

Wardsboro, Vermont

Annual Report
July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022



Bill Hescok with sugaring setup

Town Meeting - March 7, 2023
Postponed to May 13, 2023 at 1 pm
Wardsboro Town Hall

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 a.m. to Noon & 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CLOSED FRIDAYS

Telephone 896-6055

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Tuesday and Friday - Noon to 5:00 p.m.

Monday, Saturday, and Sunday - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

CLOSED WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

SELECT BOARD MEETINGS

Every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall

WARDSBORO FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday & Wednesday - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Thursday - 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

CLOSED MONDAY, FRIDAY, AND SUNDAY

Telephone 896-6988

WARDSBORO VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Business Meeting 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Fire Training 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Rescue Meeting 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
at the fire house

The photos herein are courtesy of the
Wardsboro History Group Photography Committee

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Auditors' Report	2
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARNING	3-5
Elected Town Officers	6
Appointed Town Officers	7
Selectboard Report	8-9
PROPOSED BUDGET (TOWN)	10-11
PROPOSED BUDGET (LIBRARY)	12
Statement of Financial Condition - General Fund	13
Summary of Revenue & Expenditures - To Budget	14
Revenue & Expenditures	15-19
Statement of Financial Condition - Trust Funds	20-21
Taxes Received Reconciliation	22
Delinquent Tax Summary	23
Vital Statistics	24-25
Dog Licenses	26
Zoning Permit Summary	27
Listers' Report	28
Homestead & Dog License Reminder	29
Pictures	30
Planning Commission Report	31
Free Public Library Report	32
Free Public Library Financial Report	33
Fire Department Financial Report	34
DVFiber Report	35
Friends of the Wardsboro Library	36
Wardsboro History Group	37
RVUSD School Principals' Letter	38
RVUSD April 25, 2023 Annual Meeting Warning	39-42
Organization Reports	43-57
Pictures	58-59



AUDITORS REPORT

Per Vermont Statutes the Town Auditors are submitting the following required reports:

Title 24, Chapter 51 § 1683. Contents of report

- (1) a detailed statement of the financial condition of the Town of Wardsboro as of June 30, 2022.
- (2) a classified summary of receipts and expenditures of the Town of Wardsboro for the year ended June 30, 2022.
- (3) a list of all outstanding orders and payables more than 30 days past due as of June 30, 2022- there are none
- (4) deficit, if any pursuant to section 1523 of this title - there are none

Title 24, Chapter 51 § 1684. Trust assets; indebtedness

- (1) the condition of all trust funds in which the town is interested and a list of the assets of such funds, including the account of receipts and disbursements for the preceding year;
- (2) what bonds of the town are outstanding and the rate of interest and the amount thereof; - there are none
- (3) what interest-bearing notes or orders of the town are outstanding and the serial number, date, amount, payee, and rate of interest of each and the total amount thereof - there are none

For the year ended June 30, 2022, utilizing the modified cash basis of account, the Town of Wardsboro's expenses exceeded revenues by \$115,151.

The modified cash basis of accounting records revenues as the amount received in the current year plus tax receipts for 60 days after year end.

The modified cash basis of accounting records expenditures as the amount spent during the current year.

To the best of our knowledge, the submitted statements and reports as of and for the period ending June 30, 2022 are complete and accurate.



Patricia S. Hayes



Julie E. McNeal

TOWN OF WARDSBORO, VERMONT
2023 TOWN MEETING WARNING

238th Annual Town Meeting - 13 May 2023

The legal voters of the Town of Wardsboro are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Wardsboro Town Hall in Wardsboro on Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. to hear and act on the following Articles:

GENERAL TOWN BUSINESS

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

ARTICLE 2. To elect the following officers as required by law:

- a. Town Clerk for one year.
- b. Town Treasurer for one year.
- c. Selectboard member for three years (by ballot).
- d. Selectboard member for one year.
- e. Selectboard member for one year.
- f. Lister for three years (by ballot).
- g. Auditor for three years (by ballot).
- h. Auditor for two years (by ballot).
- i. Trustee of Public Funds for three years.
- j. Trustee of Public Funds for two years.
- k. First Constable for one year.
- l. Collector of Delinquent Taxes for one year.
- m. Town Agent for one year.
- n. Cemetery Commissioner for five years.
- o. Cemetery Commissioner for four years.
- p. Library Trustee for five years.

TOWN OF WARDSBORO, VERMONT
2023 TOWN MEETING WARNING

ARTICLE 3. To determine if the Town will approve the Selectboard budget as published.

ARTICLE 4. To determine if the Town will approve the Library budget as published.

ARTICLE 5. To determine what sum of money the Town will vote to support the following organizations:

	2022 funded	2023 request
a. Wardsboro Vol. Fire Dept	\$70,000	\$79,690
b. Wardsboro Rescue	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
c. Wardsboro Public Library	\$41,330	See Art. 4
c. Community Food Pantry	\$ 500	-----
d. Friends of the Wardsboro Library	\$ 3,800	-----
e. Grace Cottage Foundation	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500
f. Health Care & Rehabilitative Services	\$ 869	\$ 869
f. Senior Solutions	\$ 750	\$ 750
g. Southeastern Vermont Economic Dev. Strategies	-----	\$ 2,592
h. Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice	\$ 2,275	\$ 2,275
i. Windham County Historical Society	\$ 250	\$ 250
	-----	-----
Total Requests	\$125,774	\$92,926

ARTICLE 6. To determine what sum of money the Town will vote to raise by taxation to defray the expenses and liabilities of the Town in the ensuing year and to authorize all taxes be paid to the Treasurer as provided by law, with such taxes to be due on or before October 2, 2023 and February 1, 2024.

(selectboard request)	\$	_____
(library request)	\$	_____
(article 5 alloc's)	\$	_____
total to raise	= \$	_____

TOWN OF WARDSBORO, VERMONT
2023 TOWN MEETING WARNING

ARTICLE 7. Shall the Town of Wardsboro vote to implement the 1% Local Option Room Tax on all short-term rentals to raise additional town revenue?

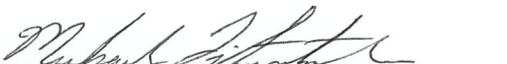
ARTICLE 8. To hear the reports of the town officers.

ARTICLE 9. To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting and then to adjourn.

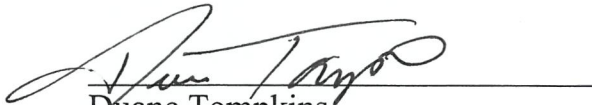
Dated at Wardsboro, Vermont, this 11th day of April 2023.

Selectboard:


Karen M. Davis


Michael Fitzpatrick, Jr.


Peter Sebastian


Duane Tompkins

ELECTED TOWN OFFICIALS

MODERATOR

John Moran (2023 - 1 yr)

TOWN CLERK & TREASURER

Michelle Hull (2023 - 1 yr)

AUDITORS

Julie McNeal (2024 - 3 yrs)

Patricia Hayes (2023 - 3 yrs)

vacant (2 yrs remaining of 3 yr term)

LISTERS

Katryna Fitzpatrick (2025 - 3 yrs)

Janice Hull (2024 - 3 yrs)

vacant (2023 - 3 yrs)

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS

Janice Hull (2026 - 5 yrs)

Eugene Bills (2025 - 5 yrs)

James Hescocock (2024 - 5 yrs)

Jane Robinson (2023 - 5 yrs)

vacant (4 yrs remaining of a 5 yr term)

COLLECTOR OF DELINQUENT

TAXES

Michelle Hull (2023 - 1 yr)

1ST CONSTABLE

vacant (2023 - 1 yr)

SELECTBOARD

Michael S. Fitzpatrick, Jr. (2025 - 3 yrs)

Karen Davis (2024 - 3 yrs)

Peter Sebastian (2023 - 3 yrs)

Duane Tompkins (2023 - 1 yr)

vacant (2023 - 1 yr)

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Steve Herd (2027 - 5 yrs)

Steve Agin (2026 - 5 yrs)

Carol Bishop Backus (2025 - 5 yrs)

Donna Fernandes (2025 - 3 yrs)

Sheri Lewis (2024 - 5 yrs)

Karina Martin (2024 - 3 yrs)

Robert Stupp (2023 - 5 yrs)

TOWN AGENT

vacant (2023 - 1 yr)

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY

(by Statute)

Justices of the Peace

Selectboard

Town Clerk & Treasurer

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

(elected in November 2022 General Election)

Ken Brace (2/1/25 - 2 yrs)

Nancy Clark Dawson (2/1/25 - 2 yrs)

Nancy Meinhard (2/1/25 - 2 yrs)

Cherie Keeler Moran (2/1/25 - 2 yrs)

George Wilson (2/1/25 - 2 yrs)

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Thomas Almeida (2024 - 3 yrs)

Patricia Hayes (2023 - 3 yrs)

vacant (2 yrs remaining of 3 yr term)

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

PLANNING COMMISSION

Ken Petrocca (6/30/25)
Donna Sebastian (6/30/23)
vacant

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Steve Agin (1 Sept 2023 - 3 yrs)

BROADBAND COMMITTEE

established by selectboard 11/26/2019
Mike Jones (1 yr - 2023)
Donna Sebastian (2 yr - 2024)
Tom Almeida (2 yr - 2023)
Donna Fernandes (3 yr - 2023)
James Hamilton (3 yr - 2023)

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

vacant
planning commission members as alternates

HEALTH OFFICER

Robert Backus (2/1/2023 - 3 yrs) resigned
Karen Davis, acting

ENERGY COMMITTEE

established by selectboard 10/16/2018
John Andersen (2023)
Patricia Kijak (2023)
Jill Neitlich (2023)
Ned O'Rourke (2023)
Jeff Young (2023)

The following offices are filled by annual appointment in accordance with the selectboard's written policy. Appointments are filled at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board after the annual town meeting. Anyone interested in serving in any of the following positions should contact the selectboard or come to the meeting.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(For the Housing Rehab Program)
Ralph Ayers (2023)
Jackie Bedard (2023)
Jan Hull (2023)
James Knapp (2023)
Karen Davis (2023)

EMERGENCY MGMT DIRECTOR

Duane Tompkins

RESCUE INC II ADVISORY BOARD

vacant

TREE WARDEN

Mark Fernandes (2023)
Kenneth Brace, Asst. (2023)

CONVEYOR OF REAL ESTATE

Karen Davis (Selectboard co-chair)

WINDHAM SOLID WASTE

MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Nancy Meinhard (2023) resigned

TOWN GRAND JUROR

Cherie Keeler Moran (2023)

COUNCIL ON AGING

vacant

FENCE VIEWERS

Everett Bills (2023)
Lucas Bates (2023)
Jonathan Meeks (2023)

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

& DOG WARDEN

vacant (2023)

WINDHAM REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS

Jack Cunningham (2023)
vacant

WEIGHER OF COAL, INSPECTOR OF LUMBER, SHINGLES AND WOOD

Alan Bills (2023)

E-9-1-1 COORDINATOR

Michelle Hull (2023)

Select Board Report to the Community

The past twelve months have seen much of the country continue to adapt to and recover from the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Wardsboro is no different, with the town office and library reopening, and the select board and town committees returning to in-person meetings. Given this context, the select board would like to report the following:

- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** – To assist with recovery from the pandemic, Wardsboro has been allocated \$249,315.83 under ARPA. Permitted uses of these funds are strictly regulated and the select board has been exploring and adopting use of funds for some of the following causes:
 - Improved communication and digital resources (town website, hybrid meeting capabilities, public bulletin boards, and technology for various offices)
 - Cybersecurity and broadband access
 - Energy efficiency measures for town buildings
 - Investment in stormwater infrastructure
 - Allocations to lower budget shortfalls.

Previously the community has stressed the importance of providing broadband capabilities in Wardsboro. To address this concern, the selectboard and the towns broadband committee have been working with DVFiber, the town's communication union district, to offset, or potentially eliminate, the cost for individual's initial connection charges for broadband internet service when the infrastructure is built in Wardsboro.

- **July 2021 Rainstorm Event** – The replacement and improvement of a damaged culvert is slated for East Hill Road, south of Kidder Road for the summer of this year. The site has been previously damaged multiple times during high rain events and spring thaw. FEMA will be providing funds to improve the site with a box culvert to mitigate future damages.
- **Sheldon Hill Culvert** – During the July 2021 Rainstorm Event a sink hole developed at the upper Sheldon Hill culvert. Emergency repairs and follow up repairs were covered by FEMA. During an onsite inspection it was determined the culvert is undermining from age and not attributed to the rain event. Therefore, repairs and replacement would not be covered by FEMA.

The anticipated cost to repair this structure will be significant, initial estimates are 600,00 to 700,000 dollars. A factor contributing to the high cost is the culvert is the only means of access to homes in this area. Members of the select board are working with the Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Transportation to develop more cost-effective options and possible grant funding to reduce the project cost.

- **Salt Shed Project** – The town has been awarded a grant to replace the current town salt shed to comply with state environmental requirements. The select board had hoped to have this project completed in

mid-2022 or early 2023. However, the bid received for the project was significantly higher than what the engineer had estimated. The project will be bid again this year and select board members are working on obtaining additional grants to support the project. Some have commented it would be less expensive to build a new shed. If this option was done the town would be responsible for all costs without the benefit of grant funding and still be required to meet state and federal environmental requirements, engineering fees, and project requirements.

- **Town Website** – The town is currently developing a website to provide a centralized location for residents to access information and updates regarding town services. We anticipate the website's URL will be: <http://www.wardsborovt.gov>. There will be a public posting when the website is officially launched.
- **Accounting Methodology Update** – At the suggestion of the town's auditors, the select board engaged a professional accounting firm to conduct a routine review of the town's accounting practices. While finding no irregularities, the firm made several suggestions to simplify the town's accounting and bring its reporting in line with best practices for government entities. The proposed budget for the upcoming year reflects these suggestions.
- **Equipment Upgrades** – In accordance with Wardsboro's equipment policies, the town has replaced its old excavator with a newer, larger, model better able to service the town's roads. In addition, via ARPA funding, the town is upgrading the town office's computer hardware and software to better facilitate remote meetings and digitize town records/services.

Since the 2022 town meeting, the members of the select board have been Karen Davis (term expiring 2024), Peter Sebastian (term expiring 2023), Mike Fitzpatrick, Duane Tompkins, and Matt Russo (each term expiring 2023). Michelle Hull has served as town clerk, with Katryna Fitzpatrick serving as assistant town clerk.

The select board would like to congratulate Matt Russo on his new employment endeavor. The new employment resulted in Matt needing to resign from the select board. Over the past year and one-half, Matt has been a tremendous asset to the community and select board. His presence and assistance at meetings are greatly missed.

This year Jake Garland was promoted to the position of Road Foreman. The town is actively seeking to hire a second highway worker to fill the existing vacancy.

The select board would like to thank the town's employees for their hard work throughout the past year. We would also like to express our gratitude to everyone serving in appointed positions and those who volunteer their time and energy in service to the town—without your efforts Wardsboro would not be such a good place to call home.

SELECTBOARD BUDGET 2023-2024

	2020-2021 ACTUAL SPENT	2021-2022 APPROVED BUDGET	2021-2022 ACTUAL SPENT	2022-2023 APPROVED BUDGET	2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET
ADMINISTRATION:					
ADVERTISING	342	1,000	620	1,000	1,000
LEGAL	0	800	0	800	800
OFF EXPENSE & SUPPLIES	10,036	10,900	13,740	12,000	12,000
COMPUTER/OFFICE HARDWARE	500	500	500	500	500
OFFICIALS	75,423	75,000	65,144	79,500	84,270
SOCIAL SECURITY	5,611	5,738	4,980	6,082	6,447
RETIREMENT	3,462	3,563	2,920	4,174	4,424
PRINT & POSTAGE	3,462	3,800	2,833	3,800	3,000
HEALTH INSURANCE	12,350	13,000	10,260	10,500	38,100
SUBTOTAL ADMINISTRATION	111,186	114,301	100,998	118,356	150,541
TRANSFER STATION:					
LABOR	31,280	32,000	33,460	34,500	36,570
SOCIAL SECURITY	2,393	2,448	2,373	2,639	2,639
RETIREMENT	1,249	1,520	1,510	1,660	1,920
UNEMPLOYMENT/WORKERS COMP	3,715	3,281	3,075	3,500	3,500
ELECTRIC	557	500	610	600	600
PHONE					665
HAULING HOUSEHOLD TRASH	23,850	24,650	23,903	25,000	25,000
HAULING - RECYCLING	18,730	21,506	21,223	22,500	22,500
HAULING - COMPOST	3,985	6,000	5,946	6,000	6,000
HAULING CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS	22,410	20,720	26,975	21,000	24,000
WINDHAM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIS	5,923	5,923	5,923	5,452	5,995
MAINTENANCE	4,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
HEALTH INSURANCE	2,470	1,500	3,440	3,900	23,000
TS EQUIP/COMPOST BOX/MISC			3,560		3,500
SUBTOTAL DUMP	120,562	122,048	133,998	128,751	157,889
TOWN HALL:					
ELECTRIC	415	600	638	600	650
HEAT	2,002	2,700	3,474	3,000	3,500
PHONE	1,957	2,000	2,002	2,000	2,000
MAINTENANCE	2,880	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
BUILDING REPAIRS	5,000	5,000	5,000	3,000	3,000
SUBTOTAL TOWN HALL	12,254	15,300	16,114	13,600	14,150
TOWN OFFICE:					
ELECTRIC	5,191	2,500	2,307	2,750	2,750
PHONE	2,023	1,800	1,868	1,800	1,860
MAINTENANCE	1,530	1,000	1,709	1,200	1,200
BUILDING REPAIRS	5,000	2,500	2,500	5,000	5,000
SUBTOTAL TOWN OFFICE	13,744	7,800	8,384	10,750	10,810
OTHER:					
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR SALARY	3,382	2,500	3,884	2,700	2,862
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR SOCIAL SECURIT	225	191	256	207	219
ZONING LEGAL EXPENSES	80	1,000	0	1,000	1,000
STREET LIGHTS	2,374	2,300	2,455	2,300	2,400
INSURANCE	12,988	11,259	10,783	10,500	13,805
CEMETERY FUND	5,000	5,000	6,282	5,000	5,000
CONSTABLE/ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER E)	300	500	650	650	3,650
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT	60	200	165	500	500
WINDHAM COUNTY TAX	13,511	13,989	13,989	13,699	21,486
RESCUE INC AMBULANCE SERVICE	26,289	26,550	26,550	26,550	26,550
HEALTH OFFICER		0	0	0	0
PLANNING COMMISSION FUND	164	500	207	500	500
VLCT	2,185	2,185	2,185	2,185	2,242
WINDHAM REGIONAL COMMISSION	2,030	2,063	2,063	2,063	2,226
LISTER/REAPPRAISAL	10,162	12,500	16,314	12,500	15,000
SUBTOTAL OTHER	78,750	80,737	85,783	80,354	97,440
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES	336,496	340,185	345,276	351,810	430,830

SELECTBOARD BUDGET 2023-2024

	2020-2021 ACTUAL SPENT	2021-2022 APPROVED BUDGET	2021-2022 ACTUAL SPENT	2022-2023 APPROVED BUDGET	2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET
HIGHWAY ACCOUNT:					
LABOR TOTAL	149,407	150,000	157,144	161,250	172,925
SOCIAL SECURITY	11,392	11,475	12,021	12,336	13,229
RETIREMENT	6,715	7,125	7,460	8,466	9,079
UNEMPLOYMENT	422	311	573	575	455
GARAGE	18,454	21,000	20,221	22,500	25,000
BUILDING MAINTENANCE		5,000	13,107	5,000	10,000
BLACKTOP	95,000	100,000	100,000	105,000	115,000
BRIDGE REPAIR	18,000	18,000	18,000	20,000	20,000
CAPITAL EQUIP REPLACEMENT	135,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	105,000
CHLORIDE	12,310	15,000	12,050	15,000	15,000
COLDPATCH	221	1,000	925	1,000	1,000
CULVERTS	3,866	5,000	23,735	10,000	25,000
GRAVEL	61,911	60,000	65,431	60,000	65,000
DITCH STONE		10,000	1,064	10,000	10,000
HIGHWAYS - MAINTENANCE	44,731	45,000	56,534	45,000	50,000
HIGHWAYS - FUELS	22,482	27,000	38,641	27,000	45,000
SALT	36,140	35,000	28,503	38,000	38,000
SPECIAL HIGHWAY PROJECTS	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
SAND	52,710	65,000	76,150	65,000	65,000
INSURANCE TOTAL	46,210	49,500	49,500	54,800	94,200
OUTSIDE EQUIPMENT	11,391	12,000	18,758	15,000	15,000
SHELDON HILL CULVERT				30,000	13,500
SUBTOTAL HIGHWAY	736,362	747,411	809,817	815,926	917,387
TOTAL GENERAL & HIGHWAY	1,072,858	1,087,596	1,155,093	1,167,737	1,348,217

	ACTUAL 2020-21	BUDGET 2021-22	ACTUAL 2021-22	BUDGET 2022-23	BUDGET 2023-24
REVENUE BUDGETED					
CLERK'S FEES	28,005	26,000	21,961	28,000	16,000
ZONING PERMIT APPLICATION FEES	3,873	3,500	2,613	3,800	2,500
CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS CHARGES	20,182	20,000	19,428	24,000	28,000
METAL RECYCLING REVENUE	3,305	2,000	2,114	4,000	2,000
DELINQUENT TAX - 8 % PENALTY	16,160	14,000	16,405	14,000	16,000
TRANSFER STATION REVENUE	35,840	35,500	33,983	35,500	35,500
CURRENT USE TAXES	29,380	29,000	31,310	29,000	29,000
MISC REVENUE	30,343	20,000	22,922	25,000	22,000
STATE AID/LISTERS EXPENSES	9,947	9,950	9,851	9,950	9,950
STATE AID TO HIGHWAYS	114,628	91,000	101,180	91,000	92,000
TOTAL REVENUE	291,663	250,950	261,767	264,250	252,950
(LESS FUND SURPLUS)/PLUS DEFICIT		(40,900)		(34,000)	(53,000)
ARPA - LOST REVENUE				(30,000)	(83,000)
TO BE RAISED BY TAXES	852,426	863,243	859,326	839,487	959,267



Roy Hescok mowing

Wardsboro Public Library
Budget and Appropriation Request for FY2023-2024

[illegible]

**TOWN OF WARDSBORO
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
GENERAL FUND
JUNE 30, 2022**

	General Fund
Assets:	
Cash - Checking	124,381
Total Assets	<u>124,381</u>
Liabilities:	
Due to the American Rescue Plan Fund	121,152
Fund Balance	3,229
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>124,381</u>



Road Crew

TOWN OF WARDSBORO
SUMMARY of REVENUE and EXPENDITURES to BUDGET
JULY 1, 2021 to JUNE 30, 2022
GENERAL FUND

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue			
Tax Revenue	3,649,402	3,355,852	293,550
General Town Revenue	34,320	31,400	2,920
Transfer Station	55,526	57,500	(1,974)
Highway Funds	101,180	91,000	10,180
Interest and Penalty Income	28,547	26,100	2,447
Grants	16,799	1,050	15,749
Transfers and Reimbursements	114,686	0	114,686
Other Government Payments	17,989	14,900	3,089
Total General Fund Receipts	4,018,449	3,577,802	440,647
Expenditures			
Town Offices	108,126	122,601	(14,475)
Listers	16,314	12,500	3,814
Zoning	4,305	3,891	414
Town Hall	11,192	15,300	(4,108)
Library	36,514	36,514	0
Transfer Station	132,389	122,048	10,341
Other Expenses	64,863	63,846	1,017
Highway Department	737,269	748,611	(11,342)
Grant Expenses	113,786	0	113,786
Voted Appropriations	82,834	82,834	0
Education	2,673,315	2,428,618	244,697
Transfers and Reimbursements	152,693	0	152,693
Total General Fund Expenditures	4,133,600	3,636,763	496,837
General Fund Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	(115,151)	(58,961)	(56,190)

TOWN OF WARDSBORO
DETAILED REVENUE to BUDGET
JULY 1, 2021 to JUNE 30, 2022

	ACTUAL 7.1.21 - 6.30.22	APPROVED BUDGET 7.1.21 - 6.30.22	Revenue Over (Under) Budget
TAXES			
Property Tax	3,567,042	3,326,852	240,190
Prior Years' Property Tax	51,050	0	51,050
VT State - Land Use Reimbursement	31,310	29,000	2,310
Total Taxes	3,649,402	3,355,852	293,550
OFFICE REVENUE			
Clerk's Fees	21,961	26,000	(4,039)
Zoning Permit Application Fees	2,613	3,500	(887)
Cemetery Lots	1,300	0	1,300
Miscellaneous	8,446	1,900	6,546
Total Office Revenue	34,320	31,400	2,920
TRANSFER STATION			
Construction Debris Charges	19,429	20,000	(571)
Metal Recycling	2,114	2,000	114
Dump Stickers	33,983	35,500	(1,517)
Total Transfer Station	55,526	57,500	(1,974)
HIGHWAY FUNDS			
State Aid to Highways	101,180	91,000	10,180
Total Highway Funds	101,180	91,000	10,180
INTEREST/DELINQUENT TAX PENALTIES			
Checking interest	115	0	115
Interest - Late & Delinquent Taxes	12,026	12,100	(74)
Penalties - Late & Delinquent Taxes	16,406	14,000	2,406
Total Interest/Delinquent Tax Penalties	28,547	26,100	2,447
GRANT INCOME			
Federal - Salt Shed Grant	9,662	0	9,662
VT - Leaf Blower Grant	5,600	0	5,600
VT - Equalization Study Grant	1,037	1,050	(13)
VT - Misc Grant	500	0	500
Total Reimbursable Grants/Income	16,799	1,050	15,749
TRANSFERS OF FUNDS/REIMBURSEMENTS			
Transfers from Other Funds	100,000	0	100,000
Capital Purchases	0	0	0
Reimbursement - Tax Sale Fees	4,274	0	4,274
Reimbursement - Fire Department Insurance	10,412	0	10,412
Total Transfers of Funds/Reimbursements	114,686	0	14,686
OTHER GOVERNMENTAL REVENUE			
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) US Forestry	9,175	6,000	3,175
VT Reappraisal Payments	8,814	8,900	(86)
Other Governmental Payments	17,989	14,900	3,089
TOTAL REVENUE	4,018,449	3,577,802	340,647

TOWN OF WARDSBORO
DETAILED EXPENDITURES to BUDGET
JULY 1, 2021 to JUNE 30, 2022

	ACTUAL 7.1.21 - 6.30.22	APPROVED BUDGET 7.1.21 - 6.30.22	Expenses (Over) Under Budget
TOWN OFFICES			
Clerk & Treasurers Salary	43,759		
Prior Clerk	3,927		
Assistant Clerk	13,884		
Selectboard	2,500		
Auditors	1,200		
Total Town Office Salary	65,144	75,000	9,856
Constable/Animal Control Officer Expense	300	500	200
Social Security	4,979	5,738	759
Retirement	2,919	3,563	644
Health Insurance	10,260	13,000	2,740
Advertising	620	1,000	380
Computer/Office Hardware	0	500	500
Legal	0	800	800
Office Expense and Supplies	13,740	10,900	(2,840)
Printing and Postage	2,832	3,800	968
Electric/Heat	2,306	2,500	994
Phone	1,867	1,800	133
Maintenance	1,709	1,000	3,291
Transfers to Repairs & Replacements	1,450	2,500	3,550
Total Town Offices	108,126	122,601	21,975
LISTERS			
Wages	10,093	8,082	(2,011)
Social Security	772	618	(154)
Reappraisal Expenses	5,449	3,800	(1,649)
Total Listers	16,314	12,500	(3,814)
ZONING			
Zoning - Wages	3,347	2,500	(847)
Social Security	256	191	(65)
Zoning Expense	702	1,200	498
Total Zoning	4,305	3,891	(414)
TOWN HALL			
Electric/Heat	4,111	3,300	(811)
Phone	2,002	2,000	(2)
Maintenance	5,079	5,000	(79)
Transfers to Repairs & Replacements	0	5,000	5,000
Total Town Hall	11,192	15,300.00	4,108
LIBRARY			
Wages	28,021	32,709	4,688
Social Security	2,144	2,595	451
Retirement	1,210	1,210	0
Balance of budgeted funds	5,139	0	(5,139)
Total Library	36,514	36,514	0

TOWN OF WARDSBORO
DETAILED EXPENDITURES to BUDGET
JULY 1, 2021 to JUNE 30, 2022

	ACTUAL 7.1.21 - 6.30.22	APPROVED BUDGET 7.1.21 - 6.30.22	Expenses (Over) Under Budget
TRANSFER STATION			
Transfer Station Salaries	33,160	32,000	(1,160)
Social Security	2,373	2,448	75
Retirement	1,510	1,520	10
Health Insurance	3,436	1,500	(1,936)
Unemployment and Workers Compensation	3,075	3,281	206
Electric	610	500	(110)
Hauling - Compactor	23,903	24,650	747
Hauling - Recycling	21,123	21,506	383
Hauling - Compost	5,946	6,000	54
Hauling - Construction Debris	26,975	20,720	(6,255)
Dues	5,923	5,923	0
Miscellaneous	4,355	2,000	(2,355)
Total Transfer Station	132,389	122,048	(10,341)
OTHER			
Ambulance Service	26,550	26,550	0
Cemetery Fund	6,282	5,000	(1,282)
Insurance	10,783	11,259	476
Humane Society	350	0	(350)
Planning Commission Fund	207	500	293
Street Lights	2,454	2,300	(154)
VT League of Cities and Towns	2,185	2,185	0
Windham County Tax	13,989	13,989	0
Windham Regional Commission	2,063	2,063	0
Total Other	64,863	63,846	(1,017)
TOTAL GENERAL TOWN EXPENSES	373,703	376,700	10,497



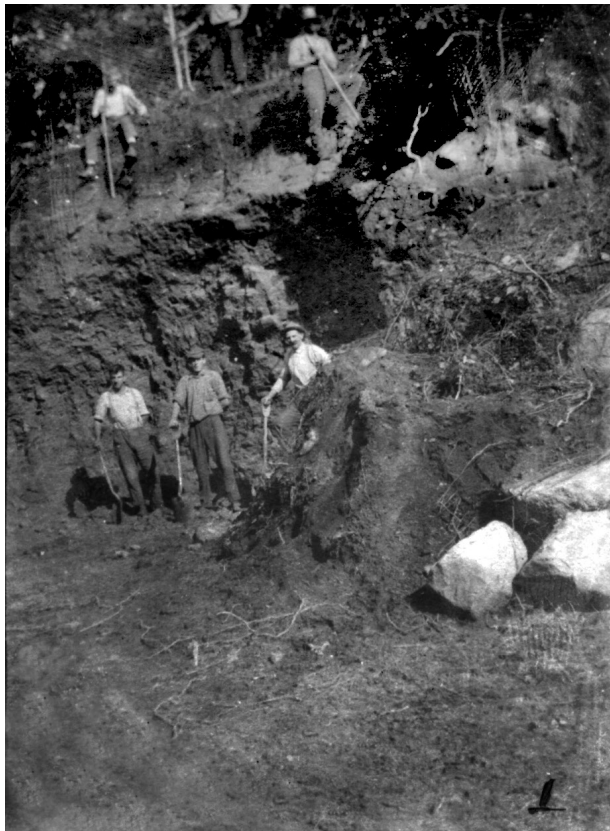
Taft & Willard Mill Yard at Danforths, Main Street

TOWN OF WARDSBORO
DETAILED EXPENDITURES to BUDGET
JULY 1, 2021 to JUNE 30, 2022

	ACTUAL 7.1.21 - 6.30.22	APPROVED BUDGET 7.1.21 - 6.30.22	Expenses (Over) Under Budget
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT			
Road Foreman	56,946		
Road Crew	100,009		
Total Highway Department Salaries	156,955	150,000	(6,955)
Social Security	12,021	11,475	(546)
Retirement	7,460	7,125	(335)
Unemployment	573	311	(262)
Health Insurance/2022-23 all Insurance	30,333	29,700	(633)
Garage - utilities and supplies	20,409	21,000	591
Insurance - Workers Compensation	8,824	10,043	1,219
Insurance - Vehicles	3,755	5,000	1,245
Insurance - Property & Casualty	5,907	5,957	50
Chloride	12,049	15,000	2,951
Cold patch	925	1,000	75
Culverts	23,735	5,000	(18,735)
Gravel	65,431	60,000	(5,431)
Ditch Stone	1,064	10,000	8,936
Salt	28,503	35,000	6,497
Sand	76,150	65,000	(11,150)
Fuels	38,641	27,000	(11,641)
Truck Maintenance	56,353	45,000	(11,353)
Garage Building Maintenance	13,107	5,000	(8,107)
Subcontractors and Equipment Rental	18,759	12,000	(6,759)
Blacktop Subcontractor	8,000	0	(8,000)
Transfers to Repairs & Replacements - Sp Highway Projects	148,315	10,000	(138,315)
Transfers to Repairs & Replacements - Blacktop	0	100,000	100,000
Transfers to Repairs & Replacements - Bridge Repair	0	18,000	18,000
Transfers to Repairs & Replacements - Cap Equip	0	100,000	100,000
Total Highway Department	737,269	748,611	11,342
TOTAL GENERAL TOWN and HIGHWAY EXPENSES	1,110,972	1,125,311	21,839
GRANT EXPENSES			
FEMA - 2021 Storm Expense	86,224	0	(86,224)
Federal - Salt Shed Grant	15,725	0	(15,725)
VT - Leaf Blower Grant	5,600	0	(5,600)
Records Restoration	3,107	0	(3,107)
Misc Grant Expenses	3,130	0	(3,130)
Total Grant Expenses	113,786	0	(113,786)
APPROPRIATIONS			
Voted Allocations	82,834	82,834	0
Total Appropriations	82,834	82,834	0

TOWN OF WARDSBORO
DETAILED EXPENDITURES to BUDGET
JULY 1, 2021 to JUNE 30, 2022

	ACTUAL 7.1.21 - 6.30.22	APPROVED BUDGET 7.1.21 - 6.30.22	Expenses (Over) Under Budget
EDUCATION			
School - River Valley's Unified School District	2,405,117	2,142,221	(262,896)
School - State of VT Payment, paid directly to Education	268,198	286,397	18,199
Total Education	2,673,315	2,428,618	(244,697)
TRANSFERS OF FUNDS/REIMBURSEMENTS			
Capital Purchases	137,748	0	(137,748)
Reimbursement - Tax Sale Fees	4,533	0	(4,533)
Reimbursement - Fire Department Insurance	10,412	0	(10,412)
Total Transfers of Funds/Reimbursements	152,693	0	(152,693)
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,133,600	3,636,763	(489,337)
REVENUE LESS EXPENDITURES	(115,151)	(58,961)	(56,190)



1 - In gravel pit on Upper Podunk Road
2- Willis Canfield and Ray Plimpton take a break from shoveling

TOWN OF WARDSBORO
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
JUNE 30, 2022
TRUST FUNDS

	July 1, 2021	Grant Revenue	Grant Expenses	June 30, 2022 Balance
American Rescue Plan Act Grant (ARPA)	0	124,658	3,506	121,152

During the current year the Town received \$124,658 from the federal government grant. Current year expenditures under the grant totaled \$3,506. The cash from the grant is co-mingled in the general fund checking. Therefore, at June 30, the town owed \$121,152 to the ARPA Fund.

	July 1, 2021 Balance	Bank Interest	Loan Repayments	June 30, 2022 Balance
Community Development Program	29,228.55	8.77		29,237.32

In 1986, the Town received a \$24,000 grant, to provide a loan to a business in town.
As of June 30, 2021 there were no loans due to the Town.

	July 1, 2021 Balance	Bank Interest	Loan Repayments	Loan Disbursements	June 30, 2022 Balance
Housing Improvement Program	123,555.49	59.01	6,002.18	25,418.72	104,197.96

In 1990, the Town received a grant to provide financial assistance to town residents who meet eligibility criteria for the purpose of improving and
As of June 30, 2022 the Town held 5 loans totaling \$54,437.18.

	July 1, 2021 Balance	Bank Interest	June 30, 2022 Balance
MacMichael Park Fund	23,449.64	0.00	23,449.64

In 1998, the Town received a bequest of land and building to be used for the development of a recreational area for the benefit of the Town. The remaining balance in the fund is to be used for the mowing and lights.
As of June 30, 2022 the Town was owed \$9,644.59 from the MacMichael Park Fund.

TOWN OF WARDSBORO
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION
JUNE 30, 2022
TRUST FUNDS

	July 1, 2021	Bank	June 30, 2022
	Balance	Interest	Balance
Fund for Education	70.85	0.00	70.85

	July 1, 2021	Interest Income	Transfers from the General	Transfer to General Fund	June 30, 2022
Money Market Account for Repairs and Replacements	Balance				Balance
Bridge Fund	95,669.10	47.85			95,716.95
Building Fund - Town Hall	43,551.29	21.78			43,573.07
Building Fund - Town Office	20,135.29	10.06			20,145.35
Cemetery Fund	24,461.85	12.25			24,474.10
Equipment Replacement Fund	116,546.68	56.99		100,000.00	16,603.67
Office Hardware	3,729.34	1.85			3,731.19
Paving Fund	133,636.60	66.84			133,703.44
Record Restoration	34,808.54	17.40			34,825.94
Transfer Station Fund	26,406.85	13.29			26,420.14
Curtain Call Fund	2,198.06	1.09			2,199.15
Trustees of Public Funds	19,097.90	9.58			19,107.48
Highway Special Projects	30,063.12	76.80	148,314.74		178,454.66
Totals	550,304.62	335.78	148,314.74	100,000.00	598,955.14

TOWN of WARDSBORO - TAXES RECEIVED RECONCILIATION

	2021	2020
Grand List Net of Exemptions	1,548,976	1,517,469
Education Homestead Grand list	440,772	377,457
Education Non-Homestead Grand list	1,108,610	1,140,912
Total Education Grand list	1,549,382	1,518,369

	f/y/e 6.30.22	f/y/e 6.30.21	Municipal Tax Rates	
2021 Voted Funds - Municipal	2021	2020	2021	2020
Town	139,098	147,715	0.0898	0.0973
Highway	655,372	662,364	0.4231	0.4365
Appropriations	119,116	115,159	0.0769	0.0759
Total Approved by Voters	913,586	925,238	0.5899	0.6097

Education Tax - Homestead	797,313	625,068	1.8089	1.6560
Education Tax - Non-Homestead	1,878,849	1,887,640	1.6954	1.6545
Total Education Tax	2,676,162	2,512,708		
Educational taxation status changes*	0	(1,535)		
Total to be Raised by Taxation	3,589,748	3,436,411		

Taxes Billed	3,589,748.41	3,436,410.76
Current year property taxes unpaid at 6.30	(54,305.31)	(59,887.59)
Prior year delinquent taxes paid in current year	64,371.52	77,069.13
Prior year delinquent taxes paid 7.1 to 8.29	(13,321.60)	(7,808.44)
Current year delinquent taxes paid 7.1 to 8.29	31,604.28	13,321.60
Current year tax abatements	(5.13)	(405.06)
Billed Taxes Received	3,618,092.17	3,458,700.40
VT State - Land Use Reimbursement	31,310.00	29,380.00
Reported Tax Revenue	3,649,402.17	3,488,080.40

For the year end June 30, 2022, the Town Billed \$3,589,748.41 and collected \$3,618,092.17.

The additional \$28,343.76 is due to when taxpayers paid their bills.

The Town collected \$10,066.21 more in prior year's delinquent taxes than was left unpaid from current year taxation at June 30th.
The Town collected \$18,282.68 more in the 60-days following year end than the previous year.

**TOWN OF WARDSBORO
DELINQUENT TAX SUMMARY**

Delinquencies	July 1, 2021	106,225.19	2015	1,764.93	
Delinquencies added	February 7, 2022	227,207.14	2016	2,249.82	
Delinquent taxes collected	July 1 to June 30	(237,964.37)	2017	10,020.97	
	June 30, 2022	95,467.96	2018	6,165.64	
			2019	5,289.76	
			2020	15,671.53	
			2021	54,305.31	
			June 30, 2022	95,467.96	
Allen, Joanne	1,159.93		Lackey, Wendy and Bills, Brent	429.61	
Andersen, Andrew III	2,363.81		Lamarche, Jared	3649.14	
Avery, Joshua	735.32		Leotta, Joseph	4,441.06	
Beaton, James	1,007.56		Lovergine, Parsha	1,000.69	
Bills, Eugene II and Dennis	5,231.03		Mager, Daniel	24,797.16	
Boroczky, John	327.01		Marcus, David	1,461.24	
Bourque-Staib, Mary	3,256.86		Maturo, Melissa	396.94	
Bowser, Susan	4,048.45		Maturo, Melissa	1,144.66	
Brooks Barrows, Charlotte and Brooks, Kim	1,784.17		Minella, Richard	925.96	
Bush, Michael and Melissa	2,543.82		Petrocca, Kenneth	363.35	
Fedus, Gregg	1,155.16		Ranzoni, Frederick	245.54	
Fitzpatrick, Michael Sr.	722.81		Savage, Harold and Ruth	838.72	
Fitzpatrick, Michael Sr.	5,991.36		Spiack, Loren	3,382.66	
Guerin, Gary	516.09		Staib, Mary Lyn	6.86	
Holden, Kenneth	288.04		Terra, Scott	363.35	
Hoyt, Jeffrey	5400.48		Tompkins, Georgia and Duane	1,333.76	
Hughes, Alison	445.25		Valard, Leo	3,242.39	
Jalet, Benjamin	275.82		Vallencourt, Edward	473.12	
Janifer, Meg	5,993.82		Vermont Project LLC	977.95	
Joslin, Yvonne and Amsden, Marcia	2,042.06		TOTAL	95,467.96	
Kreider, Irving and Barbara	704.95				

VITAL STATISTICS 2022

BIRTHS

July 28, 2022	Gryphon Daniel Baronoski son of Lida Christina Petrosh & Tyler James Baronoski
October 29, 2022	Kylie Aline Thissell daughter to Caitlin Morgan Delaney-Thissell & Preston Ryan Thissell
December 29, 2022	Caroline Wray Russo daughter to Tierney Powers Russo & Matthew Charles Russo

DEATHS

August 25, 2021	Frank Joseph Davis, 58 years
March 22, 2022	Ursula Jean Hull, 57 years
June 22, 2022	Bernard Mark Fredericks, 81 years
August 8, 2022	Emmy Lou Bascom, 42 years
October 24, 2022	Todd Eric Brooks, 59 years
October 28, 2022	Robert E. Wolfe, 83 years

MARRIAGES

June 3, 2022	Michelle Christine Reynolds to Corwin Philip Hoover
June 25, 2022	Chauncey Lynn Jones to Ethan Allan Kalepp
August 20, 2022	Tierney Powers Leddy to Matthew Charles Russo
September 9, 2022	Nicole Marie Cacciola to Stuart Irving Ray
October 1, 2022	Amy Michelle Flanigan to Evan James Allard
October 1, 2022	Kristen Leigh Perkins to Dominic Ambrose Squires-Restino
October 11, 2022	Steven Kent Nieminen to Thang Quoc Huynh
October 22, 2022	Sarah Faye Levitt to Tyler Reid Smith
October 31, 2022	Eileen Marie Haskins to Steven Craig McMahon Jr.

**TOWN OF WARDBORO
DOG LICENSES
JUNE 30, 2022**

DOG LICENSES	
Number of Licenses	Received
Fiscal 2022 Dog Licenses Received	
Neutered/Spayed	458
Not Neutered/Spayed	219
Pet Dealer Licenses	25
	<u>702</u>



Fred Robinson & his dog hauling logs at Perry's mill in Bucketville

Zoning Summary of Charges

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

New construction, rebuild existing structures	7	1095.95
Additions, decks, porches	5	289.60
Sheds, barns, accessory structures, garages	14	1304.45
Change of use, sub-division	2	288.00
Total permits	27	2978.00

(Total amount includes \$375.00 in filing fees)



at Benson Fuller's Mill

LISTER'S REPORT FOR 2022

The town Listers could not visit properties and ask questions face-to-face as Covid-19 and other variants continue to affect us. We could drive by and look at a property from our car; or we could telephone or write a letter to the property owner to obtain information. The Listers did finish taking photos of houses and outbuildings (after first letting the property owner know they were there, if that was possible.)

We had a total of 103 Changes in Appraisals. Grievance Day was held on June 4, 2022, where we had one grievance by telephone and one grievance sent in by email. Both grievances were denied.

Property sales in Wardsboro have been over the top – almost anyone who wanted to sell has sold – and at this time there are very few listings of “Property for Sale” in our town. Many sellers did upgrades and improvements to their properties, before selling, which the Listers have tried to keep up with. The Listers are working on a study to see if a new Land Schedule is needed.

The results of the Equalization Study done by the State of Vermont, covering the last three years of sales, shows our current level of appraisal (CLA) at 73.56%. The COD or coefficient of dispersion is at 24.69%. A CLA below 85% or over 115% necessitates a reappraisal.

Your Listers could foresee a required townwide reappraisal ordered by the State because of the high prices sellers were receiving. We have been working on this reappraisal for over a year. It will be a Statistical Reappraisal which puts new Cost Tables (what it would cost now to replace your buildings) into the equation. A new Land Schedule would also put a higher value on all parcels. This does not necessarily mean higher taxes – that depends on the budget voted on at the annual Town Meeting.

The 2022 Grand List shows a total of 1007 parcels in the Town of Wardsboro. Contiguous parcels in the same ownership are mandated by the State to be shown as one parcel on the Grand List. Total acreage is 15,243.89. There are 46 parcels in Current Use with a total value of \$5,827,267.

We work very hard to keep all parcels current as to improvements or changes. And we rely on the owners of property in Wardsboro to keep the Listers informed. We want all owners to feel they are being appraised fairly and equitably. So call the Board of Listers at (802) 896-1001, or write to PO Box 48, Wardsboro, VT 05355, and tell us of your concerns.

Respectfully, BOARD OF LISTERS – Katryna Fitzpatrick, Janice R. Hull, Chair

Homestead Declaration Reminder

In Vermont, all property is subject to education property tax to pay for the state's schools. For this purpose, property is categorized as either homestead or non-homestead. A homestead is the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by the resident as the person's domicile. It is your responsibility as the property owner to claim the property as a homestead if you meet, or expect to meet, the following requirements:

You are a Vermont resident

You own and occupy a homestead as your domicile as of April 1, 2023

You must file a Homestead Declaration (form HS-122) annually by the April 15th deadline.

If you file after April 15th, your municipality may assess one of the following penalties:

Up to a 3% penalty if the non-homestead rate is higher than the homestead education property rate.

Up to an 8% penalty if the non-homestead rate is lower than the homestead education property tax rate.

Property Tax Adjustment Claim

The Vermont Property Tax Adjustment assists many Vermont homeowners with paying their property taxes. You may be eligible for a property tax adjustment on your property taxes if your property qualifies as a homestead and you meet the eligibility requirements:

Your property qualifies as a homestead, and you have filed a Homestead Declaration for the 2023 grand list, you were domiciled in Vermont for the full prior calendar year, you were not claimed as a dependent of another taxpayer, you have the property as your homestead as of April 1, and you meet the household income criteria.

Dog Licenses

Please register all dogs by April 1st of each year.

Spayed or Neutered-	\$9.00	After April 1 st - \$11.00
Other (Female or Male)-	\$13.00	After April 1 st - \$17.00

We will need a copy of your valid rabies certificate if one is not already on file.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we were lax in enforcing the law as we understood the difficulty of getting your dog their rabies shot. This does not excuse you from future enforcement, and the town plans to contract with the sheriff's office to ensure that all dogs resident in town are licensed. Under 20 V.S.A. § 3621, dogs which are not licensed after May 30 may be impounded and subsequently transferred to an organization for adoption or humanely euthanized if not licensed within 10 days of impoundment.



Brit Shine & Harvey Plimpton
gathering sap with horse and sled



Ed Farnum & team turning the soil



Steam boiler on wagon with team

WARDSBORO PLANNING COMMISSION Annual Report

Again this year, the Wardsboro Selectboard advertised one open position for the Wardsboro Planning Commission (WPC), three positions for the Wardsboro Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA), and one position for representative to Windham Regional Commission (WRC). The open seats have yet to be filled. Wardsboro has two representatives to WRC. Thank you to Jack Cunningham, who continues to serve as one of Wardsboro's representatives to WRC.

Since the writing of the last annual report, WRC approved Wardsboro's town plan amendments adopted by the selectboard in December 2021.

In addition to the town plan work, the WPC also conducts site plan reviews for zoning applications that require them and conducts conditional use reviews as alternates for the ZBA in the absence of ZBA members.

On September 19, 2022, WPC received notification of Star Wind Turbines LLC's intention to apply for a Certificate of Public Good for an 85kW Small Wind Energy System on behalf of Robin Lane and Keith Weitzmann. The location of the system, known as Way Out Wind Farm, is planned to be at 410 Terwilliger Hill Road in Wardsboro.

WRC's Project Review Committee, chaired by Wardsboro's Representative Jack Cunningham, discussed the proposed Way Out Wind Farm project with interested parties at its December meeting. The Project Review Committee minutes state, "They [the committee] will review the application, or draft application, as received, and possibly comment at that point."

Respectfully submitted by your planning Commissioners:

Ken Petrocca

Donna Sebastian, Chair



Clarence Streeter sugaring with oxen

Wardsboro Public Library
P.O. Box 157
170 Main Street
Wardsboro, VT 05355
(802) 896-6988

www.wardsboropubliclibrary.com
wardsboropubliclibrary@gmail.com

The Library's year in review:

- During 2021-2022, we welcomed **Donna Fernandes** as our seventh trustee.
- In January, we continued our **After School Program** in partnership with the **Wardsboro Elementary School**. Over half of the student body participates in this program which, like everything we offer, is free of charge!
- During the temperate months, we offer a **book sale** most months on the 4th Saturday of the month and at those events, we give books free of charge to children.
- In May, we held our **first annual Green Up Day Volunteer Appreciation**. We invited participants to join us for pizza, snacks and drinks and had a strong turnout of 55 folks!
- Over the summer, we hosted 40 children at our **Summer Reading Program**. One of the activities was playing Bingo with reading challenges as prizes!
- In September, we collaborated with the **History House** for a presentation of their **historic photographs** of Wardsboro and surrounding towns. The evening started with pizza and a selection of craft beers from Vermont breweries. Sixty people attended this wonderful event.
- In October, we held our second annual **Gilfeather Turnip Day**, celebrating the rich history of Wardsboro and our state vegetable. Over 300 attendees enjoyed turnip soup, baked goods, games, live music and a beautiful autumn Vermont Day.
- In December, we continued our tradition of many years hosting **Santa** at his first seasonal trip to Wardsboro! Sixty attendees visited with Santa, sharing their wishes and taking Polaroid pictures with him. Children also received free books.
- Throughout the year, **our state-of-the-art media center** is used to screen movies: new releases, old classics, the latest blockbusters, adult and family-friendly flicks.

If you did not have a chance to join us for these events last year, please join us this year!



John Gilfeather on wagon with logs

Wardsboro Public Library

Statement of Operations July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

<u>Income</u>	
Donations	\$ 18,105.06
Events	2,071.55
Grants	6,406.00
Appropriations - Towns of Wardsboro & Stratton	10,874.52
Miscellaneous Sources	243.77
Total Income	\$ 37,700.90
<u>Expenses</u>	
Fundraising	\$ 192.26
Events	497.55
Library Media	6,364.25
Programs	764.82
Information Technology	2,250.67
Other Operating Expenses	10,453.13
Total Expenses	\$ 20,522.68
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	\$ 11,443.22

Balance Sheet As of June 30, 2022

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash - M&T Bank Money Market	\$ 21,034.93
Cash - M&T Bank Checking	29,015.44
Cash Withdrawals for Events	70.00
Undeposited Funds	6,216.62
Total Current Assets	\$ 56,336.99
Fixed Assets	
Canopy Tent 20x20	\$ 3,619.19
Furniture & Equipment	3,200.02
Media Center	11,047.56
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 17,866.77
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 74,203.76
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,552.90
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,552.90
Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$ 60,207.64
Net Income	11,443.22
Total Equity	\$ 71,650.86
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 74,203.76

WARDSBORO FIRE DEPARTMENT 2022

Expenses

Utilities		
	TV, Phone, Power	\$ 5,883.07
	Heating Fuel	\$ 3,888.39
Mortgage		\$ 4,333.00
Taxes		\$ 168.60
SWMA		
	911 Answering and Dispatch fee	\$ 18,895.24
	Dues	\$ 150.00
Sinirji app and Eso contract		\$ 837.09
Insurance		
	Workers Comp, Property, Vehicle	\$ 10,411.50
Facility		
	Building maintenance and repairs	\$ 507.38
	Freezer	\$ 980.00
	Energy efficient bay door	\$ 3,840.00
	Electrical work	\$ 4,712.40
Equipment		
	Radio/pager maintenance purchase	\$ 2,790.00
	firefighter equipment	\$ 5,581.59
	maintenance	\$ 1,539.00
	hose	\$ 1,692.73
	chainsaw	\$ 941.08
	Infrared fire camera	\$ 5,156.16
	fire extinguisher service	\$ 373.15
Vehicle Service		\$ 3,924.24
Supplies		\$ 2,519.95
Total Expenses		\$ 79,124.57

Income

Town of Wardsboro Appropriation	\$ 65,000.00
Town of Stratton Appropriation	\$ 5,000.00
Fundraising	\$ 9,462.00
Total Income	\$ 79,462.00
Net Surplus	\$ 337.43



empowering our connection to the future



Deerfield Valley Communications Union District

2022 Year in Review

The Deerfield Valley Communications Union District's (DVCUD, dba DVFiber) accomplishments in 2022 include:

- Developing its working partnership with Great Works Internet (GWI) of Biddeford, ME;
- Receiving an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant for \$4.1 million for pre-construction activities such as high-level design, final design and engineering, pole studies, and a "make ready" process;
- Receiving a second ARPA grant for \$21.9 million to fund the construction of 513 miles of fiber optic cable capable of connecting up to two-thirds of the more than 7,700 unserved and underserved addresses in our communications union district (CUD);
- Contracting with the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) to manage our grant reporting because these grants require specific and detailed reports to the Vermont Communications Broadband Board (VCBB);
- Adding an Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Governing Board for quicker decision making because the pace and volume of work have increased significantly. Also for that reason, we hired Gabrielle Ciuffreda of Guilford to be full-time executive director and anticipate hiring additional administrative support in the 2023 budget.

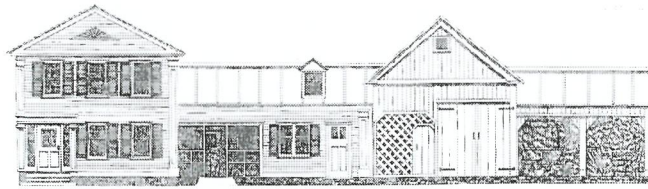
Thank You

We are grateful to the Select Boards of all our member towns for their continued support and for appointing capable and dedicated representatives and alternates who have committed not just their talents but thousands of hours of their time to bring us to this point of construction. These volunteers serve the public on DVFiber's Governing Board and its working committees (Operations, Communications, and Finance and Audit Committees). This committee structure is key to keeping us on track as we do our work. These volunteers are the foundation of DVFiber's success as your community-owned and -operated high-speed fiber optic Internet service provider.

Our commitment from the beginning has been to ensure that all on-grid homes and businesses in our municipal district have access to the 21st century technology that will be the basis for our continued growth and prosperity. This means not just availability of the technology but to be sure that affordability is not an obstacle to customer access and use.

For more information and to follow the latest developments and learn more about DVFiber, be sure to sign up for DVFiber's newsletter at dvfiber.net.

Contact Thomas Almeida, Donna Fernandes, James Hamilton, and Mike Jones if you have any questions or concerns or would like to get involved. They can be reached at wardsboro@dvfiber.net.



Friends of the Wardsboro Library

The Friends of the Wardsboro Library was formally organized by a dedicated group of community members in 1999 as a 501(c)3 nonprofit to raise funds to purchase the farmhouse and barn at 170 Main St. The goal was to expand the Wardsboro Public Library which was housed in a small room in town hall. In 2001 the library moved into its new home. As owners of the Gloria Danforth Memorial Building for over 20 years, the Friends renovated, expanded and maintained the library building. Having accomplished the goal of creating a first class facility, the Friends determined it was an appropriate time to transition the ownership of the building, property and financial assets to the town. This past November residents of Wardsboro voted to accept this gift and the Friends began the process of dissolving the organization as a 501(c)3 and transferring ownership of these assets.

This past year a building inspection was conducted by an outside professional. A couple of minor issues were identified and have been remediated by the Friends. We feel confident we are turning over a sound building. Also, in an effort to save energy, storm window inserts were made for all second floor windows by a crew of volunteers with the leadership of the Wardsboro Energy Committee and Window Dressers.

With the Covid pandemic mostly behind us, we were able to hold our popular annual community fundraisers. A successful plant sale was held in the spring where local citizens were able to purchase plants appropriate for Vermont gardens. To honor Wardsboro's own Gilfeather turnip, we held the ever popular Gilfeather Turnip Celebration at the library. Although the event was scaled down, it still offered Gilfeather turnip soup and baked goods, children's games and story hour, turnip cookbooks and merchandise, history talks, contest for the largest turnip and opportunity to purchase Gilfeather turnips. Local citizens look forward to this annual event every year and it attracted large crowds who enjoyed the celebration.

Donations enable us to continue to effectively maintain the library facility and offset rising utility costs. We are grateful to the town for the annual appropriation. We are especially appreciative for donations to our Annual Fund from community members, part time home owners, and friends who have moved out Wardsboro.

The Friends treasure the years we have been the developers and guardians of the Gloria Danforth Memorial Building and are proud of the facility that has become a first-rate community space. The many volunteers who have been a part of the Friends of the Wardsboro Library look forward to actively supporting the Trustees in providing an excellent library.

We are grateful to our founding members: Joyce Cailor, Jill Dean, Jennifer Densmore, Marianne Furgalack, Christel Holden, Amy Kleppner, Marilyn LaBarr, Janet LeBlond, Peggy Matheson, Nancy Perkins, Cris Tarnay, Sue Wheeler

2022 Board of Directors: chairperson Michael Cooney; vice chairperson Paul Spector; treasurer Christy Foote-Smith; secretary Liz Spector; Directors Linda Gifkins, Marge Aube, Cris Tarnay

Respectfully submitted by the 2022 Friends of the Wardsboro Library

WARDSBORO HISTORY GROUP – 2022 doings :

Our current officers are: President – Jan Hull; Vice-President – Dan Hescock; Secretary – Michelle Hull; Treasurer – Jane Robinson; other Members of the Board of Directors – Christel Holden, Bob LeBlond, and Paul Rush.

The Wardsboro History Group, Photography Committee, continues with the developing of old glass plates - we developed a very interesting set of glassplates taken mostly in Stratton. The photographer was Ethel Eddy of Stratton, and the owner of her house now, Mr. Richard Steiner, gave the glassplates to the W.H.G. We are very appreciative. We have lately been working on glassplates from the collection of a photographer (Henry Selden Allen of Manchester, VT) whose photos covered Londonderry, Jamaica, Bondville, Manchester, and a couple of Wardsboro that snuck in there somehow. The group always donates a copy of the photos (to go with the glassplates) to the history group in the town where they originated..

We had a most interesting event occur on September 29, 2022, Thursday, at the West Wardsboro Cemetery, in which the Wardsboro History Group members, a member of the Wardsboro Selectmen, and members of the Newell family who are descendents, were in attendance.

Three members of The Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum arrived in West Wardsboro on that day, and held a ceremony to commemorate the life of Samuel Hammond who was a participant in the Boston Tea Party. Also a member of the Revolution 250 branch of the Massachusetts Historical Society made a few remarks about the importance to our country of the brave participants in this rebellious and patriotic happening. Commemorative markers are being placed on the graves of all known participants in the Boston Tea Party, and Samuel's grave now holds one of the markers. These small town ceremonies are all leading up to a 250th Anniversary Party to be held on December 16, 2023 in Boston, to which all are invited.

Samuel Hammond was born in Newton, MA, in 1748, and was a teamster. He and his family moved to Wardsborough in the late 1770's, and worked to create one of the best farms in our town, out of the wilderness on what is now Waite Road. The farm has mostly gone back to the wilderness, although there are still a couple of cellar holes there to show where the house and barn were located. Mr. Hammond died in Wardsborough in 1842 at the age of 94 years.

It was exciting to have this event held in our town...I'm sure other towns were just as appreciative to know that someone is commemorating all of these everyday people for the bravery they showed in the early days of the founding of our country.

All events that we hold are not only for teaching history, but we also ask for donations to help repair our history house. Thank you to all who have given us a contribution towards this end.

MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN HISTORY, WARDSBORO, RESEARCH, OR WHO JUST WANT TO SUPPORT OUR ENDEAVORS.

Sincerely, Jan Hull, President

Spring 2023

Dear River Valleys Community Members,

It is an honor and privilege to continue to serve as administrators in our two schools. The support that our two communities continue to provide has been incredible, especially given many of the challenges that our schools have faced over the past several years. This school year has provided students with a greater sense of normalcy as we have been able to shift back to many of the familiar activities, routines and celebrations provided by both schools prior to the pandemic. We are grateful to be able to welcome families and community members back into our schools.

As a district we continue to be committed to continuous improvement by distributing resources equitably across schools to address areas of student need academically, socially and emotionally. This is essential for the continued growth and improvement of our schools and their programs. The WSCU is committed to moving issues of equity forward by embracing the belief that all students can succeed; ensuring that our actions, structures, systems of support, policy and practices are aligned with this vision of high achievement. In an effort to ensure that our students are prepared for post-elementary success, our schools operate under this same belief.

We would like to thank our faculty, staff, and the River Valleys School Board who have given their best to ensure our students continue to make progress academically and socially despite the challenges that they have recently faced. We have tremendous gratitude for their service and to you for entrusting us to fill such an important role in the lives of your children. We look forward to continuing to learn and grow together. We appreciate your confidence in our district and your support of the FY24 school budget.

Sincerely,

Matt Martyn

Principal, The Dover School

Tammy Bates

Principal, Wardsboro Elementary School



Phyllis Lowe and her father Herman with hay wagon

**Warning
FOR
2023 River Valleys Unified School District Annual Meeting
April 24, 2023 10 A.M. to 7 P.M. for Australian Ballot; Article 13 (see below)**

and

**April 25, 2023, at Wardsboro Town Hall, 71 Main Street, Wardsboro, Vermont, at 7:00 PM
For All Other Articles**

The legal voters of the Towns of Dover & Wardsboro, Vermont are hereby notified and warned that, pursuant to Title 17, V.S.A., Section 2655, they are to meet at the Wardsboro Town Hall, 71 Main Street, Wardsboro, Vermont on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. to act upon the following articles to wit:

ARTICLE 13 TO BE VOTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT for the Board members-

The polls will open for the Australian Ballot voting at 10 A.M. and remain open until 7 P.M. on Monday, April 24, 2023, at the Wardsboro Town Hall, 71 Main Street, Wardsboro for all Wardsboro Voters, and at the Dover Town Hall, 189 Taft Brook Road, East Dover, for all Dover Voters (please note that as a result of the recent change in the Article of Agreement that voters from both Towns vote for the School Directors, with one Director coming from each of the Towns).

Please note that the 2023 Annual Meeting is an in-person meeting. The meeting will follow all relevant and most updated recommendations for health and safety guidance issued by the State of Vermont, et al.

- ARTICLE 1:** a. To elect a Moderator to serve for this meeting.
- ARTICLE 2:** a. To elect a Clerk to serve for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.
 b. To set a stipend of \$2,400 for the Clerk.
 c. To set a stipend of \$400 for an Assistant Clerk, to be appointed and used at the discretion of the Clerk.
- ARTICLE 3:** a. To elect a Treasurer to serve for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.
 b. To set a stipend of \$2,400 for the Treasurer.
- ARTICLE 4:** Shall the voters of the River Valleys Unified School District set the annual stipend for School Directors at \$2,500 and for the Chair at \$3,000?
- ARTICLE 5:** Shall the voters of the River Valleys Unified School District approve mileage reimbursement at the Federal reimbursement rate for the month in which the mileage occurred?

- ARTICLE 6:** Shall the voters of the River Valleys Unified School District approve the School Board to move any surplus from the 2022/2023 budget into the general reserve fund to be reserved for a future use as approved by the voters?
- ARTICLE 7:** Shall the voters of the River Valleys Unified School District set the annual tuition rate to approved independent schools at \$19,987.00 (Burr and Burton sending school tuition) for the 2023/2024 school year?
- ARTICLE 8:** Shall the voters of River Valleys Unified School District approve the school board to expend \$6,532,635.00 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?
- ARTICLE 9:** Shall the voters of the River Valleys Unified School District fund its reserve funds in the following amounts for the 2023/2024 school year and fund those reserves with a transfer from the general reserve fund:
- Capital Improvements-
- 1-Buildings- \$100,000.00
- 2-Transportation- \$50,000.00
- ARTICLE 10:** Shall the voters of the River Valleys Unified School District authorize the School Board to withdraw money from the Reserve Fund to offset the Homestead tax rate, but not more than \$80,000.00?
- ARTICLE 11:** Shall the voters of the River Valleys Unified School District approve the following statement-
- The River Valleys Unified School District hereby advises the Vermont General Assembly and the Governor
1. Because our school district does not operate a public high school, students have the opportunity to choose from a variety of public and independent high school options;
2. The electorate does not support the public funding of any school that discriminate against students or staff on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, disability, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity;
3. The electorate supports the current structure of independent schools having autonomy over their governance and operations within the current regulatory framework. This structure of oversight has enabled our districts to make high school education available, as required by the State of Vermont, while maintaining confidence that the schools serving our students provide a high quality of education, and

4. The electorate opposes efforts to change the current structure in a way that eliminates educational opportunities made possible by our current practice of high school choice. The electorate believes our current local education system, in a great example of Vermont traditions, has evolved within this current structure, through a high level of community commitment and an appropriate exercise of local control, to provide high-quality, equitable educational opportunities for our students.

ARTICLE 12: Any other business that may legally be addressed/ open discussion for informational purpose.

-Board representation from the Towns- (update).

-Website (update).

ARTICLE 13: To choose Unified School District Officers for the following positions-

All voting to be by Australian Ballot from 10 A.M. to 7 P.M. on Monday, April 24, 2023 with Dover Voters to vote at Dover Town Hall, 189 Taft Brook Road, East Dover and Wardsboro Voters to vote at the Wardsboro Town Hall, 71 Main St. Wardsboro (please note that as a result of the recent change in the Articles of Agreement that voters from both Towns vote for the School Directors, with one director coming from each of the Towns).

School Director (Wardsboro)	3-year term
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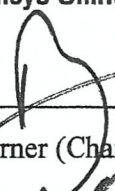
School Director (Dover)	3-year term
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ARTICLE 14: a. To elect a Moderator to serve for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

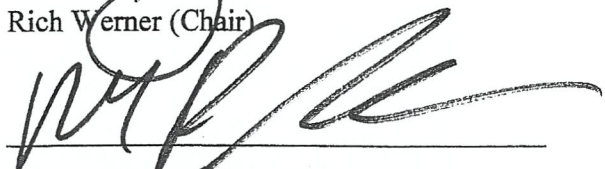
b. To set a stipend of \$200 per meeting for the Moderator.

ARTICLE 15: To adjourn the meeting.

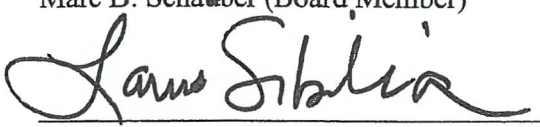
River Valleys Unified School Directors




Rich Werner (Chair)



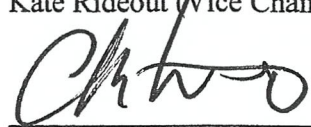
Marc B. Schamber (Board Member)



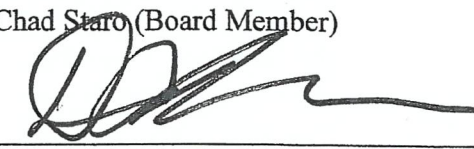
Laura Sibilia (Board Member)



Kate Rideout (Vice Chair)



Chad Staro (Board Member)



Dwight Boerem (Clerk)

River Valleys Unified Clerk's Office: Received for record 3/23/2023 at 9am o'clock
and 45 minutes.

Attest:



Andrew McLean, Unified District Clerk



Caring For Our Communities in Sickness and in Health

"I was taken to the Grace Cottage ER after a serious bicycle accident. The doctor and staff wasted no time in getting me comfortable and attending to my injuries with X-rays and stitches. They were all so knowledgeable and caring. We are so fortunate to have Grace Cottage and its excellent care team so nearby." Greg Underwood, Jamaica, VT

Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital has served the healthcare needs of our rural community with competence and compassion for more than 70 years. In 2022, Grace Cottage was named "Best Hospital," "Best Emergency Care," "Best Physical Therapy," "Best Pharmacy," "Best Doctors," and "Best Place to Work" in the *Brattleboro Reformer* Readers' Choice Best of Windham County Awards.

Grace Cottage Hospital is comprised of a 19-bed inpatient facility for acute and rehabilitative care, a 24-hour Emergency Department, a hospice care suite, and laboratory and diagnostic imaging departments. In 2022, Grace Cottage contracted with Dartmouth Health to add TeleEmergency and TeleNeurology services.

Grace Cottage Family Health offers expanded hours for the convenience of both returning and new patients. In most cases, provider appointments are immediately available. More than 8,000 area residents choose Grace Cottage for their **primary care**. We offer physicals and wellness visits, chronic disease management, pediatrics, geriatrics, and mental health services. In 2022, Grace Cottage was one of two Vermont hospitals named a Top Performer on the national Human Rights Campaign Foundation's LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Index. We also received an IMPACT award from the Boston Red Sox and the Ruderman Family Foundation for our mental health services, which were expanded in 2022 to meet demand, with the addition of a second psychiatric nurse practitioner and a licensed social worker.

Grace Cottage's **Community Health Team** offers essential, free services to area residents, such as nutrition and lifestyle education, diabetes coaching, care coordination, substance abuse assessment, and help with applying for health insurance and connecting to community resources for food, fuel, and housing assistance.

Grace Cottage's **Rehabilitation Department** offers exceptional care for both hospital patients and outpatients, with 14 physical and occupational therapists on staff. Expanded services include lymphedema therapy, custom orthotics, women's health, and pelvic health physical therapy.

Grace Cottage is committed to promoting wellness through classes in our **Community Wellness Center**. We encourage area residents and visitors to take advantage of our low-cost or free classes and events. Various support groups are offered throughout the year.

Messenger Valley Pharmacy, owned by Grace Cottage, continues to provide convenient prescription fulfillment for all members of the community, along with expert advice and friendly service. We fill orders from any provider, including veterinarians. Many over-the-counter medications, personal care items, gifts, and greeting cards are also available.

Fiscal Year 2022, by the numbers:

31,376: Patient visits to Grace Cottage Family Health
3,765: Patient days in hospital
3,477: Emergency Dept. visits
7,981: Outpatient Rehab visits
2,036: Diagnostic Imaging visits
2,958: Community Health Team visits
3,568: Covid-19 tests
2,111: Individual donations to Grace Cottage

Grace Cottage is an independent, non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Town appropriations and other donations enable us to provide the best possible care for our region. On behalf of all of the patients that we serve, **thank you for your support.** You help to make Grace Cottage the special place that it is.

Grace Cottage Family Health
802-365-4331

Grace Cottage Hospital
802-365-7357

Grace Cottage Rehabilitation
802-365-3637

Messenger Valley Pharmacy
802-365-4117

P.O. Box 216, 185 Grafton Road, Townshend, Vermont 05353 www.gracecottage.org

Health Care & Rehabilitation Services Narrative Report for FY22 for Town of Wardsboro

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont, Inc. (HCRS) is a comprehensive community mental health provider serving residents of Windham and Windsor counties. HCRS assists and advocates for individuals, families, and children who are living with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders. HCRS provides these services through outpatient mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment program, community rehabilitation and treatment program, developmental services division, and emergency services programs.

During FY22, HCRS provided 45 hours of services to 12 residents of the Town of Wardsboro. The services provided included all of HCRS' programs resulting in a wide array of supports for the residents of Wardsboro.

Anyone with questions about HCRS services should contact George Karabakakis, Chief Executive Officer, at (802) 886-4500.



Road crew widening road ~1900

Detailed Report to the Town of Wardsboro
from
SENIOR SOLUTIONS

Senior Solutions, Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont, Inc. has served the residents of Wardsboro and Southeastern Vermont since 1973. We have offices in Springfield (main office), Windsor and Brattleboro. Our mission is to promote the well-being and dignity of older adults. Our vision is that every person will age in the place of their choice, with the support they need and the opportunity for meaningful relationships and active engagement in their community.

Our mission and vision have guided us throughout the COVID crisis. All our programs except group wellness and group dining activities have remained operational subject to reasonable precautions. Throughout this public health emergency, we expanded our cohort of volunteers helping people with groceries, food distributions and other needs. We continue to collaborate closely with local aging-in-place, Cares and Mutual Aid groups to help assure needs are being met in local communities.

Supporting caregivers is an important part of our work. We partner with local and statewide organizations to promote and operate programs that provide financial resources, rest, and relief for those taking care of dementia patients and older adults with serious health conditions. We encourage counseling for caregivers and host memory cafes where caregivers and their loved ones can relax and socialize in a safe and supportive setting. This year, Senior Solutions obtained a Public Health AmeriCorps grant to train and support volunteers who will provide respite to families caring for individuals with conditions such as Parkinson's Disease and dementia.

As we all know, the population of older adults in Vermont is increasing, as are the costs of goods and services across the board. For Senior Solutions, this means that both the cost of each service and the total number of people requesting each service is going up. Although we continually seek funding from new sources, financial support from the towns we serve is critical to enabling us to do more for the older Vermonters we serve.

We work to develop programs to meet evolving interests and needs. Our Friendly Visitor program continues to provide older Vermonters with companionship and assistance with meal preparation, light housekeeping, errands, and more—all of which are often unmet needs of families caring for loved ones with serious health conditions. Our Vet-to-Vet program matches older veterans with volunteers who are also veterans.

This past year, we trained volunteer instructors in Tai Chi for falls prevention. We offered the HomeMeds program that screens older adults for medication problems such as drug interactions or harmful side effects. We provided financial support for training volunteers interested in teaching classes in their community or starting new evidence-based wellness programs. Wellness programs remain available to anyone 60 and over in Wardsboro and throughout our service area of greater Windsor and Windham counties.

This is a summary of services provided to Wardsboro residents in the last year (7/1/2021-6/30/2022).

Information and Assistance: 20 residents made 33 Calls or Office Visits to our HelpLine (1-802-885-2669 or 866-673-8376 toll-free) offers information, referrals and assistance to older Vermonters, their families, and their caregivers to problem-solve, plan, locate resources, and obtain assistance with benefits. We also provide assistance completing applications. Callers were assisted with applying for benefits, health

insurance problems, housing needs, fuel assistance, and many other services. Extensive resources are also on our website at www.seniorsolutionsVT.org.

Medicare Assistance: 10 Wardsboro residents received assistance with Medicare issues through our State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). SHIP provides Medicare education and counseling, classes for new Medicare enrollees, and assistance in enrolling in Part D or choosing a drug plan.

In-Home Social Services: We provided 10 seniors with in-home case management or other home-based assistance (totaling 32 hours) to enable them to remain living safely in their homes. Often minimal services can prevent nursing home placement. A case manager works with adults in their home to create and monitor a plan of care, centered on the individual's personal values and preferences. Many people would not be able to remain in their homes if not for these services. Senior Solutions also investigates reports of self-neglect and assists those facing challenges of abuse, neglect, or exploitation using a community collaboration approach.

Nutrition services and programs: 3 residents received 472 Meals on Wheels provided by The Dam Diner. We financially supported these home-delivered meals. We have also supported community meals at Jamaica Community Church and other meal sites in our region, but please note that most community senior meal sites have been closed since the advent of COVID-19.

Senior Solutions administers federal and state funds that we provide to local organizations to help them operate senior meals programs and provide food safety, quality monitoring and oversight. However, these funds do not cover the full cost of providing meals, so local meal sites must seek additional funding. Senior Solutions does not use town funding to support the senior meals program, and does not benefit from any funds given by the town to support local Meals on Wheels. Senior Solutions provides the services of a registered dietician to older adults and meal sites. Assistance is also provided with applications for the 3SquaresVT (food stamp) program.

Volunteer Visitors: Senior Solutions provides volunteers who serve isolated older Vermonters through home visits, telephone reassurance, and help with shopping and other errands. Our Vet-to-Vet program matches Veteran volunteers with Veteran recipients.

Caregiver Respite: We provide respite assistance through grants for caregivers of those diagnosed with dementia or other chronic diseases.

Transportation: Senior Solutions provides financial support and collaborates with local and regional transit providers to support transportation services for older Vermonters, that may include a van, a taxi, or a volunteer driver. Special arrangements can be made for individuals without Medicaid who require medical transportation.

Special Assistance: Senior Solutions provides flexible funds that can help people with one-time needs when no other program is available.

Other Services: Senior Solutions supports a variety of other services including health, wellness and fall prevention programs, legal assistance (through Vermont Legal Aid), assistance for adults with disabilities, and home-based mental health services.

Senior Solutions is enormously grateful for the support of the people from the Town of Wardsboro.

Submitted by Mark Boutwell, Executive Director

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire *Home Health, Hospice and Pediatric Services*

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) is one of the oldest and largest non-profit providers of in-home healthcare services in the region. VNH is committed to providing the highest quality care throughout all stages of life, from maternal child care to end of life hospice care, and everything in between. Providing individuals and families with the care they need within the comfort of their own home allows them to maintain comfort and dignity throughout their time of care.

VNH services reduce cost associated with town programs for emergency response and elder care. With quality care provided at home, there is less need for costly hospital and emergency room trips. And with VNH support, residents can age in place rather than relocating to a state or local nursing home.

Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, VNH made 64 in-home visits to 12 residents. This included approximately \$2,892 in unreimbursed care to residents.

- **Home Health Care:** 48 home visits to 10 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.
- **Long-Term Care:** 16 home visits to 2 residents with chronic medical problems who need extended care in home to avoid admission to a nursing home.

VNH serves many of Wardsboro's most vulnerable citizens – the frail elderly and disabled, at-risk families, people with terminal illnesses, children with chronic medical needs and the uninsured and underinsured. We are dedicated to delivering outstanding home health and hospice services that enrich the lives of the people we serve.

It is with your help that we are able to provide services like this to those in need. Wardsboro's annual appropriation to VNH helps to ensure that all have access to quality care when and where it is needed most. On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Anthony Knox

Anthony Knox
Community Relations Manager



George Farnum with corn in wheelbarrow

For inclusion in the Town Report:

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WINDHAM COUNTY

The Historical Society of Windham County was founded in 1927 to collect, preserve and present our County's heritage for present and future generations.

In 1936, the County Museum was built in Newfane to house its collection originating from all the towns in the County. The Historical Society's invaluable collection comprises over 8,000 County artifacts and archival materials, which are displayed in changing interpretive exhibits. The Museum's archives of manuscripts and documents are available for research or special interests, and school visits are encouraged.

With the completion of the 1880 Newfane Railroad Station restoration in 2018, the Historical Society of Windham County became the steward of both the Windham County Museum and the West River Railroad Museum. The restored Railroad Station provides a visual and accessible presentation for a broad audience, as well as an engaging teaching tool for educators and parents.

This year, the Historical Society will be expanding into the 1825 Windham County Jail building, which became available after the Windham County Sheriff's Department moved to Brattleboro. With that expansion, our exhibit space will quadruple, allowing the room needed to properly present the stories of Windham County's towns. In addition, our archive holdings in the County Museum will have adequate space and full research accessibility. A substantial dedicated area also will be created for our genealogy work and resources.

As the Historical Society approaches its second century in just a few years, we hope you share our belief that all our towns would be poorer if our rich local history was ever lost. Admission to the County Museum, the West River Railroad Museum has always been free. The same is true for the special programs, presentations and genealogical research provided by the Historical Society of Windham County. None of this comes free for us however, and clearly we couldn't do it without the support of our community. Your support will help us to continue to protect and maintain a continuously growing collection, provide a variety of educational programs, and continue our policy of free admission.

We thank you for your support.

The County Museum and the West River Railroad Museum are open Saturdays and Sundays from Noon to 5:00, from Memorial Day weekend through Indigenous Peoples Day weekend, as well as by appointment. (The County Museum is also open Wednesdays, Noon - 4:00.)

Inquiries are fielded year-round (info@historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org).

*Please visit our website for more information, and the latest news and schedule of events:
www.historicalsofwindhamcounty.org.*

SeVEDS Impact Statement for Wardsboro Town Report March 2023

Improving wages, creating jobs, & attracting and keeping people in the region is critical economic development work that is beyond the capacity of any single community to advance. **SeVEDS was founded as an affiliate of the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) in 2007 to create regional strategies and attract resources that help us act together to build a thriving economy.** BDCC, Southeastern Vermont's Regional Development Corporation, contracts with SeVEDS to develop and implement these strategies in the Windham Region.

Our work is guided by the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), a 5 year regional plan with simple goals: **Strengthen Business, Support People.** It was developed with input from communities across Southern Vermont, and is available online at www.sovermontzone.com/ceds

Background & Request

To support this work, SeVEDS requests funding at \$3.00 per person from all 27 towns we serve. **Therefore, we are asking the Town of Wardsboro to appropriate \$2,592.00 (based on a population of 864) to support SeVEDS.**

In 2022, 19 communities, representing over 80% of Windham residents, voted to invest in SeVEDS. We use this municipal funding in three key ways:

1. To directly **fund implementation** of programs & projects serving local communities, businesses and people.
2. For **capacity.** We use SeVEDS regional municipal funds to create programs, conduct research and planning, secure and administer grants, and to help regional partners – in FY21 we helped bring over **\$8 Million** directly to other organizations – towns, businesses and nonprofits.
3. As **seed funding.** We leverage your dollars to bring additional money to the region to provide technical assistance and programs: **every dollar contributed by towns is matched to bring in outside funding.**

BDCC Implements SeVEDS-Led Programs for Communities, Small Businesses, and Workforce Development

- Our **Business Services Team** provides access to technical assistance, microlending, and business succession services for businesses of all sizes. We work with businesses from startup to retirement.
- Our **Workforce Team** creates programs like **Pipelines and Pathways:** a program that in 2022 provided career training and support to **550** students in area High Schools. **The Welcoming Communities** program supported **61** New Americans who have filled positions in **19** local companies. The **Southern Vermont Young Professionals** group helps young adults in their 20's-40's advance their careers and deepen their connections in the region.
- Our **Community Programs** include the **Community Facilities Technical Assistance Program** and **The Southern Vermont Economy Project**, both of which help towns and non-profits improve community vibrancy through local projects. Since 2017 SVEP has provided 100+ trainings with over 2,000 participants to help community projects solve problems and find resources.

More SeVEDS-Led Programming

For a deeper overview of our programs in FY22, visit our website at www.brattleborodevelopment.com. You can download our annual report, or call the office to receive your own copy 802-257-7731 x230. To learn more about the CEDS, CEDS projects, the Southern Vermont Economy Summit visit www.sovermontzone.com.

Our website also features upcoming events and trainings, ongoing programs, and resources. You can sign up for our e-newsletter to get updates including state and federal economic and community development resources.

Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies & Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation
76 Cotton Mill Hill, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301 www.brattleborodevelopment.com 802-257-7731



Photo 1 Foliage at the base of Mount Abraham in Lincoln, Vermont. USDA Forest Service photo.

Green Mountain National Forest

Town Meeting Report

The employees of the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) depend heavily on support from many municipalities, volunteers, partners, and contractors. The Forest would like to take this time to thank you and your community for the support and interest that you have shown in helping with the management of the approximately 400,000-acre GMNF. Receiving several million outdoor recreation enthusiast visits annually, these visitors seek enjoyment in a natural setting while providing critical benefit to our local economies. The GMNF is proud to be a part of Vermont and your town. It is truly one of Vermont's treasures and the largest contiguous public land area in the state. Forest staff work hard to achieve quality public land management under a sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of all people -- people in your town as well as all of the visitors who come to Vermont every year. This has been another exciting year for us, and we have worked hard to support new opportunities on the National Forest that benefit the people and communities that we serve.

Forest Vegetation Management

- The Forest worked on preparation of two additional sales for the Early Successional Habitat Creation Project. This project includes habitat creation and timber harvest on approximately 1,000 acres per year over the course of 15 years for an estimated 15,000 acres in total across Arlington, Dover, Glastenbury, Jamaica, Landgrove, Manchester, Mount Holly, Mount Tabor, Peru, Pownal, Readsboro, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Stratton, Sunderland, Wallingford, Wardsboro, Weston, Wilmington, and Woodford.

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GreenMountainFingerLakesNF/> and follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/gmfl_nfs



December 2022

Hello Member Town,

As many of you are aware, this has been a year of challenge and change for our organization. On the heels of the greatest public health crisis in recent memory, and after several years of leading the COVID response effort for education, prevention, testing and treatment, the continued existence of our regional ambulance service was brought into question when Brattleboro town officials suddenly withdrew from our fifty-year cooperative agreement with area towns. Our commitment to you, as a citizen of our member towns, is that you will continue to receive the quality and reliability of service that has been a hallmark of this organization for decades. I am pleased to report that with the guidance of our board and the dedication of our staff, Rescue Inc is poised to continue to serve for decades to come. We are actively working to redesign and diversify our daily operations to better meet the needs of the communities we serve. Our COVID response teams have continued to provide services around the state at the same time our ambulance operations staff have managed to respond to 100% of 911 requests for service in our member towns.

We recently opened the Vermont Emergency Medical Services Academy, or "VEMSA", in Newfane. This new facility will serve current and future first responders, as well as hospital staff and community members. VEMSA is the only academy of its kind in Vermont and supports education using high-fidelity human simulators in realistic and dynamic settings. Our education programs will develop the next generation of emergency service leaders.

Our technical rescue team, as part of Vermont's flood rescue response, received two additional state-owned swift water boats that are in our Brattleboro station. These boats, combined with our boat located at the Putney Fire department, and the two that we have located at our Townshend station, help to provide comprehensive flood and water rescue response to the region.

We will be announcing additional new partnerships and programs in early 2023 with a focus on better health outcomes for the citizens that we serve.

Be Well,

Drew Hazelton
Chief of Operations
Rescue Inc



The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (**VSNIIP**), under the VT Department of Children & Families, is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society. **Funded by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, this monetary resource is limited by the number of dogs licensed, which is required by law by six months of age.** Puppies and kittens can have the first rabies vaccination after 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a veterinary office for this vaccination, Tractor Supply Stores as well as humane societies hold monthly clinics during the month of March. Call for their schedules. After the vaccination, contact your town clerk and provide proof of the rabies vaccination to license your dog.

Rabies IS in Vermont and it IS deadly.

Licensing a dog:

- 1) Helps identify your dog if lost.
- 2) Provides proof your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal (but still needs immediate medical attention).
- 3) Protects your animal if they bite another animal (or person – which could result in the quarantine of your dog or possibly euthanization to test for rabies if not currently vaccinated).
- 4) Pays for this necessary program addressing the population situation in VT.

For an Application for VSNIIP and a List of Participating Offices, send a S.A.S.E. (a 9" Self-Addressed, Stamped Envelope) to: VSNIIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Or, to download and print, go to: VSNIIP.VERMONT.GOV Indicate if it's for a cat, dog, or both. Once *fully* completed, you will mail it back. If approved, you will receive your Voucher and instructions.

The cost for the surgery to you is only \$27.00, providing there are no complications. Fellow Vermonters pay the balance of your account from funds collected at the time of dog registration. Please be SURE your cat or dog is completely flea and tick free **before** the visit. Animals left UN-neutered are more prone to forms of cancer.

Thank veterinarians for their participation in this important program. If your veterinarian is not a participant, please encourage them to join. Several veterinarians have retired, leaving a reduced number of participating offices. VSNIIP offices are accepting less reimbursement than what they would usually charge for their services. We NEED them :) Let them know you appreciate the difference they've made in our state over the years when euthanasia was the means of animal over-population control. Those days are behind us ~ let's keep it that way!

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator 1-800-HI VSNIIP (1-844-448-7647)



The mission of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) is to assist towns in Southeastern Vermont to provide effective local governance and to work collaboratively with them to address regional issues. The region is comprised of 27 member towns: the 23 towns of Windham County; Readsboro, Searsburg and Winhall in Bennington County; and Weston in Windsor County.

The Commission, a political subdivision of the state, is composed of and governed by town-appointed Commissioners. Towns choose their own representatives to serve on the Commission. After town meeting, each Selectboard appoints up to two representatives to serve on the Commission for a one-year term. Wardsboro is currently represented by Jack Cunningham and the second position remains vacant. Each Commissioner represents their town's interests within a regional context before the Commission, brings information from the Commission back to their town, and serves on at least one of a number of WRC committees that address regional and municipal issues and concerns. All WRC meetings are open to the public and subject to Vermont open meeting law. Committees and meeting schedules can be found on our website www.windhamregional.org.

We assist towns with a wide variety of activities, including town plans and bylaws; community and economic development; local emergency and hazard mitigation planning, including flood hazard area and river corridor bylaw assistance; natural resources, including assisting towns with watershed restoration projects and implementation of the state's clean water law; Act 174 town energy planning; transportation, including traffic counts (automotive, bicycle, pedestrian), inventories (bridges, culverts, signs, road erosion), road foremen training, and serving as a liaison with VTrans to report damage to town road infrastructure to the state as a result of flooding; redevelopment of Brownfields sites (sites that are or may be contaminated by hazardous substances); review of projects submitted for review through Act 250 (land use), Section 248 (energy generation and transmission, telecommunications), and federal permitting processes; grant application and administration; training of municipal officials and volunteers across a range of topics; and mapping and geographic information system (GIS) analyses. The maps in your town office were likely produced by the WRC.

We help towns, both individually and collectively, make the most of the financial and human resources they have, assisting with projects in, between, and among towns, building and augmenting the capacity of volunteer-based town boards and commissions, and providing professional services to towns that may want to take on a project that is beyond what they can comfortably manage with their own staff and volunteers. Our relationship with towns is inherently collaborative. For instance, towns may choose to have their town plans reviewed by the Commission; town plan review and approval by the WRC is not mandatory, but is a requirement of some state municipal grant programs. The regional plan, which was readopted in 2021, is developed in consultation with member towns, reflects town plan policies, and is ultimately approved by our towns.

2022 has been a busy year. We continued assisting towns with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) management and deliberation about how to use these funds. We successfully applied for Congressionally directed spending (an earmark) through Senator Sanders to collaborate with Green Mountain Power to assist towns with planning for greater electricity resiliency in the event of grid instability or outages using renewable energy and battery storage. This project will get underway in 2023. We are developing a report for the Windham Region Seniors' Health Collaborative, which seeks to prepare the region for the needs of our rapidly growing senior population. Our Brownfields program continues to assist with the assessment and remediation of contaminated sites, and we continue to assist our towns with flood mitigation, water quality, and habitat restoration projects.

Funding for the WRC is provided through contracts with state agencies, federal and other grants, and town assessments. Town assessments made up approximately 7 percent of our total budget. Each town's individual assessment makes it possible for us to leverage the resources to serve all towns. The town's assessment for this year is \$2,225.92. To see our detailed Work Program and Budget for FY2023, visit our website, www.windhamregional.org, and click on the heading "About Us."



WINDHAM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
327 OLD FERRY ROAD, BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301
(802) 257-0272 windhamsolidwaste.org

2022
ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBER TOWNS
Bob Spencer, Executive Director
John Fay, Programs Manager

History and Current Status: The Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) was formed in 1988 by eight towns who cooperatively managed a 30-acre landfill on Old Ferry Road, Brattleboro until it closed in 1995. As more towns joined the District, a regional materials recovery facility (MRF) was constructed by the District adjacent to the closed landfill and processed dual-stream recyclable materials for 20 years until it stopped operating in 2017. Currently 18 towns are members of WSWMD which employs 6 full-time and 3 part-time persons to provide educational programs and operate the transfer station and composting facility on Old Ferry Road.

Town Solid Waste Services: Seven member towns, Dover, Jamaica, Readsboro, Stratton, Townshend, Wardsboro, and Wilmington operate transfer stations for trash and recyclable materials. Other materials such as tires and electronics are also collected by some transfer stations, and most of the single stream recyclables are processed at the Casella MRF in Rutland. All town transfer stations are required to provide containers for drop-off of food scraps. Three towns, Brookline, Halifax, and Marlboro provide 24-7 drop-off sites for recyclables. Three towns, Brattleboro, Vernon, and Westminster provide residential curbside trash and recycling collection. Five towns, Dummerston, Guilford, Newfane, Putney, and Somerset do not provide any trash or recycling services. Residents and businesses can contract with haulers for trash and recycling collection services. There are also two companies providing subscription collection of food scraps. The WSWMD website has a map showing the services provided by each town.

Financial Report: WSWMD finished fiscal year 2022 (FY22) with a budget surplus of \$224,887, which has been allocated toward the construction of the expanded compost facility. Revenues of \$1,500,194 off-set total expenses of \$1,206,748 and \$68,559 of capital reserves and expenses.

The annual assessment to member towns for fiscal year 2023 was kept the same as the prior year, although each town's respective assessment varied due to population changes using the new 2020 census figures.

Transfer Station: The WSWMD transfer station is a regional drop-off center for trash, recyclables, organics/food scraps, construction & demolition debris, scrap metal, and appliances. The transfer station also handles electronics, fluorescent tubes, ballasts, lead-acid and household batteries, waste oil and oil filters, paint, sharps/syringes, textiles, books, tires, and household hazardous waste. Use of the transfer station is limited to residents and businesses from member communities and requires the purchase of an access sticker at \$40/year. Approximately 3,000 customers purchase annual access stickers. There is no additional charge for recycling and composting. Fees are presented at www.windhamsolidwaste.org.

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF): The District voted to close the MRF in July 2017 but continues to accept cardboard from commercial sources. Cardboard is baled and sold, generating revenue for the District. Revenue in FY22 was exceptionally high at \$166,000 due to the strong markets for recycled cardboard.

Composting Facility: Of all recyclable materials handled by the District, the only ones that are reused locally are food scraps and yard debris. The food scrap composting facility is in its 9th year of operation and is the 2nd largest food scrap composting facility in Vermont. WSWMD donates compost for school and community gardens.

As the food scrap composting mandates of Act 148 have been phased in, the total quantity of food scraps processed at the site have increased each year, and therefore the District is pursuing a capital expansion project at the facility. The new composting facility will have a building with aerated windrows, air collection for odor

control, as well as rainwater and liquid management systems for the compost piles. The expansion will allow the District to continue to locally manage organic wastes while meeting state permitting requirements for a larger capacity facility.

Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP): All towns in Vermont are required to meet state solid waste management requirements through implementation of an authorized SWIP. The District writes and implements a SWIP on behalf of all its member towns, and so provides compliance and the accompanying services to each member town. 2022 was the third year of the five-year term of the current SWIP, which addresses household hazardous waste collection, education and outreach, as well as numerous other requirements.

Solar Array: WSWMD leases its capped landfill to Greenbacker Capital to operate a 5 mega-watt solar array, the largest group net-metered project in the state. Greenbacker has contracted to provide solar power for 20 years to the towns of Brattleboro, Dummerston, Halifax, Newfane, Readsboro, Vernon, Wardsboro, and Wilmington.; schools in Brattleboro, Marlboro, Putney, and Vernon; as well as Landmark College, Marlboro College, and the Brattleboro Retreat. The project provides significant cost savings for municipal and school budgets. Greenbacker Capital has a 20-year lease and pays the District a minimum of \$120,290/year for use of the landfill, as well as 50% of renewable energy credits, for total annual revenue of over \$250,000.

Household Hazardous Waste: Management of household hazardous waste is a costly and difficult service required by state regulations. Member towns benefit by having the District provide this service to all District residents and small businesses. In 2022, the WSWMD operated the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Depot and sponsored special one-day events in Readsboro and Wilmington. This year, 355 households were served by the program, a slight increase from last year. The HHW Depot is open by appointment one day each week from May through October. The average cost per user at the Depot is \$75, which is covered by a user fee of \$10, a Vermont DEC grant program, and operating costs of the District. At the special one-day events, costs are much higher, typically about \$200 per user. The Depot provides a convenient and cost-effective way for residents and small businesses to dispose of their hazardous waste.

Community Outreach & Technical Assistance: The District continues to provide technical assistance for schools, businesses, and towns. In 2022, WSWMD's programs were expanded by a grant of \$68,000 from the US Department of Agriculture. Under the grant project, the District has been able to provide member town transfer stations with new signage and technical assistance; recycling and composting workshops at schools in Guilford, Marlboro, Vernon, Newfane/Brookline, and Brattleboro; assistance in how to improve waste management in over 40 businesses; and new videos and other educational resources available on our website. A \$5,000 grant from the Windham Foundation was instrumental in establishing food scrap collection in four downtown Brattleboro buildings with a mix of retail, office, and residential tenants.

Special Event Outreach and Technical Assistance: WSWMD has 20 sets of bins for collecting recyclables, food scraps, and trash at special events. They are available to towns, businesses, residents, and institutions for use at fairs, festivals, weddings, etc. In addition, WSWMD offers free technical assistance to help events reduce their waste.



Windham Central Supervisory Union provides
leadership and resources to ensure a strong educational system for all students.

1219 Vermont Route 30 ♦ Townshend, VT 05353

802-365-9510 phone ♦ 802-365-7934 fax

www.windhamcentral.org

Windham Central Supervisory Union Superintendent's Letter 2023

Dear WCSU Community,

2022 has been quite a year of transitions for the entire WCSU community. Collectively, we have navigated the change from actively running schools during a pandemic to running schools during an endemic. Moving towards a more typical school year has been a blessing, but also challenging as we recover from three disrupted years.

Our families have been wonderful partners this past year. The relationship between our students' families and our schools are the foundation of successful student outcomes. We love seeing families at parent teacher conferences, attending our school events, being in the stands, and in the audience for student performances.

Our students have been incredibly resilient as they work hard everyday, build relationships with their teachers, and adjust to more typical school days.

Our teachers, principals, and staff have displayed professionalism and care as they provide a safe, welcoming, and productive educational environment.

This is my last year serving the WCSU communities as Superintendent. I feel fortunate to be able to serve such caring, involved, and thoughtful communities. I am incredibly confident that our next Superintendent, Bob Thibault (current principal of Leland and Gray), will lead the WCSU to great success. Bob is a talented and committed leader who always puts students at the center of his decision making.

I encourage everyone to get informed during the budget season. Your school boards have worked diligently to craft responsible budgets reflective of student needs and value to taxpayers.

Thank you for supporting our schools.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Will Anton".

William Anton, WCSU Superintendent of Schools

Windham Central Supervisory Union

will ...place students at the center of our decision-making.
...build trust and respect by acting ethically, transparently, and with integrity.
...operate as a community of learners, committed to developing the skills and capabilities of all.
...collaborate, share and seek creative solutions.

Rev.12-2016

1 of 1

Local Health Office Annual Report 2022

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. Your district office is at the address and phone number above. We provide essential services and resources to towns in Windham County in order to protect and promote the health and well-being of people in Vermont. For example, in the past year and beyond, the Brattleboro Local Health Office:

Stayed attentive to people and communities most underserved: We provided services and resources to people who are more likely to experience adverse health outcomes due to health inequities. For example, we provided vaccine at schools without access, shelters, meal, and food distribution sites, farms, and more.

Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease, including protecting communities from COVID-19: We've been able to serve communities thanks to individuals, families, schools, businesses, first responders, and countless others that worked with us to meet the needs of local towns. These collaborations have enabled us to host over 60 COVID-19 vaccination clinics and provide over 6,300 COVID-19 doses. Since August 2021, all local health offices have also documented and helped manage 8,125 COVID-19-related situations, including 1,271 COVID-19 outbreaks.

Over the last year, the Brattleboro office has also been holding vaccination clinics in partnership with the Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC) for people coming from Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Central America. Additionally, the Brattleboro office has been working across the region to assure fair and equitable access to COVID test kits, distributing 4,324 individual tests to community members and local partners.

Ensured local preparedness for future emergencies: We worked with partners like schools, hospitals, and emergency personnel to ensure effective pandemic response and support preparedness to distribute medicine, supplies, and information during public health emergencies. This year, we responded to the emergence of human monkeypox virus by sharing information and providing vaccine to community members. As of November 15, 2022, 19 hMPXV vaccine doses have been administered.

Collaborated with Town Health Officers around environmental health: To help Vermonters better understand the relationship between their environment and their health, we collaborated with towns and other local partners. Find information about lead, cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), food safety, drinking water, climate change, healthy homes, healthy schools, and more at www.healthvermont.gov/environment.

Provided WIC services and resources to families and children: Provided WIC nutrition education and support to 907 individuals from July 1, 2021 - June 31, 2022, while enabling them to save on groceries so they can have more to spend on other things their family needs. This includes services to new Vermonters from Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Central America. WIC also empowers families with breastfeeding/chestfeeding support and provides referrals to other health and nutrition services. Learn more at www.healthvermont.gov/wic.

Supported student health and youth empowerment: According to the Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey, only 56% percent of students in Windham County agree or strongly agree that they "believe they matter to people in their community." Regionally, efforts like mentoring and after-school enrichment programs help to ensure youth feel valued and included.

Promoted health in all policies: Health is not just individual behaviors and access to care, it's also housing, transportation, food access, education, natural resources, and other social determinants of health. We worked with towns, schools, worksites, healthcare providers, and other community organizations to establish plans, policies, and programming that improve health and wellness. To achieve health, we must continue to work together to improve opportunities for health across all sectors and periods of our lives.

Learn more about what we do at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/local/Brattleboro>



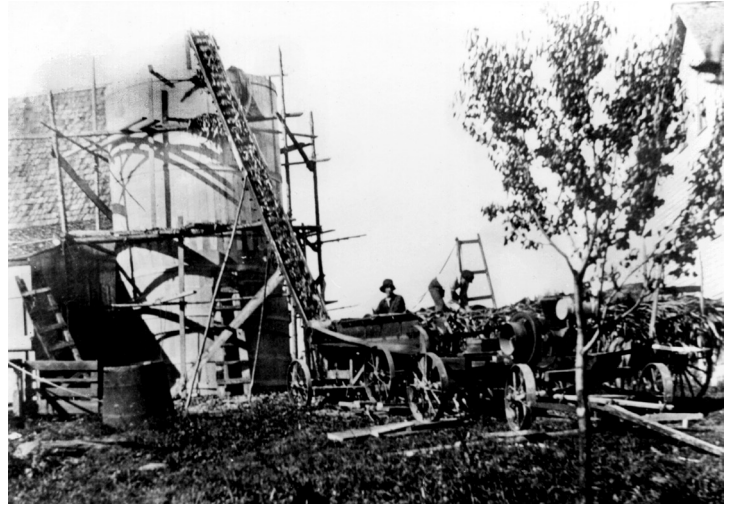
Road Crew ditching by hand in Buckerville



Local handyman cutting firewood for Baptist Church Parsonage



Frank Farnum using his drag saw powered by horses on treadmill at Streeter Farm



Filling the silo - Streeter Farm



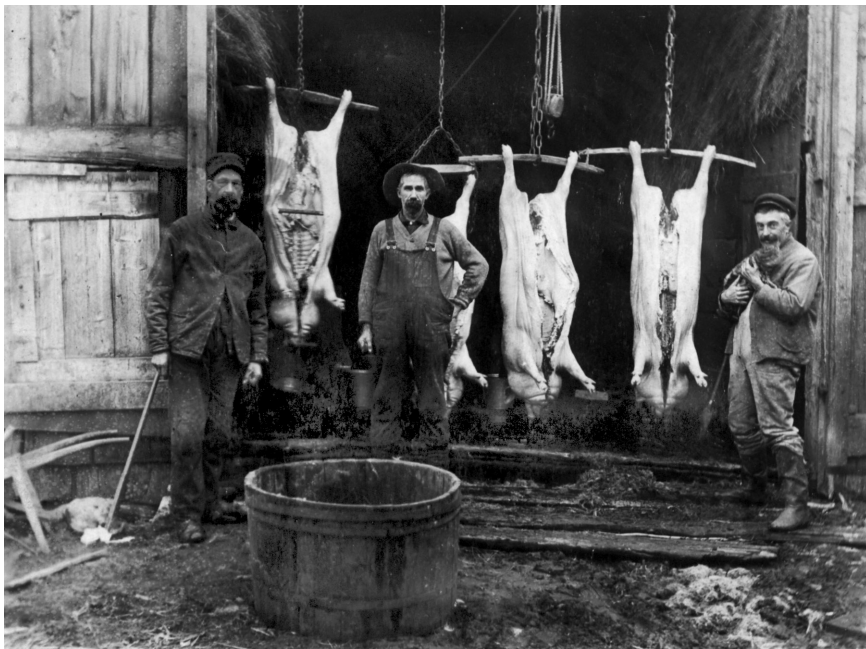
Bert Perry's Mill in Bucketville



Frank Farnum grading the road in West Wardsboro



Archie Underwood on doodelbug



Edward Morse, John Edwards, Herb Wells in the midst of hog butchering



Roy and Beulah Hescock haying at Harold Johnson's - 1953

Town of Wardsboro
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Wardsboro, VT 05355

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