

2003
TOWN OF LANDGROVE, VERMONT
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2003



"NORTH LANDGROVE" SCHOOL 1903
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LANDGROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT TO TOWN MEETING

LANDGROVE TOWN HALL
MARCH 2, 2004 9:00 a.m.

Only 100 Years Ago!

Located at the roadside of the Gamper's big meadow, this District 1 School drew its students from homes all along and north of Landgrove Road from its intersection with Little Michigan Road to the Weston line, and along Cody Road almost down to Old County Road.

The picture was taken in 1903 when Blanche Sheppard (1886-1975) was school marm. Judging by the 8 of her 15 students whom we can identify, her charges were largely of Swedish descent. Thus front row, left to right: Nola Westine, Harold Neilson and Della Westine. Second row: Willie Westine and Harry Neilson. Back row: Beda Neilson, Lilla Chadwick. And then the girl in front of the teacher is Jennie Westine.

The three Neilsons were the children of John and Louise Neilson of the now Gamper place, while the four Westines were the children of Carl and Anna Westine in the now Bolognese place. The 8th is the Chadwick girl who lived in what is now the Fanelli place.

Blanche Sheppard lived with her parents in what is now the Bigelow house. In June of 1904 she married Landgrove farmer Alison Towsley. In later years Blanche was a good friend of our own Wavie Nichols.

**2003
ANNUAL REPORT**

**THE TOWN
OF
LANDGROVE
VERMONT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2003

AUDITORS

GARY BOKENKAMP PEGGY MOLE ANNE McCLARAN

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TOWN OF LANDGROVE
BENNINGTON COUNTY, LANDGROVE, VERMONT
05148

VITAL STATISTICS - 2003

Population165
Area.....5,586 acres
Tax Rate.....\$1.22
Grand List.....\$69,809,400

MARRIAGES

August 15 Matthew Terrill of Wilmington, Delaware, to Alison Wolf
 of Wilmington, Delaware
Nov. 11: John Lincks III of Landgrove, Vermont, to Anya
 Prozzo of Landgrove, Vermont
Nov. 29: William Lee of Oakland, California, to Ivy Hatch of
 Oakland, California

BIRTHS

January 3 Emma Julia Hall in Bennington, Vermont

DEATHS

January 31: Gerald George Getschmann of Landgrove, Vermont

LANDGROVE

CHECKLIST

JANUARY 29, 2004

ADAMS, LEIGH
ADAMS, RICHARD
AMATO, LEE
AMEDEN, JAMES
AMEDEN, JOSEPHINE
BADGER, BETSY
BAY, CHRISTINE
BAY, FREDERICK
BECKWITH, JAMES
BIGELOW, JONATHAN
BIGELOW, MAY
BLOCH, LAUREN
BOKENKAMP, BONNIE
BOKENKAMP, GARY
BOKENKAMP, LEAH
BOKENKAMP, SARAH K.
BURKE, KIMBERLY SNYDER
BURKE, PATRICK JR.
CHALMERS, CAMERON
COLE, DALEN
DAITCH, MARJORIE
DEE, ELIZABETH
DIBBLE, JOCELYN
ECKHARDT, JOHN
ECKHARDT, LYNN
ELLSWORTH, JOHN
ELLSWORTH, NANCIE
EMERSON, NATHALIE
EMERSON, PETER
EMERSON, WILLARD
ENGLISH, JOHN E.
ENGLISH, MARY
EVARTS, JEREMIAH
EVARTS, KARA
FANELLI, LAUREN
FANELLI, STEPHEN
FRIANT, WENDY J.
FULLER, NANCY
FULLER, WARREN
GETSCHMANN, ELIZABETH
GIBSON, JEFFREY

GOUGER, ERWIN
GOUGER, MARY
HALL, GRETA
HALL, STEVEN
HARRIS, CLAUDIA
HASSETT, JERALD
HASSETT, VIVIAN
HANDSHAW, HAIG
HANDSHAW, KRISTEN
HENDRICKS, SCOTT
HENSON, ANNA
HENSON, CASEY
HENSON, CRAIG
HENSON, ELISE
HOUSTON, JAMES
HYDE, ELLEN
HYDE, HENRY CHEVES
ISHU, ALBERT
ISHU, SARAH
JEFFERY, MARION
JEFFERY, MICHAEL
JORDAN, JEAN
JORDAN, ROBERT
KLINE, CHRISTOPHER
KLONSKY, ARTHUR
KLONSKY, JANE
KNUTSEN, JANICE
LAPRADE, FAY
LAPRADE, W. BYRD
LUX, HARRY
MACARTHUR, LOIS
MCCLARAN, ANNE
MCCLARAN, TIM
MCNAIR, DANA
MCNAIR, MALCOLM
MCNEALUS, LISA
MITCHELL, MICHAEL
MIX, CHRISTINE
MOLE, MARGARET
MOLE, MICHAEL
MUNAT, CLARE

NEWTON, ANNA DIBBLE
NEWTON, JOHN
NICHOLS, CLARENCE
NICHOLS, PAULINE
NICHOLS, WARREN
OGDEN, ANDREA
OGDEN, JANE
OGDEN, JOHN
OGDEN, MARY
OGDEN, SAMUEL JR
OGDEN, SHEILA
PFISTER, JOANNA
PFISTER, KARL
PFISTER, KARL A.
PFISTER, KARL T.
PFISTER, NICOLE
PHILLIPS, THOMAS
SEULING, BARBARA
SHATTUCK, JOHN
SNYDER, D. JAY
SNYDER, DON
SNYDER, ELSE
SNYDER, KATHY
STIGUM, TOVE
STONE, BEVERLY
SWEETMAN, CHARLES
THOMSON, KAREN
THOMSON, PETER
THORSSIN, GRACE
TOLBERT, DIANNE
TOLBERT, JOHN
TORRE, ANDREW
VALDES, CARMEN
WAITE, ROBERT
WAITE, SAMUEL JARED
WAITE, SARAH
WALTZ, ELIZABETH
WALTZ, KATHERINE
WAYBRIGHT, ETHAN
WHITTEN, BEATRICE
WHITTEN, GLEN
YOUNG, CHRISTINE
YOUNG, HELEN

125 VOTERS

WARNING

Legal voters of the Town of Landgrove, County of Bennington, State of Vermont, are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Town Hall on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, at 9 o'clock A.M. to transact the following business.

- ARTICLE 1: To elect a moderator for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 2: To elect a Town Clerk for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 3: To elect a Town Treasurer for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 4: To hear the reports of the Town Officers and take proper action on the Auditors' reports.
- ARTICLE 5: To elect the following officers are required by law:
- Selectman - 3 year term
 - Auditor - 3 year term
 - Lister - 3 year term
 - Cemetery Commissioner - 5 year term
 - Collector of Delinquent Taxes - 1 year term
 - Grand Juror - 1 year term
 - Town Agent - 1 year term
 - Town Constable - 1 year term
 - Trustee of Public Funds - 3 year term
- ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to collect taxes on real and personal property as provided by law, due date to be on or before October 1, 2004, with a penalty fee of 8% and an additional interest charge of 1% for the first three months or part thereof, and 1 1/2% per month or part thereof thereafter on delinquent taxes or the maximum allowed under the laws of the State of Vermont.
- ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to pay its taxes to the Treasurer.

- ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise the budgeted monies necessary to pay Town expenses and obligations for the year 2004 and authorize the Selectmen to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same.
- ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will contribute the Green Mountain National Forest receipts to the Town School District and Highway expense.
- ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to appoint a Road Commissioner.
- ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will acquire, by gift or purchase, land to add to the Town Forest.
- ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will appropriate \$2,500 to pay for design drawings for an addition to the Town Hall.
- ARTICLE 13: To transact any other business proper to come before said meeting not involving the expenditure of Town funds nor any business acted upon in the previous articles.

TOWN OFFICERS ELECTED 2003

POSITION	NAMES	TERM EXPIRES
Moderator (1 year term)	Thomas Dibble	2004
Town Clerk (1 year term)	Casey Henson	2004
Town Treasurer (1 year term)	Sarah Waite	2004
Selectmen (3 year term)	Nicole Pfister	2004
	Craig Henson	2005
	Warren Fuller	2006
Board of Listers (3 year term)	Robert Waite	2004
	John English	2005
	Michael Mole	2006
Board of Auditors (3 year term)	Gary Bokenkamp	2004
	Peggy Mole	2005
	Anne McClaran	2006
Board of Library Trustees (5 yr. term)	Beverly Stone	2005
	Al Ishu	2006
Board of Cemetery Commissioners (5 year term)	Claudia Harris	2004
	Clare Munat	2005
	James Ameden	2006
	May Bigelow	2007
	Karl Pfister	2008
Collector of Delinquent Taxes (1 year term)	Sarah Waite	2004
Constable (1 year term)	Karl T. Pfister	2004
Grand Juror (1 year term)	Karl Pfister	2004
Town Agent (1 year term)	Byrd LaPrade	2004
Trustees of Public Funds (3 yr. term)	Warren Fuller	2004
	Karl Pfister	2005
	Sarah Waite	2006
Board of School Directors (3 yr. term)	Mary English	2004
	Dana McNair	2005
	Robert Jordan	2006
Union School Director (3 year term)	Robert Jordan	2006

TOWN OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE SELECTMEN 2003

POSITION	NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Zoning Administrator (3 yr. term)	Gary Bokenkamp	2004
Asst. Zoning Administrator	Steven Hall	2006
Planning Commission (3 yr. term)	Tim McClaran, Chrm.	2006
	Karl T. Pfister	2006
	Tim McClaran	2006
	Peggy Mole	2006
	Leigh Adams	2005
	Malcolm McNair	2005
	Jeremiah Evarts	2005
	Gary Bokenkamp	2004
	Mary English	2004
	John Ogden	2004
Zoning Board of Adjustment (Includes all members of the Planning Comm. except the Zoning Administrator)	Mary English, Chm.	2004
BCRC Members	Three members of the Planning Commission	

The following appointments are for a 1 year term:

Town Service Officer	Josephine Ameden	2004
Civil Defense Officer	Josephine Ameden	2004
Asst. Forest Fire Warden	Craig Henson	2004
Road Commissioner	Karl T. Pfister	2004
Health Officer	Claudia Harris	2004
Assistant Town Clerk	Sarah Waite	2004
Green Up Chairman	Bonnie Bokenkamp	2004
Recycling Representative	Kara Evarts	2004
Conservation Committee	Nancy Fuller	2004
	Tim McClaran	2004
	May Bigelow	2004

Community Club Board

Lisa McNealus, Chair

Andrea Ogden Karl T. Pfister
Nancie Ellsworth Lauren Fanelli
Malcolm McNair Kara Evarts
Ann Hausslein

Justices of the Peace

Henry Hyde Sheila Ogden
Fay LaPrade Anna Dibble
Beth Waltz

MINUTES OF THE TOWN MEETING TOWN OF LANDGROVE, VERMONT MARCH 4, 2003

The meeting was called to order by Selectboard Chair, Craig Henson, at 9:00 a.m. Craig read the Warning before the voters. At this point, Craig instructed the Town Clerk to read the checklist and take attendance. In attendance were 48 voters out of 131 on the check list.

ARTICLE 1: Tommy Dibble was the sole nominee for the position of Moderator for one year. The Clerk was directed to cast one ballot and the vote passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 2: Casey Henson was the sole nominee for the position of Town Clerk for one year. The Clerk was directed to cast one ballot and the vote passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 3: Sarah Waite was the sole nominee for the position of Treasurer for one year. The Clerk was directed to cast one ballot and the vote passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 4: A motion was made and seconded to accept the reports of the Town Officers as printed. The vote passed unanimously. At this time, Craig read the Selectboard and Road Commissioner's reports. Craig noted that Nicole Pfister, although not at the meeting, will be the Selectboard's representative in the event that a committee to study the future use of the Town Hall is formed as suggested the Board's report. Anyone interested in participating on the committee should contact a Board member. It is the hope that conclusions and options be presented in the spring or summer.

ARTICLE 5: Election of Officers: The following were sole nominees and the Clerk was directed to cast one ballot under Proposition B:

Selectman - 3 yrs.	Warren Fuller
Auditor - 3 yrs.	Anne McClaran
Lister - 3 yrs.	Michael Mole
Cemetery Commissioner - 5 yrs.	Karl Pfister
Collector of Del. Taxes - 1 yr.	Sarah Waite
Grand Juror - 1 yr.	Karl Pfister
Town Agent - 1 yr.	Byrd LaPrade
Town Constable - 1 yr.	Karl T. Pfister
Trustee of Public Funds - 3 yr.	Sarah Waite

- ARTICLE 6: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to collect taxes on real and personal property as provided by law, due date to be on or before October 1, 2003, with a penalty fee of 8% and an additional interest charge of 1% for the first three months or part thereof, and 1 1/2% per month or part thereof thereafter on delinquent taxes or the maximum allowed under the laws of the State of Vermont. The vote passed unanimously.
- ARTICLE 7: The motion was made and seconded to to see if the Town will vote to pay its taxes to the Treasurer. The vote passed unanimously.
- ARTICLE 8: The motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise the budgeted moneys necessary to pay Town expenses and obligations for the year 2003 and authorize the Selectmen to set a tax rate sufficient to provide the same. The vote passed unanimously without discussion.
- ARTICLE 9: The motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will contribute the Green Mountain National Forest receipts to the Town School District and Highway expense. The vote passed unanimously without discussion.
- ARTICLE 10: The motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to appoint a Road Commissioner. The vote passed unanimously.
- ARTICLE 11: The motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will acquire, by gift or purchase, land to add to the Town Forest. Jonathan Bigelow asked what lands the Town presently owns and the Selectboard itemized the existing parcels. The vote passed unanimously.
- ARTICLE 12: The motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will approve improvements to the stage area of the Town Hall to provide secure flexible facilities there for work, storage and display space for use by the Landgrove Historical Society with costs to be underwritten by the Society. (By petition).

Jonathan Bigelow headed this discussion noting that the newly formed Society has already acquired many materials in need of storage space. The current idea is to make perimeter improvements i.e. deeper bookshelves, locked storage space and a working table, understanding the concern about keeping the children's books available and ensure that they will be readily available. It is not the intent to exclude town use.

Warren Fuller noted that the Selectboard in their report suggests a town wide look at needs assessment with an eye towards representation of all existing groups. The idea is to have a report back in spring or early summer and his thought is that this should preclude us from spending moneys prematurely.

Virginia LaPrade added that the Vermont Folklore Center has thus far housed some of the records and that Manchester is working on networking with other local societies and that some of our photos may actually travel throughout the area.

Lynn Eckhardt added that she understand the need for investigation concerning the future use of the Town Hall but the immediate needs of the Society need to be recognized. She reminded people that the changes mentioned by Jonathan would be movable. The vote passed with 27 in favor and 4 opposed.

ARTICLE 13: The motion was made and seconded to see if the voters of Landgrove will support the following resolution at Town Meeting (2003) to protect our farms, food, and the environment:

Whereas genetically engineered (GE) foods and crops are likely to cause long-term damage to the environment, threaten the integrity of rural, family farm economies, and can have serious impacts on human health; where GE crops have been found to contaminate other crops through cross-pollination, and are stringently regulated in more than 30 countries; and where as citizens throughout the US are taking steps to address concerns about GE foods at the state and local levels; and where Congress and federal regulatory agencies have failed to adequately address this issue, therefore, be it resolved that the residents of Landgrove:

1. Call upon our elected officials, including Vermont legislators, Congressional representative and U.S. Senators, to support the mandatory labeling by manufacturers and processors of all genetically engineered food and seeds, as well as a moratorium on the further growing of GE crops until there is credible and independent scientific evidence that these products are not harmful to our health, the environment and the survival of family farms, and
2. Declare our support for legislation at the state and federal levels that will shift all liability from farmers to the commercial developers of GE technology for any damages resulting from the growing of GE crops, and
3. Declare a moratorium on the planting of genetically engineered seeds in the Town, as a step toward making Vermont a GE-free planting zone by the 2004 growing season. (By petition)

Chris Bay addressed this article noting that many Vermont towns are discussing this important issue today. Basically, the referendum supports denying the use of GE seeds until such time that more thorough testing is completed and labeling is required on consumable products that contain any portion of genetically engineered derived ingredients. Much discussion ensued and many examples cited concerning unfortunate and sometimes devastating experiences with the use of these modified seeds and their products. The vote passed with one opposing vote.

At this time Craig suggested that we suspend the agenda to accommodate Walt Freed. The motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously. Walt mentioned that this is his 6th term in Montpelier, but due to the reapportionment, this was the first time that in driving to Landgrove he passed through two other districts! He spoke in some length about the happenings at the State House and answered many questions regarding Act 60. He outlined some of the present proposals to modify Act 60 and is hopeful changes will be made by April, although we would not see those implemented until next year.

ARTICLE 14: The motion was made and seconded to see if the voters of Landgrove will approve the resolutions that the citizens of the town of Landgrove urgently call upon our municipal leaders, state legislators, governor and congressional delegation to put Vermont in the forefront of a sustainable energy future. Specifically, we request immediate and ongoing action on legislative initiatives designed to promote energy efficiency in Vermont's homes, businesses, public buildings, and transportation systems, and to encourage expansion of the renewable energy industry in the state of Vermont. (By petition)

Bobby Waite suggested that we either table or amend this article to avoid the appearance of tacit approval of the proposed windmill project on Magic Mountain. Many voiced the opinion that the timing is unfortunate but the spirit of the article is commendable and we do support the idea of energy conservation. A suggestion was made to rewrite the article and include it as a resolution instead. Michael Mole volunteered to undertake this job and the meeting continued while he went to work. Chris Bay's quote of the day was the we all want to eliminate our need of " you know what from the you know where."

The question was called on tabling the article. The vote passed 27 to 8.

ARTICLE 15: A motion was made and seconded to transact any other business proper to come before said meeting not involving the expenditure of Town funds nor any business acted upon in the previous articles.

Discussion began around the issue of possible changes to the Town Hall. It was pointed out that this was previously discussed in Article 12 and not proper for discussion at this time.

The need to find a location for the town's truck and sand/salt supplies was mentioned. No site has been identified and the Leurich Field deed prohibits the construction of any building.

Craig pointed out that the proximity to the stream is also a factor although the type of sand mixture that we are presently using does not contain salt but is, however, very expensive. Karl has been continually investigating options including a land swap with a piece on Nichols Road and also the property abutting the Town Hall. The possibility of including Peru in the maintenance or storage part has been discussed, but Peru is not receptive to this idea.

At this point, Michael Mole read his revision to Article 14. It reads as follows: "Be it resolved that the voters of Landgrove will approve the resolutions that the citizens of the Town of Landgrove urgently call upon our municipal leaders, state legislatures, governor and congressional delegation to put Vermont in the forefront of a sustainable energy future. Specifically, we request immediate and ongoing action on legislative initiatives designed to promote energy efficiency in Vermont's homes, businesses, public buildings, and transportation systems while conserving existing environmental priorities such as clean air and water, free scenic fields of view and ridge line free development." The resolution passed unanimously.

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 11:15 a.m. The vote passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Casey Henson, Town Clerk

SELECT BOARD REPORT

General Fund

The 2003 year was a busy one and successful one for the Town of Landgrove. With both tight fiscal management and success with the Education Fund, Landgrove enjoyed the lowest property tax rate in our region. We now await the next State legislative action to help us determine how best to react to Act 60 and its successor for the next year.

Other projects in Landgrove included work completed in the old cemetery. Headstones were cleaned this summer. This work will continue next summer with the restoration of markers and the surrounding wall.

The year 2003 was not kind to our roads. Heavy rains and violent storms took their toll. Resulting road damages were repaired with dispatch and modest State/Federal aid to help with the costs.

It became apparent at the 2003 Annual Town Meeting last year, that a pressing need to address the future use and preservation of our Town Hall as well as our lack of a Town garage existed. Strategic reviews of the Town Hall, Town Office and Town Garage needs have begun and will be discussed at the 2004 Town Meeting. We hope all Landgrove landowners will take the time to think about these issues and come prepared to share their thoughts. New external window units have been arranged for the front of the Town Hall and installation is expected before summer.

We continue to be blessed with a wonderful staff who keep our affairs well managed. Thanks to Casey Henson, Clerk, Sally Waite, Treasurer and Karl T. Pfister, Road Commissioner, for their excellent work and commitment in serving our community.

Finally, this year we thank the Green Mountain Garden Club members for the lovely Christmas wreath decorating the Town Hall door.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

We have entered a new era for Landgrove roads which will mean the stone lining of ditches. The state recommended that any road with a greater than 8% grade be stone lined. I was glad that we had not completed the resurfacing when the floods came in August. Due to this fact, we had money to pay for the resulting flood damage. We received funding from FEMA to reimburse us for these repairs. FEMA also awarded the Town with \$8,000.00 in "Hazard Mitigation" funds to help pay for the stone lining of the ditches which will help prevent such flood damage from happening again. This FEMA funded work needs to be completed within 18 months, and is the reason the road improvement budget has increased so much for this year.

There were also certain locations in Town that required upgrading. Such locations included work on the junction of Landgrove Road and Old County Road West, and a culvert replacement on Buffum Hill.

The Town has also received another grant for road resurfacing from the State of Vermont. The work was started in 2003 and will continue through 2004, following completion of the ditching work.

Again, one of the most pressing needs for the Town is to find a location to house the town equipment and sand pile. A committee has now been established to pursue this.

Thank you.

Karl T. Pfister, Road Commissioner

BUILDING REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

At the 2003 Landgrove Annual Town Meeting, there was a spirited discussion around the present and future use of our Town Hall. As a result, a committee was formed to review the needs and uses of the building and make recommendations at the next Town Meeting in 2004. A letter was sent to all Landgrove property owners requesting suggestions and feedback to help the committee with our task. Based upon this feedback and our discussions, we came to the realization that there are three distinct aspects to consider in planning for the future use of the Town Hall:

1. The preservation of the Town Hall for future generations.
2. The Town Hall as a location for community functions
3. The Town Hall as a location for town business.

In response to these different aspects, the committee makes the following recommendations.

Preservation of the Town Hall: It is important that the integrity of the building be maintained to ensure its use for future generations. The windows should be replaced as planned. Money should continue to be allocated each year for the upkeep of such things as the roof and painting.

Community Use: The Town Hall is one of the few common buildings for our community. There is a strong desire that the building continue to serve as a location for community events. This means that the integrity of the large room, kitchen and bathroom facilities be maintained. Repairs and improvements may be necessary for the upkeep of these two facilities.

Town Business: The present space allocated for the town office staff to carry out town business is no longer adequate. Increased demands on the town clerk and treasurer for town business, limited meeting space, limited storage space, and increased use by others make the need for additional space evident. After considering different options, the committee recommends that an expansion to the present Town Hall would be the most effective way to meet the growing needs of the town. The committee recommends that the town vote to appropriate funds to have design plans drawn to determine the feasibility and cost of such an expansion.

Our Town Hall is the heart of our community. We have a responsibility to maintain and preserve it for future generations. We also have the privilege to use and enjoy it for our present generation.

Report for the Landgrove Historical Society for 2003

This year, our fourth, we list the following accomplishments: 1) provided programs for our members, 2) researched a database system to manage collections, 3) participated in the work of the Building Review Committee, 4) conducted one oral history, and 5) happily accepted a variety of marvelous archival gifts

Programs: Architect Bill Badger started us off with an informal history walk/talk of the Landgrove Meeting House and Town Hall. Hope Pinkerton repeated her seminar on how to research your property using town records, Monk Ogden lead us to the "Gold Mines" on Bromley and we ended the summer with a well received photographic show entitled "Landgrove Houses, Then and Now." In October we joined the Weston Society in presenting a talk by Professor Robert McGrath of Dartmouth College.

Collections: We addressed this pressing need by examining the Grafton Historical Society's database system and hired an intern, Charlotte Badger, to test it out. Now Andrea Ogden is refining it so it will work for the Landgrove Photograph Collection as a start. Catherine Van Wyck continues to inventory and properly store archives from the Woodward family collections.

Town Hall and Space: The Building Review Committee's recommendations with LHS included in various options await Town Meeting discussion. While our space and storage needs are not taxpayers' responsibility, we would make a good fit via a business arrangement with any renovations that may happen in the Town Hall. This process may take considerable time. In the meantime we will build up our reserves to be prepared for major outlays later. However, we did invest in a minor improvement by installing plexi-glass to protect items on exhibit on the west wall of the stage.

Gifts: The following gifts have come to us this year 1) From Jasper Evarts twenty-nine framed photo portraits from the early 1970's of residents and neighbors at the time of the Labor Day Tennis Tournaments, 2) From William Roberts, widower of Ruth Richardson, two Woodward genealogies and an original manuscript and copies of Ambrose Woodward's early 1900's recollections of Landgrove, 3) From Chuck and Marion Sweetman, a collection of Woodward family photos, accounts of expenses of School District #1 (1871-92) and minutes of town school board meetings 1827-1874, all discovered in the old Lewis Woodward house on top of Buffum Hill 4) From Monk and Sally Ogden, an album of photos, poems and songs gathered for the occasion of A.S. Monrganroth's eightieth birthday held in the Ogden's "barn," and a 1937 Proclamation by the Governor of Vermont on a bill sponsored by S.R. Ogden regarding the state seal, and 5) From Bobby Comfort, a photo portrait of Ezra Davis by John Gilbertson and biographic information on Jane Raser Faunce, an artist and former Landgrove resident in the mid 40's.

Organizational: Our Annual Meeting has been moved to mid July to synchronize more closely with the end of our fiscal year, June 30th, and also to allow more time for exhibits. Our membership stands at a healthy 72. In November we lost our dear friend and board member, Jack Pitcher. He was instrumental in getting us started as a legal and tax exempt organization and his insights were always helpful and on the mark. We will miss him very much.

Directors: Jonathan Bigelow, May Bigelow, John Ellsworth, Nan Fuller, Priscilla Grayson, Ann Haussein, Virginia LaPrade, Andrea Ogden, Sally Ogden, and Karl Pfister III.

PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT

In 2003 building permits granted included several additions, a pool and pool house, storage barn and a platform tennis court, deck and hut. One subdivision permit was granted after the site plan was approved by the Planning Commission.

The requirements for state permits for subdivision and wastewater systems for single family residences have been significantly changed. There is a gradual phase in period until July 1, 2007, after which most building construction or modification of systems will generally need a state permit. There are certain exemptions, but in general, after the July 1, 2007 date all systems must be certified by designers.

We are happy to have a newly created position of assistant zoning administrator who will aid the ZA in granting permits, eventually stepping into the ZA position. The town permits have been updated and later this year there will be a informal information sheet on file with the town clerk which will hopefully clarify the Landgrove permitting process.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary English, Chair, Zoning Board of Adjustment

AUDITORS' REPORT

We, the undersigned Auditors of the Town of Landgrove, have reviewed all the books and accounts of the Town of Landgrove this 20th day of January, 2004. We wish to report that all entries have been properly made and all accounts are in balance.

Gary Bokenkamp
Peggy Mole
Anne McClaran

TOWN OF LANDGROVE CASH ACCOUNT - JANUARY 1, 2003 - DECEMBER 2003

TOTALS
8,768.59

BUDGETED EXPENSES TREAS.'S DISBURSEMENTS

RECEIPTS

BEGINNING BALANCE 1/1/03

RECEIPTS

CURRENT TAXES

DELINQUENT TAXES

STATE AID

TRANSFER FROM SAVINGS (Money Market Fund)

TRANSFER FROM MMF FOR MUNI.SCHOOL TAX

ZONING & PLANNING

MARRIAGE LICENSES

LIQUOR LICENSES

DOG LICENSES

COPY MACHINE & VEHICLE PERMITS

ST.OF VT. REAPPRAISAL FEES

INTEREST

ST. OF VT. ROAD GRANT

TOTAL RECEIPTS

821,672.16

39,316.19

32,069.10

255,261.00

532,856.82

266.00

104.00

200.00

243.00

59.00

1,374.01

19.25

38,232.79

1,721,673.32

1,721,673.32
1,730,441.91

EXPENSES GENERAL FUND

APPROPRIATIONS

TAXES & ASSESSMENTS

SALARY & COMPENSATIONS

FEES (LEGISLATION)

FEES - LEGAL

INSURANCE

NOTICES, WARNINGS & REPORTS

LISTERS' EXPENSES

HEAT & UTILITIES

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

RECORDS RESTORATION FUND

OFFICE SUPPLIES

ZONING & PLANNING

9,691.00

19,612.64

19,701.60

702.00

0.00

3,510.00

1,915.50

83.45

2,609.93

965.38

2,000.00

4,039.10

74.00

MEMORIAL PARK	150.00	
CEMETERY	1,500.00	
CEMETERY RESTORATION FUND	1,000.00	
TAX MAP	0.00	
ST. OF VT.-MUNICPL. SHARE SCHOOL TAX		532,856.82
TRANSFER TO SCHOOL ACCOUNT		164,261.00
TRANSFER TO SAVINGS (M.M.FUND)		819,139.30
DOG LICENSES		273.00
MARRIAGE LICENSES		104.00
LIQUOR LICENSES		
ZONING & PLANNING		252.00
DELINQUENT TAX FEES		2,229.12
BANK CHARGES & MISC. EXPENSES		55.68
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	67,554.60	1,519,170.92
EXPENSES - ROADS		
PLOWING & SANDING - LABOR	16,350.00	
PLOWING & SANDING - MACHINE	9,000.00	
PLOWING & SANDING - MATERIALS	37,299.78	
ROAD IMPROVEMENT (MOW, ETC.)	16,929.60	
ROAD MAINTENANCE (GRADING)	3,226.75	
CHLORIDE	4,278.00	
RESURFACING (GRAVEL)	8,818.64	
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	6,274.60	
EQUIPMENT FUND	18,500.00	
GAS & OIL	3,321.49	
LICENSES & INSURANCE	3,638.00	
STORM DAMAGE	11,472.00	
TOTAL ROADS	139,148.86	139,148.86
TOTAL EXPENSES	206,703.46	1,519,170.92
ENDING BAL. DEC. 31, 2003		1,725,874.38
		4,567.53

CASH ACCOUNT SUMMARY

2003

RECEIPTS

Beginning Balance Jan. 1, 2003	8,768.59
--------------------------------	----------

Taxes -Current	821,672.16	
Taxes- Delinquent	39,316.19	
State Aid, Highway	32,069.10	
Transfer from mmf	255,261.00	
Trans. fr. mmf for School taxes	532,856.82	
Town Treasurer	40,478.80	
Interest on Checking Account	19.25	
	<hr/>	1,721,673.32
		<hr/>
		1,730,441.91

DISBURSEMENTS

General Fund Account	67,554.60	
Roads Account	139,148.86	
School Account	164,261.00	
State of Vermont - state share tax	532,856.82	
Money Market Account	819,139.30	
Town Treasurer	2,913.80	
	<hr/>	1,725,874.38
		<hr/>

Ending Balance December 31, 2003	4,567.53
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STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED 2003

Grand List 2003	69,809,400.00
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Town Grand List (\$69,809,400.00X 1%)	698,094.00
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Taxes Assessed and Billed:

General Fund Grand List (698,094.00 X \$0.105)	73,299.87
Roads Grand List (698,094.00 X \$0.1175)	82,026.05
Schools - Local Share	0.00
Schools - State Share (698,094.00 X \$.9975)	696,348.76

Tax Rate of \$1.22 (698,094.00 X \$1.22)	851,674.68
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Taxes Accounted for as Follows:

2003 Real Estate Taxes	821,672.16
2002 Delinquent Taxes (w/o pen. & Int.)	1,360.80
2003 Delinquent Taxes (penalties & int. not included here)	34,839.42
	857,872.38

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

TREASURER'S CASH ON HAND

	January 1, 2003	December 31, 2003
Checking Account	8,768.59	4,567.53
Equipment Fund Account	56,823.20	75,874.11
Money Market Account	<u>415,872.90</u>	<u>448,820.25</u>
	481,464.69	529,261.89

EQUIPMENT FUND

2003

Bank Balance January 1, 2003 56,823.20

RECEIPTS

From General Fund	18,500.00	
Interest on Savings	<u>550.91</u>	<u>19,050.91</u>

75,874.11

DISBURSEMENTS

0.00

Bank Balance December 31, 2003 75,874.11

MONEY MARKET FUND

2003

Bank Balance January 1, 2003 415,872.90

RECEIPTS

From General Fund & "other funds" **	822,583.30	
Interest Earned	<u>2,890.87</u>	<u>825,474.17</u>

1,241,347.07

DISBURSEMENTS

To General Fund & "other funds"***	95,409.00	
To General Fund for School	164,261.00	
To General Fund for Municipal Share School Tax	<u>532,856.82</u>	<u>792,526.82</u>

Bank Balance December 31, 2003 448,820.25 **

"other funds" are described below and are kept in this money market account:

\$5,029.01 of this amount is the balance in the Reappraisal Account.
\$1,933.00.00 in this account is earmarked for Restoration and \$780.00 for Cemetery Renovation. The Dog License account is also in this fund, totalling to date \$2,050.44. This leaves an actual balance in the Money Market Account of \$439,027.80.

**RESTORATION FUND
2003**

Balance in Fund January 1, 2003	328.00	
RECEIPTS		
As voted, taxes raised	2,000.00	
Recording \$1.00 per page (Town Clerk)	<u>444.00</u>	
	2,772.00	
DISBURSEMENTS		
Microfilming	<u>839.00</u>	
Balance in Fund Dec. 31, 2003	1,933.00	**

**REAPPRAISAL FUND
2003**

Balance in Fund January 1, 2003	5,005.00	
RECEIPTS		
State of Vermont	<u>1,374.01</u>	
	6,379.01	
DISBURSEMENTS		
Peter Clark, Appraiser	<u>1,350.00</u>	
Balance in Fund December 31, 2003	5,029.01	**

**CEMETERY RENOVATION FUND
2003**

Balance in Fund January 1, 2003	2,000.00	
RECEIPTS		
As voted, taxes raised	<u>1,000.00</u>	
	3,000.00	
DISBURSEMENTS		
John Clegg (old cemetery cleaning)	2,220.00	
Balance in Fund December 31, 2003	780.00	**

**These three funds are kept in the General Fund Money Market account.

**DOG LICENSE ACCOUNT
2003**

36 Dog Licenses @ \$5.00	180.00	
1 Dog License @ \$8.00	8.00	
3 Dog License @ \$9.00	27.00	
Late Fees	28.00	
		<hr/>
		243.00

DISBURSEMENTS

Casey Henson-40 Licenses @2.00	80.00	
State of Vt. - Rabies Control	40.00	
Animal Control	153.00	
		<hr/>
		273.00

BALANCE December 31, 2003 (30.00)

Dog Licenses are available at the Town Clerk's Office any time after January 1st each year. After April 1st, a late charge will be assessed. Rabies inoculations must be current before a license can be issued.

Rabies is becoming a serious problem in the state. PLEASE VACCINATE YOUR CATS AS WELL AS YOUR DOGS AGAINST RABIES.

DELINQUENT TAX ACCOUNT

2003

RECEIPTS

2002 taxes, penalties & interest collected 1,590.64

2003 taxes, penalties & interest collected 37,725.55

39,316.19

DISBURSEMENTS

To General Fund Acct. 37,087.07

To Delinquent Tax Collector 2,229.12

39,316.19

Balance in account at 12/31/03 -0-

2001 Delinquent taxes outstanding ++

Kane Daniel 971.71

2003 Delinquent taxes outstanding++

Flynn, Eric & Melissa 1,317.60

Foster, Mrs. Chas.Estate (bal. due) 852.20

Kane, Daniel 963.80

++ these delinquent tax amounts do not include interest and penalties.

TAX SALE POLICY: When property taxes are in arrears for a period of one year and the second (current) year's taxes have not yet been paid, a letter will be sent to the delinquent tax papyer by certified mail asking if there is any reason why the Town should not proceed with a tax sale on the property.

LANDGROVE CEMETERY REPORT 2003

A handsome marble sign which says "Landgrove Cemetery 1889 " now welcomes the visitor's gate to the cemetery opposite the Meeting House. Our thanks are extended to Monk Ogden who made all the arrangements for the sign and also obtained and installed 6 classic posts to define the central pathway from the entrance.

All the stones in the Old Cemetery were professionally cleaned under the leadership of Warren Fuller. Money for this project was previously approved at Town Meeting. There will also be a similar marble sign installed at the Old Cemetery founded in 1810.

Now that the stones are cleaned and legible, this summer a multigenerational group from the Landgrove Historical Society will prepare an authoritative catalog of the monument inscriptions at the Old Cemetery.

Work continues on placing marble markers at the corner of each plot. Claudia Harris, Chevis Hyde, Karl Pfister and May Bigelow accurately measured for their location.

Claire Munat submitted her resignation. We thank her for the many years she has served on the cemetery board.

Some donations have been received for planting American Elm trees along the Ogden's line. The Cemetery commissioners are looking into this project. John Shattuck has agreed to serve on this committee.

The commission would like to remind families to keep artificial arrangements at a minimum, preferably one per headstone..

During the year there was one interment, that of Jerry Morgan. Three cemetery plots were sold. The Cemetery Account and an account of the Cemetery Trust Fund appear elsewhere in the Town Report.

Respectfully submitted.

May Bigelow
For the Cemetery Board

CEMETERY ACCOUNT

2003

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, totalling to date, \$20,150., should remain untouched and only the interest from them should be used for the care and maintenance of the cemetery.

Money Market account balance January 1, 2003	3,213.53
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RECEIPTS

Transferred from General Fund	1,500.00
Interest on savings	19.82
Donation	1,000.00
Plot Sales	1,200.00
Cornerstones	300.00
Endowment	<u>300.00</u>

4,319.82

DISBURSEMENTS

Mowing -Edward Johnson	3,350.00
Chittenden Bank service chg.	<u>5.00</u>

3,555.00

3,978.35

Year end value Vanguard 500 S & P	11,669.16
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Year end value Vanguard 500 Bond Index Fund	14,003.19 <u>25,672.35</u>
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TOTAL IN CEMETERY ACCOUNT DEC. 31, 2003	29,650.70
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**TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS
2003**

TOWN TRUST FUND

	Original Investment	Value	
	<u>1996</u>	<u>12/31/02</u>	<u>12/31/03</u>
	\$6,559.60	\$9,820.78	11,478.62
Investments			
Vanguard S & P Index Fund		5,256.33	6,743.06
Vanguard Total Bond Mkt. Index Fund		<u>4,564.45</u>	<u>4,735.56</u>
Total		\$9,820.78	\$11,478.62

CEMETERY TRUST FUND

	Original Investment	Value	
	<u>1997</u>	<u>12/31/02</u>	<u>12/31/03</u>
	\$17,000.00	\$22,551.42	\$25,672.35
Investments			
Vanguard S & P 500 Index Fund	8,500.00	9,083.36	11,669.16
Vanguard Total Bond Mkt. Index Fund	<u>8,500.00</u>	<u>13,468.06</u>	<u>14,003.19</u>
Total Funds	17,000.00	22,551.42	25,672.35

All income (dividends, interest and capital gains) was reinvested.

Sarah E. Waite
Warren Fuller
Karl Pfister

Selectmen's Budget 2004 General Fund

	2002 Actual	2003 Proposed	2003 Actual	2004 Proposed
Appropriations:				
Visiting Nurse Alliance	275.00	325.00	325.00	500.00
Londonderry Fire Dept.	2,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Londonderry Rescue Squad	2,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Mental Health Services	161.00	166.00	166.00	166.00
MVMC	2,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
West River Sports	210.00	200.00	200.00	188.00
Taxes and Assessments:				
BCRC	998.00	1,013.00	1,013.00	1,500.00
County tax	5,955.42	5,800.00	6,064.18	7,300.00
Londonderry Landfill	10,475.47	11,000.00	9,589.44	21,000.00 **
Vt. League of Cities & Towns	225.00	250.00	346.00	400.00
Southwest N.H. Dispatch	2,988.72	3,200.00	2,600.02	3,560.00
Salaries & Fees:				
Listers	900.00	900.00	900.00	900.00
Town Clerk	6,500.00	7,200.00	7,200.00	7,700.00
Asst. Town Clerk	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,200.00
Treasurer	3,500.00	4,200.00	4,200.00	4,500.00
Social Security	994.52	1,101.60	1,101.60	1,147.50
Selectmen	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
Road Commissioner	500.00	500.00	500.00	800.00
School Directors	900.00	900.00	900.00	900.00
Zoning Administrator	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Legal	214.50	500.00	0.00	500.00
Legislative fees	760.00	702.00	702.00	100.00
Listers' Expenses	1,002.46	1,000.00	83.45	500.00
Records Restoration Fees	1,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Office Supplies	2,241.53	2,500.00	4,039.10	2,500.00
Zoning & Planning	229.00	500.00	74.00	100.00
Insurance	2,434.77	2,500.00	3,510.00	3,500.00
Notices, Warnings & Reports	1,771.55	2,000.00	1,915.50	2,000.00
Heat - Town Hall	855.89	1,500.00	1,319.63	1,500.00
Utilities (electric & phone)	1,193.22	1,500.00	1,290.30	1,500.00
Repairs & Maintenance	3,663.30	5,000.00	965.38	8,550.00
Tax Map revisions	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Memorial Park Expense	0.00	150.00	150.00	0.00
Cemetery Maintenance	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Cemetery Renovation Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
TOTAL	63,849.35	73,007.60	67,554.60	90,411.50
LESS SURPLUS				-5,500.00
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED				84,911.50

** This budget figure reflects \$10,500 for new Landfill upgrade

Selectmen's Budget 2004 Roads

	2002 Actual	2003 Proposed	2003 Actual	2004 Proposed
Winter Roads:				
Plowing & Sanding	58,416.60			
Labor		16,000.00	16,390.00	17,000.00
Machine Rental		9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
Materials		36,000.00	37,299.78	38,000.00
Summer Roads:				
Rd.Improv.(mow,Ditch,Etc.)	14,359.52	15,000.00	16,929.60	25,000.00
Road Maintenance (Grading)	3,750.00	4,000.00	3,226.75	4,000.00
Chloride	8,051.00	5,000.00	4,278.00	5,000.00
Road Resurfacing (Gravel)	20,543.58	13,000.00	8,818.64	13,000.00
Maintenance & Repair	4,915.97	6,000.00	6,274.60	6,000.00
Equipment Fund	18,500.00	18,500.00	18,500.00	18,500.00
Gas & Oil	2,127.41	3,000.00	3,321.49	3,500.00
Licenses & Insurance	3,324.00	3,500.00	3,638.00	3,700.00
TOTAL	133,988.08	129,000.00	127,676.86	142,700.00
PLUS:				
Unexpected storm damage	0.00	0.00	11,472.00	0.00
LESS:				
Resurfacing grant '02	0.00	-17,000.00	-17,765.30	0.00
Fema Grant '03	0.00	0.00	-20,467.49	0.00
State Aid	-30,666.14	-30,000.00	-32,069.10	-33,000.00
Surplus	0.00	0.00	0.00	-11,000.00
NET ROAD BUDGET	103,321.94	82,000.00	68,846.97	98,700.00

VENDORS GENERAL FUND

Bender, Matthew	\$	21.45
CVPS	\$	590.46
Clark's IGA	\$	32.79
Dell Computer	\$	1,507.17
Evans Office Supplies	\$	215.31
Express Copy	\$	160.00
Finn & Stone Insurance	\$	3,510.00
General Service Center	\$	290.00
Green Mountain Fire, Inc.	\$	4.38
H.G. Graphics	\$	150.00
IKON	\$	250.00
Londonderry Hardware	\$	160.12
Marotti, Joseph	\$	300.04
National Survey	\$	34.00
New England Business Service	\$	141.10
Putney Press	\$	24.95
Quill Office Supplies	\$	313.48
Staples	\$	344.93
Sykes Hollow Kennels	\$	153.00
U.S. Postoffice	\$	719.03
University Products	\$	232.68
Ultramar Energy	\$	1,329.63
Verizon	\$	699.88
Wild Wings	\$	720.00

VENDORS ROADS

A.C. Welding, Inc.	\$	185.00
All State Asphalt	\$	2,380.00
Auto Parts of Londonderry	\$	448.32
B - B Chain, Inc.	\$	397.50
Birds Eye Treeescapes	\$	875.00
CVPS	\$	240.00
Chalmer, Cameron	\$	4,295.00
Chaves Excavating	\$	10,724.00
Wm. E. Dailey, Inc.	\$	8,459.42
Dorr Oil	\$	2,781.73
F.R. Lafayette	\$	550.00
Finn & Stone Insurance	\$	3,638.00
Giddings Manufacturing, Inc.	\$	29.10
Grain Processing Corp.	\$	5,686.80
Hart, Glen	\$	3,870.00
Howard Fairfield, Inc.	\$	997.70
Lawson Products	\$	172.10
Merrill's Excavating, Inc.	\$	29,842.50
Merrill, Jay (maching rental & labor)	\$	25,180.00
Pfister Pharm	\$	130.00
Pike Industries	\$	3,108.64
Power Plan	\$	1,339.29
Record Precast Concrete	\$	3,951.00
Sears Ecological Applications	\$	9,077.15
Seward Sales & Service	\$	42.45
Valley Deisel	\$	2,070.05

SCHOOL DISTRICT WARNING

Legal voters of the Town of Landgrove, County of Bennington, State of Vermont, are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Town Hall on Tuesday, March 2, 2004, at 9 o'clock a.m. to transact the following business:

- ARTICLE 1: To elect a moderator for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 2: To elect a Town School Director for a term of three years.
- ARTICLE 3: To hear and act on the reports of the School District.
- ARTICLE 4: To see if the Landgrove School District will vote to authorize the tuition payment of \$10,100 per resident pupil charged by Burr and Burton Academy and approved transportation costs for the 2004-05 school year, and the tuition for resident pupils attending other approved independent high schools in the amount of \$10,100 for the 2004-05 school year.
- ARTICLE 5: To see if the town will approve the budget proposed by the School Directors and will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money, or a rate on the Grand List, to pay current expenses of the Landgrove School District and any part of the District's indebtedness.
- ARTICLE 6: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting, not involving the expenditure of Town funds or any business acted upon in the preceding articles.

SCHOOLDIRECTORS

Mary English
Robert Jordan
Dana McNair

**MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEETING, LANDGROVE, VERMONT
MARCH 4, 2003**

- ARTICLE 1: Craig Henson was the sole nominee for the position of Moderator for one year. The Clerk was directed to cast one ballot and the vote passed unanimously.
- ARTICLE 2: Bob Jordan was the sole nominee for the position of Flood Brook Union School Director for three years. The Clerk was directed to cast one ballot and the vote passed unanimously.
- ARTICLE 3: Bob Jordan was the sole nominee for the position of Town School Director for three years. The Clerk was directed to cast one ballot and the vote passed unanimously.
- ARTICLE 4: A motion was made and seconded to hear and act upon the reports of the School District.
- Mary English read the directors' report. Jonathan Bigelow suggested that more pressure be put upon the State to help curb the radical inflation rate of health insurance. Tommy was asked about his thoughts about the state of Flood Brook over his tenure on the Board. Tommy replied in length that he feels the school is now in very good hands. The transitions of changing administration with a new principal/assistant supervisor who assumed duties once supplied by the Supervisory Union, and changes in staff are resulting in a sound and immensely capable school. The vote passed unanimously.
- Mary English thanked Tom Dibble for his seven years of service on the Flood Brook board, followed by a round of applause.
- ARTICLE 5: The motion was made and seconded to see if the Landgrove School District will vote to authorize the tuition payment of \$9,000 per resident pupil charged by Burr and Burton Seminary and approved transportation costs for the 2003-04 school year, and the tuition for resident pupils attending the other approved independent schools in the amount of \$9,000 for the 2003-04 school year.

Mary mentioned that now would be an appropriate time to discuss the Landgrove Education Fund since the School district does accept donation from them. Peter Thomson said that LEF met in August for a town wide meeting which proved very beneficial and informational to second home owners. Jim Houston, Jonathan Bigelow and Chuck Sweetman will be taking over for Peter, Warren Fuller and Jerry Evarts. Appreciation was expressed for all of the hard work done by those volunteers. Peter mentioned his concern that the Flood Brook communities consider budget increases and that this should not be the case. He suggested that the Flood Brook budget not be voted on until after Town Meetings. Discussion ensued around the subject of President Bush's "no child Left Behind" Act. Chuck Sweetmen pointed out that due to the economies of scale, some of the included measures are not appropriate for communities with such small populations. The article passed with one opposing vote.

ARTICLE 6: The motion was made and seconded to transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting, not involving the expenditure of Town funds or any business acted upon in the preceding articles.

Dr. Roger Fox introduced himself and said that this is his 27th year at the Landgrove Town Meeting and that all is well at the Mountain Valley Medical Center which continues to carry a "healthy deficit." He thanked all for their support.

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 12:05 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted

Casey Henson, Town Clerk

SCHOOL DIRECTORS' REPORT-2003

2002-2003

The statements for the 2002-03 year are included on the following pages, showing expenditures ended up 6% over budget. \$31,215 from our reserve fund was used to cover the deficit (due to an increase in student population, increased special education costs, adjustments in the FBUS assessment methods, and a contribution from the Landgrove Education Foundation which was less than budgeted).

2003-2004

In 2003, Landgrove raised \$695,684 for the statewide education tax. The Landgrove School District retained \$164,261 (23.5%) for its block grant and \$531,423 (76%) was sent to the State Education Fund to be shared among other school districts in Vermont. For this current year, ending in June, 2004, we expect a surplus of \$20,000-\$25,000 due to FBUS assessment and special education expenses less than budgeted and to increased state revenue for the block grant and special ed reimbursement. This \$25,000 surplus will be very helpful in lowering our 2004 tax rate under the new provisions of ACT 68, which bases the homestead statewide property tax on per pupil expenditures after revenue (which includes any surplus).

2004-2005 Proposed Budget

The proposed Flood Brook budget for the 2004-05 year will be voted at the FBUS annual meeting, February 10, 2004. Detailed information is available in the Flood Brook Annual Report. Our town school budget reflects Landgrove's share of the proposed FBUS assessment to be \$209,914 almost level with the current year's assessment.

The proposed high school tuition of \$10,100 is based on Burr and Burton's announced tuition. This tuition is available for resident students attending any approved high school. Burr and Burton has worked to keep tuition low in response to Act 60, to the point of accumulating a sizable deficit which it can no longer increase. Although the announced tuition for 2004-05 is an increase of 12% over last year's tuition, if averaged over the years since the implementation of Act 60 in 1997 (when the BBA tuition was \$8600), it would be an average annual increase of 2.3%.

Act 68 and Tax Implications

The total Landgrove budget proposed for 2004-05, \$339,559 is slightly lower than the 2003-04 budget. However, under the new Act 68 regulations, the tax rate is based on expenditure per equalized pupil computed under a state formula. There are two rates: a fixed \$1.59 for nonresidential property owners, and a homestead rate starting at \$1.10 which varies with spending. Any increase in per pupil spending over a base amount of \$6800 will result in a higher homestead tax rate (approximately 1¢ for every \$62). Based on the 2004-05 proposed budget, the estimated homestead rate will be \$1.53. Without this year's expected school district surplus and an adjustment for the

Common Level of Appraisal (which this year places Landgrove at 111.55% of fair market value), the estimated rate would be around **\$1.82**.

As under Act 60, there is an income sensitivity regulation where the homestead tax is capped, based on a percentage of total household income. Under Act 68 this cap goes up as spending increases and for Landgrove's estimated 2004 homestead rate, it would be 3.1%. Also, by April 15 of this year, all residents must file a homestead declaration form (HS-131) from which the state will determine the portion of homestead and nonresidential properties in each town.

Even as school directors across the state try to set budgets, the legislature is tinkering with Act 68. Bill H504, currently under consideration, is expected to pass making adjustments to the original law. Perhaps the most important change will be the reduction of the rates to \$1.05 for the homestead and \$1.54 for nonresidential property, which, if passed, will reduce these estimates of tax rates. Come to town meeting and find out the latest on what we know and what we don't know and how it effects you and the children of Landgrove seeking a quality education.

THANK YOU!

The school directors would like to thank Jim Houston, John Bigelow, Chuck Sweetman, Jerry Evarts, Warren Fuller, Peter Thomson, Ray Winkler, Jay Snyder and the many others who helped make the Landgrove Education Fund successful. Over the past four years, contributors to the school district from the fund have totaled \$411,628, saving the taxpayers of Landgrove over \$1.6 million, which would have gone to the state sharing pool. The 2003 contributions even exceeded the amount requested by the school board, so there remains a small balance in the LEF which may be helpful in future years as the full impact of Act 68 becomes apparent.

LANDGROVE EDUCATION FOUNDATION REPORT 2003-2004

Landgrove property owners generously contributed over \$180,000 last year to help meet anticipated costs for educating Landgrove's school-age children. We reached our goal and have nearly \$20,000 in surplus contingency. As was noted in the School Director's' report, Act 68 has altered the school funding mechanism from Act 60. The education foundation does not plan to directly solicit donations this year and will take future direction from how Act 68 plays out this spring.

Our twofold mission remains constant: to serve the educational needs of our school-age children and to help provide tax relief for Landgrove property owners. Our IRS charter limits the disbursement of Education Foundation funds to education purposes only, so we will seek the best use of those contingency funds in meeting our mission when the Act 68 landscape is more clear. Please feel free to call Jim Houston with your comments at (802) 824-4289.

NOTE: Additions to the August 9, 2003, Fundraising Report:
Bobby Comfort's contribution was not reported. We are very sorry for the clerical omission. Additionally, Michael & Peggy Mole's and Leonard Paul's contributions were received after August 9th.

Jim Houston
Jonathan Bigelow
Chuck Sweetman

SCHOOL ACCOUNT

School Year - July 1, 2002- June 30, 2003

Balance Forward July 1, 2002

264.54

Receipts

State Block Grant	164,475.00
GMNF	275.22
U.S.Govt. PILT	2,057.00
Interest on Money Market Fund	552.52
St. of Vt. Spec. Ed.	
Mainstream Block Grant '03	8,204.00
EEE '03	1,145.00
Reimbursement FY '02	4,155.00
St. of Vt. Transportation Aid	
FY '03	6,065.00
FY '01	4,102.00
Education Foundation	65,000.00
Vanguard Fund (Reserve Fund)	31,215.00
General Fund (Reimburse Audit)	1,100.00
General Fund (Reimburse bank exps.)	33.30

288,379.04

288,643.58

Disbursements

Flood Brook School Assess.	185,080.83
Flood Brook Adjusted Assess.'01	1,922.06

Special Education:

Flood Brook Block Grant	8,204.00
WSSU EEE	4,668.25
Flood Brook & WSSU bill back	3,289.84
WSSU legal fees	22.64

WSSU Assessment '02-'03	5,891.76
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Burr & Burton	43,000.00
Flood Brook School Trans to B&B	3,750.00
St. Paul's School	8,600.00
Stratton Mountain School	8,600.00
Long Trail School	8,600.00
Long Trail School (adj. FY '02)	1,215.00

Vt. Sch. Board Assoc. Dues	250.00
School Director's Exp.	75.00
Bank Charges	<u>33.30</u>

283,202.68

Balance at June 30, 2003

5,440.90

Vanguard Funds @ June 30, 2003

6,497.52

Total in School Funds at June 30, 2003

11,938.42

**SCHOOL ACCOUNT
(CONTINUED)**

July 1, 2003- December 31, 2003

First Half 2003-2004 School Year

Balance Forward 7/1/03	5,440.90
------------------------	----------

Receipts

State Block Grant	164,261.00
Interest on Money Market Fund	203.97
Flood Brook overpayment SPED 02/03	139.81
St. of Vt. Spec. Ed.	
Mainstream Block Grant '04	8,192.00
EEE '04	1,001.00
Reimbursement '03	8,100.00
Reimbursement '04	52.00

St. of Vt. Transportation Aid '04	4,156.00
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Education Foundation	<u>120,000.00</u>
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304,105.78

309,546.68

Disbursements

Flood Brook School Assess.	209,449.15
WSSU - 1st. half '03 assess.	3,025.00

Burr & Burton	22,500.00
St. Paul's School	4,500.00
Stratton Mountain School	4,500.00
Taft School	4,500.00
Long Trall School	4,500.00

Special Education	
SPED Adj. FY '01	1,010.00
FBUS & SU Bill backs FY '03	2,508.31
FBUS & SU Bill backs FY '04	1,657.47
Long Trail School Bill backs FY '04	1,750.00

Vt. Sch. Board Assoc. Dues	250.00
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260,149.93

Balance in Money Market at December 31, 2003	49,396.75
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Vanguard Funds at December 31, 2003	<u>7,016.38</u>
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Total in School Funds at December 31, 2003	56,413.13
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TOWN OF LANDGROVE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET 2004-2005

EXPENSES

Flood Brook Regular Assessment-@7.382%	177,417
Flood Brook Transportation Assessm.-@ 7.382%	10,364
Flood Brook Bond Assessment-@7.382%	4,430
Flood Brook Special Ed. Assessment-@7.382%	17,704
Secondary Tuition 10 @ 10,100	101,000
Secondary Transportation-6 @750	4,500
Supervisory Union Assessment	7,961
SE Mainstream Block	7,378
SE EEE	1,220
SE Billback	7,335
VSBA Dues	250

TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES	<u>339,559</u>
--------------------------------	-----------------------

REVENUES

Earnings on Investment (Interest)	500
Contributions from Education Foundation	0
State Aid Transportation @ .47	6,986
SE Mainstream Block Grant	7,378
SE EEE	1,220
SE Expenditure Reimbursement	11,454
Hold Harmless Bond Indebtedness	2,812
Forest Revenue/PILT	1,000
Surplus(Deficit)	20,000
Education Spending Revenue	288,209

TOTAL BUDGETTED REVENUE	<u>339,559</u>
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	Primary	Secondary		
	Flood Brook	Flood Brook	High School	Total
2004-05				
Estimated Student Count	13	6	10	29
'04 Equalized Weighted ADM* (based on average '02 & '03)				27.33

TOWN OF LANDGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

	02/03 Proposed	02/03 Actual	03/04 Proposed	03/04 Anticipated	04/05 Proposed
EXPENDITURES					
Director's Expense	150	75	0	0	0
WSSU Assessment	8,289	5,892	6,050	6,050	7,961
VSBA Dues	250	250	250	250	250
Special Education	14,024	16,162	27,776	24,673	15,933
Tuition & Transportation					
Elementary	156,310	185,081	221,293	209,449	209,915
FBUS Reserve Fund	1,200	0			
Bus Repl. Fund*	3,600				
Tuition & Transportation					
Secondary	82,200	73,765	86,100	86,100	105,500
Miscellaneous		1,978			
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	266,023	283,203	341,469	326,522	339,559
REVENUE					
BALANCE JULY 1	100	265	100	5,441	20,000
Interest	938	553	500	250	500
Landgrove Educ.Fdtn.	83,000	65,000	160,212	160,212	
Reserve Fund		31,215			
Block Grant (GSSG)	164,475	164,475	161,167	164,261	
Transportation Grant	6,063	10,167	5,829	6,233	6,986
Special Education Grant	9,347	13,504	9,492	15,417	20,052
National Forest	600	275	275	275	200
U.S. Govt. PILT	800	2,057	800	800	800
Medicaid Funds	700	0			
Hold Harmless Bond Indebtedness			3,094	0	2,812
Education Spending Revenue					288,209
Checking Acct Min balance		-100			
Misc		1,133			
SUBTOTAL	266,023	288,544	341,469	352,889	339,559
Prop. Taxes Raised		706,157		695,684	
TOTAL REVENUE	266,023	288,544	341,469	352,889	339,559
Revenue over Expenses	0	-5,341	-0	-26,367	-0
Balance year end		5,441			
Set Aside Reserve Fd./					
ENROLLMENT-Total:	26	28	30	31	29
Flood Brook	17	20	21	22	19
High School	9	8	9	9	10

* Bus Replacement is included in 03/04 total elementary tuition & transportation

Three Prior Years Comparisons

PRELIMINARY

District: Landgrove
County: Bennington

LEA: 109
S.U.: Windsor Southwest

Expenditures

Budget (local budget approved in prior years)

62% of base payment per FTE paid to each center by the State on behalf of the district in FY2005
S.U. assessment (included in local budget)

Deficit (if included in local budget)

Block grant paid by State to tech center in prior years

1. Separately warned article passed at town meeting

2. Separately warned article passed at town meeting

3. Separately warned article passed at town meeting

Act 144 Expenditures (excluded from "Education Spending")

Act 68 local adopted budget

Union school or joint school district assessment

Deficit if not included in budget or revenues

Special programs expenditures (if not included in local budget)

Gross Act 68 Budget

Act 144 expenditures (if any - excluded from "Education Spending")

Revenues

Local revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuition, surplus, etc., including Act 144 revenues)

Capital debt aid

Special program revenues (if not included in local budget)

Deficit if not included in budget or expenditures

Act 144 revenues

Total revenues

Fund raising (if any)

Adjusted local revenues

Equalized Pupils

Education Spending (Act 68 definition)

Education Spending per Equalized Pupil

Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil (if any)

Per pupil figure used for calculating District Adjustment

District spending adjustment
(minimum of 100%)
(\$10,546 / \$6,800)

Anticipated homestead tax rate, equalized
(155.088% x \$1.10)

Household Income Percentage for Income sensitivity
(155.088% x 2.0%)

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005
Budget	98,689	104,913	120,176	129,644
62% of base payment per FTE paid to each center by the State on behalf of the district in FY2005	7,303	8,299	8,060	7,963
S.U. assessment (included in local budget)	-	-	-	-
Deficit (if included in local budget)	-	-	-	-
Block grant paid by State to tech center in prior years	-	-	-	-
1. Separately warned article passed at town meeting	-	-	-	-
2. Separately warned article passed at town meeting	-	-	-	-
3. Separately warned article passed at town meeting	-	-	-	-
Act 144 Expenditures (excluded from "Education Spending")	-	-	-	-
Act 68 local adopted budget	98,689	104,913	120,176	129,644
Union school or joint school district assessment	147,857	161,110	221,293	209,915
Deficit if not included in budget or revenues	-	-	-	-
Special programs expenditures (if not included in local budget)	246,546	266,023	341,469	339,559
Gross Act 68 Budget	-	-	-	-
Act 144 expenditures (if any - excluded from "Education Spending")	-	-	-	-
Local revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuition, surplus, etc., including Act 144 revenues)	84,958	101,548	177,208	48,338
Capital debt aid	-	-	-	2,812
Special program revenues (if not included in local budget)	-	-	-	-
Deficit if not included in budget or expenditures	-	-	-	-
Act 144 revenues	84,958	101,548	177,208	51,350
Total revenues	66,209	83,000	180,212	-
Fund raising (if any)	18,749	18,548	16,996	51,350
Adjusted local revenues	227,797	247,475	324,473	286,209
Education Spending (Act 68 definition)	29,66	29,55	28,52	27,33
Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	7,880	8,375	11,377	10,546
Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil (if any)	-	-	-	-
Per pupil figure used for calculating District Adjustment	-	-	-	-
District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	-	-	-	-
(\$10,546 / \$6,800)	-	-	-	-
Anticipated homestead tax rate, equalized	-	-	-	-
(155.088% x \$1.10)	-	-	-	-
Household Income Percentage for Income sensitivity	-	-	-	-
(155.088% x 2.0%)	-	-	-	-

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

To the Voters of Landgrove:

SIZE OF THE WINDSOR SOUTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION:

As of July 1, 2003, the Windsor Southwest Supervisory Union consisted of the following 11 school boards:

<u>SCHOOL BOARDS</u>	<u>DIRECTORS</u>	<u>VOTES</u>
Andover	3	1
Baltimore	3	1
Cavendish	5	3
Chester	3	1
Landgrove	3	1
Londonderry	3	1
Peru	3	1
Weston	3	1
Chester-Andover Elementary School	5	3
Flood Brook Union School	8	3
Green Mountain Union High School	7	3
TOTALS	46	19

The Landgrove Board has representation on the Supervisory Union Board in accordance with Vermont Statutes.

FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS AND PROGRAMS:

Please see Flood Brook Annual Report.

ENROLLMENT:

The following is the grade enrollment for your town school district of students attending Flood Brook Union School as of October 12, 2002:

GRADE	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL
	3	2	1	2	4	1	3	3	3	22

Landgrove pupils transported: 22

Landgrove students tuitioned to grades 9-12 schools: 10

CONTINUED COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC:

During the past year, agendas of the school board meetings have been sent to the local papers prior to the meetings. The Flood Brook Union School Board meets the second and fourth Monday of each month. The public is invited to all meetings.

SPECIAL EDUCATION:

Please see Flood Brook Annual Report.

For further specific information related to curriculum programs, school finance, and other school items, please see the Flood Brook Annual Report.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Landgrove for their continued support and understanding of education.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Brown,
Superintendent

**SPECIAL EDUCATION CHILD FIND (SECTION 504) NOTICE
WINDSOR SOUTHWEST SUPERVISORY UNION**

The Windsor Southwest Supervisory Union is required by Federal laws 94-142 and Section 504 and State regulations to identify and locate all persons with disabilities between the ages of birth and 21 who may be in need of regular education, special education services or accommodations in accessing public education. If you know of any individual residing in the towns of Andover, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru and Weston whom you suspect of having such needs but who is not currently receiving them, please contact the Director of Special Services/504 Coordinator, Madelyn Crudo Burke at 875-3365 x 23 or Nancy Malette case Manager at 875-3365 x 21 or the school principals at Cavendish, Chester-Andover, Flood Brook or Green Mountain.

NON-DISCRIMINATION DISCLAIMER

The School Board recognizes its obligation to respect the legal rights of all students, parents, employees, applicants for admission or employment and those conducting business with the district. The Board will comply with all applicable federal and state non-discrimination laws including Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, and will not discriminate against any person or group on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, gender, age, handicapping-condition and/or disability or sexual orientation. A process of referral, evaluation and placement of handicapped students exists in accordance with Section 504.

USEFUL INFORMATION

**Open: 9-1 Thursdays
or by appointment**

(tel) 824-3716
(fax) 824-3716

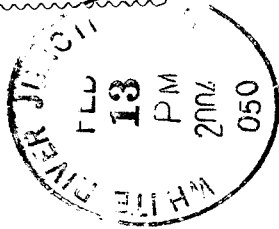
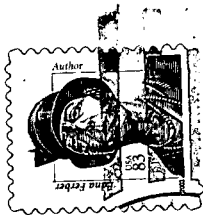
Town Clerk (home)	Casey Henson	824-8129
Treasurer /Tax Collector (home)	Sally Waite	824-3519
Assistant Clerk (home)	Sally Waite	824-3519
Constable (home)	Karl T. Pfister	824-6320
Fire Warden (home)	Karl T. Pfister	824-6320
Zoning Administrator (home)	Gary Bokenkamp	824-5197
Asst. Zoning Administrator (home)	Steve Hall	824-3755
Community Club	Lisa McNealus	824-3792
Londonderry Landfill & Recycling	Open 10-6 Mon. - Tues. Thurs., Fri., & Sat. Closed Wed. & Sun.	824-5506
Londonderry Post Office	Open: 7:30-5:00 Mon.-Fri. 8:00 - noon Sat.	824-6571
Flood Brook Union School (nurses' office)		824-6811 824-6979
To report a power failure (CVPS)	24-hour number	1-800-451-2877
Mountain Valley Medical Center	24-hour number Open: 8:50-5:00 Monday-Friday	824-6901

EMERGENCY NUMBER 911

FIRE & RESCUE 911

VERMONT STATE POLICE 824-3915

TOWN OF LANDGROVE
P.O. BOX 508
LONDONDERRY, VT 05148



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