings for comment to follow. The By-Law revision must be completed and approved by the town Select Board by December 31, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

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



TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022

Londonderry Solid Waste Group Report

THE LONDONDERRY SOLID WASTE GROUP

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

2023 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.

Please be mindful of how you separate recyclables and put them in the proper bay. If in doubt, ask the attendant. They're there to help.

The Londonderry Solid Waste Group (LSWG) held two Hazardous Waste Collection Events in 2022. If you missed them or would like to be part of the 2023 collections, they will be held on the first Saturday in June and the first Saturday in October. You can find information about what to and what not to bring at <https://www.londonderryvt.org/recycletransfer/hazardous-special-waste/>. In 2022 the LSWG collected hazardous materials from 158 households.

Vermont currently has Manufacturer-Sponsored battery, electronics, paint, mercury light bulbs and mercury thermostat programs. To find locations for free disposal go to VTrecycles.com or call 1-855-63-cycle. This legislative session the Vermont Product Stewardship Council is working with legislators to promote an Extended Producer Responsibility bill for household hazardous waste.

Sharps: If you use sharps including needles and need to dispose of them know that sharps can't be recycled and are dangerous if not disposed of properly. Use a heavy-duty laundry detergent or bleach container with a screw top. **DO NOT** use soda or water bottles. Carefully put used sharps in the container with the needle end down. Label the container with the warning: **DO NOT RECYCLE! DO NOT** fill the container full. When the container is ready for disposal, screw the cap on tightly and cover the top with strong tape, like duct tape. Dispose of the container with household trash. **DO NOT** put this container in recycling.

Be Careful What You Put Down the Drain: Many materials, especially household hazardous waste, should NOT be poured down the drain, either to a septic tank or field or to wastewater treatment plants. These chemicals are toxic, will kill the organisms that break down waste, and will enter surface and groundwater supplies. Flushing prescription drugs down the toilet should also be avoided as these have been shown to harm fish and amphibians.

Two important dates are coming that impact the sale and distribution of mercury-containing bulbs in Vermont. Screw based - **Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs)** will be banned from sale starting **February 17, 2023**. General-purpose – **Four Foot (4') Linear Fluorescent Tubes** will be banned from sale starting **January 1, 2024**. Fluorescent lightbulbs contain mercury (which is toxic to humans), so they cannot go in the trash. Find a free bulb-recycling drop-off near you at <https://www.lamprecycle.org/>

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 - 2022

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

To our Member Towns and their Residents:

The Southern Vermont Communications Union District, a political subdivision of the State of Vermont, is a multi-municipal organization working to solve the longstanding rural broadband connectivity challenges in its fourteen member towns. Since forming in March of 2020, the CUD has grown to include Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Landgrove, Londonderry, Manchester, Peru, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Shaftsbury, Sunderland, Winhall, and Woodford.

SoVT CUD has had a very busy, and successful third year. The CUD worked with its partner, Consolidated Communications Inc. (CCI) to submit an application to the Act 71 Construction Grant Program, which was successfully funded in the amount of \$9,009,085. The CUD also signed a Master Services Agreement with CCI to begin construction of a fiber network in the CUD's service territory. In June, the CUD and CCI celebrated the launch of Phase 1 of CCI's three-phase buildout in Bennington County, and in August, the first customer was connected to the new fiber network. All 14 towns in the CUD are expected to be covered by the end of 2023.

CCI, in consultation with the CUD, has developed the following three-phase construction plan for the CUD territory:

- Phase 1: Now Complete! This phase is financed by CCI as part of their Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) obligations and covered most of the Southshire, including Bennington, Woodford, Glastenbury, and part of Pownal and Shaftsbury.
- Phase 2A: This phase will be financed by the Act 71 Construction Grant. Set to begin in early 2023 and complete by the end of the year, this phase of the buildout will cover approximately 1,300 unserved and underserved addresses in the CUD's territory. Most of SoVT CUD's territory will be covered at the conclusion of this phase.
- Phase 2B: Funded by CCI, the second part of Phase 2 will begin in early 2023 and complete by the end of the year. This portion of the project involves a fiber build to an additional 619 unserved addresses and is part of CCI's RDOF obligations.
- Phase 3: The final phase will build out fiber to the "hardest 100" addresses in the CUD's territory, which has since been narrowed to the "hardest 17" addresses.
- Additionally, because of the strong partnership between the CUD and Consolidated, Consolidated has agreed to invest its own capital to cover an additional 4,689 served addresses across the CUD.

By way of closing, we would like to thank the many people and organizations who continue to support our work: the Department of Public Service; the Vermont Community Broadband Board; our elected officials; and the Bennington County Regional Commission. Most importantly, however, we would like to recognize the delegates that you have appointed to the CUD's Governing Board. They have dedicated their time and energy to solving an immensely difficult problem, and we would not have made the progress that we have made to date without them.

We meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 6:00 PM. Please join us, and learn more at sovtcud.net.

Sincerely,

Eric Hatch, Chair, Southern Vermont Communications Union District

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2022



The Town of Landgrove is looking for the public's assistance in identifying local hazards to aid in updating its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).

As mandated by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, all municipalities are required to complete a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan every 5 years in order to qualify for FEMA funding should a disaster occur. The plan aids in identifying threats and hazards such as flooding, winter storms, power failures, pandemics, cyber-attacks etc. and then determine mitigation efforts that can aid municipalities in reducing risk and recovery from natural, technological, and human-caused hazards.

The Town of Landgrove has begun the plan update process and is looking for input from Landgrove residents to help identify hazards that impact your community.

Please contact Susan Lenox at townadmin@landgrove.vermont.com with any input or questions.

The current Local Hazard Mitigation Plan can be located in the Town Hall

Springtime To-Do List

- Renew Dog License in March!

- Town Meeting Monday night 6pm
March 6! Potluck!

- Top off Fuel and other Heavy
deliveries before Mud season road
restrictions (March 15th- April 30!)

- Homestead Declaration Deadline -
April 15

- Green Up Day- May 6th



Throughout this Report you will see the artistic talents of the population of Landgrove as every Halloween we carve pumpkins and place them on the bridges along the Utley Brook.

Town of Landgrove
88 Landgrove Road
Landgrove, VT 05148

Town Meeting
Mon. March 6 at 6pm
Pot Luck to follow