

2024 Annual Report

Groton, Vermont



Artwork painted by Jennie Gaiss

**Report of the Town Officers
for the year ending December 31, 2024**

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Select Board	Larry Daniels	802-461-6070	ldaniels@grotonvt.com
Select Board	Thomas Page	802-535-8683	tpage@grotonvt.com
Select Board Chair	Bobbi Beck		bbeck@grotonvt.com
Select Board Secretary	Harley Oliver	802-522-5007	secretary@grotonvt.com
Town Clerk	Carrie Peters	584-3276	townclerk@grotonvt.com
Town Treasurer	Lisa Hart	584-3131	treasurer@grotonvt.com
Highway Department	Harold Hatch	584-3209	grotonhwy@fairpoint.net
	Phillip Palmer		
Town Constable	Dan Webster	584-4108	danjacs@charter.net
Fire Chief	Aaron Smith	584-3855	grotonfire@fairpoint.net
Asst. Fire Chief			
Forest Fire Warden	Steven Batchelder	802-793-3071	batchelder81@gmail.com
Zoning Administrator	Dan Webster	584-4108	danjacs@charter.net
Health Officer	Dan Webster	584-4108	danjacs@charter.net
Animal Control Officer	Dan Webster	584-4108	danjacs@charter.net
Pound Keeper	Michele Boyer	802-439-5827	
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Carrie Peters	584-3189	cdt@grotonvt.com
Assessor (Interim)	Dorothy Knott	584-3155	assistantassessor@grotonvt.com
Assistant Assessor	Vacant		
Librarian	Sarah Spira	584-3358	grotonlibraryvt@gmail.com
Cemetery Commissioner	Brent Smith	584-3765	breann801@gmail.com
	Steven Batchelder		batchelder81@gmail.com
	Sue Plant		susan.plant@vermont.gov
Tree Warden	Steve Murray	802-535-5643	
Emergency Mngmt. Coordinator	Brent Smith	584-3765	breann801@charter.net
Justice of the Peace	Linda Nunn	584-3881	Dorothy Knott 584-3243
	Tirone Dyer	584-3730	Deborah Jurist 584-3049
	Timothy Dailey, Sr.	584-3876	Carrie Peters 584-3341
	Brent Smith	584-3765	

Town Elected Officers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Term Length</u>
Moderator	Wayne Dyer(appointed)	2025	1 Year
Road Commissioner	Harold Hatch	2027	3 Years
Town Clerk	Carrie Peters	2026	3 Years
Town Treasurer	Lisa Hart	2027	3 Years
Select Board	Tom Page (appointed)	2026	3 Years
	Larry Daniels	2027	3 Years
	Bobbi Beck (appointed)	2025	3 Years
BMU District #21 Director	Allison Ingerson	2025	3 Years
	Sasha Emerson	2027	3 Years
	Megan Foy (appointed)	2026	3 Year
Library Trustee	Dawn Evans	2025	3 Years
	Jennifer Gaiss	2027	3 Years
	Donna Russo-Savage	2027	3 Years
	Wayne Knott	2025	3 Years
	Deborah Jurist	2026	3 Years
Cemetery Commissioner	Brent Smith	2025	3 Years
	Steven Batchelder	2026	3 Years
	Susan Plant	2027	3 Years
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Carrie Peters	2026	3 years
Town Constable	Dan Webster	2025	1 Year

Town Officers Appointed by Select Board

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Length of Term</u>
911 Coordinator	Brent Smith	2025	1 Year
Agent to Convey Real Estate	Deborah Jurist	2025	1 Year
Animal Control Officer	Dan Webster	2026	3 Year
Assistant Assessor	Dorothy Knott	2025	1 Year
Church Clock Winder	Joseph Lorenzo	2025	1 Year
Health Officer	Daniel Webster	2025	1 Year
Emergency Mgmt. Coordinator	Brent Smith	2025	1 Year
FAST Head of Services	Brenda Bruleigh	2025	1 Year
Fence Viewers	Wayne Dyer	2025	1 year
	E. Charles Frost, Jr.	2025	1 Year
	Ken Murray	2025	1 year
Fire Chief	Wayne Knott	2025	1 Year
Forest Fire Warden	Steven Batchelder	2026	5 Year
Green Up Coordinator	Alissa Smith	2025	1 Year

Town Officers Appointed by Select Board, cont.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Length of Term</u>
Inspectors of Wood, Lumber & Shingles	Kenneth Ricker	2025	1 Year
	Robert Dorr	2025	1 Year
IT	Gary Lamberton	2025	1 Year
NEK CUD Representative	Michael Gaiss	2025	1 Year
NEK CUD Alternative	Martin Klein	2025	1 Year
NEK Solid Waste Alternative	Vacant	2025	1 Year
NEK Solid Waste Supervisor	Mike Nahmais	2025	1 Year
NVDA Alternative	Mark Gleicher	2025	1 Year
NVDA Representative	Brent Smith	2025	1 Year
Planning Commission	Michael Nahmais	2027	3 Year
	Steve Hart	2027	3 Year
	Michael Welch	2027	3 Year
	Brent Smith	2027	3 Year
	Emily Pratt	2027	3 Year
	Dawn Evans	2027	3 Year
	Terrence Curran	2027	3 Year
	Lisa Hart	2025	1 Year
	Harley Oliver	2025	1 Year
Town Report	Lisa Hart/Carrie Peters	2025	1 Year
Tree Warden	Steve Murray	2025	1 Year
Zoning Administrator	Daniel J. Webster	2025	1 Year
Zoning Board of Adjustment	Aaron Smith	2025	1 Year
	E. Charles Frost, Jr.	2025	1 Year
	Mark Gleicher	2025	1 Year
Board of Civil Authority is made up of:	Select Board Members	Larry Daniels, Tom Page, Bobbi Beck	
	Justices of the Peace	Linda Nunn	Brent Smith
		Tim Dailey Sr.	Tirone "Toni" Dyer
		Deborah Jurist	Carrie Peters
		Dorothy Knott	
Board of Abatement is made up of:	Town Clerk	Carrie Peters	
	Town Treasurer	Lisa Hart	
	Select Board Members	Larry Daniels, Tom Page, Bobbi Beck	
	Assessors	Dorothy Knott	
	Justices of the Peace	See above	

WARNING
TOWN OF GROTON, VT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025

The Legal Voters of the Town of Groton, are hereby warned and notified to meet in the Groton Community Building on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 10:00 am., to transact the following business from the floor:

ARTICLE 1 To elect the following Town Officers as provided for by the Public Laws of Vermont:

Moderator	One Year Term
Selectboard Member	One Year Term
Selectboard Member	Three Year Term
Cemetery Commissioner	Three Year Term
Constable	One Year Term
Library Trustee	Three Year Term
Library Trustee	Three Year Term
BMU School Board Director	One Year Term
BMU School Board Director	Three Year Term

ARTICLE 2 To hear the reports of the Town Officers.

ARTICLE 3 Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes on or before Friday, November 7th, 2025, by physical or electronic delivery to the tax collector before 5:00 PM est., as the deadline for the payment of taxes? (Postmarks are not accepted as a timely payment)

ARTICLE 4 Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appoint a collector of delinquent taxes pursuant to 17 V.S.A. § 2651d?

ARTICLE 5 Shall the voters authorize the Groton Cemetery Commissioners to use money from the Cemetery Developmental Funds to develop a cremation bank project in the Village Cemetery? (These funds were originally set aside for development of the Riverside Cemetery)


ARTICLE 6 Shall the voters appropriate a total of \$1,500 to the following new social service agencies, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2691?


\$1,000 to the Groton Historical Society for preserving Groton's shared history and making it accessible for research.


\$500 to the Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley for fostering meaningful, long-lasting connections that nurture personal growth, academic success, and community involvement.

WARNING
TOWN OF GROTON, VT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025

- ARTICLE 7** Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to close the Community Building Property Expansion Reserve Fund (\$707.84) and the Constable Durable Equipment Reserve Fund (\$6,698.65) and move the balances into the Town Emergency Reserve Fund?
- ARTICLE 8** Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,292,830 of which \$1,034,080 shall be raised by taxes and \$258,750 by non-tax revenues?
- ARTICLE 9** To discuss any other business proper to come before this meeting, this does not include the expenditure of town funds or other business acted upon in the preceding articles.

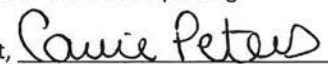

Larry Daniels, Selectboard Chair


Thomas Page, Selectboard


Bobbi Beck, Selectboard

Dated this 20 day of January, 2025
was recorded before posting.

I hereby certify that the foregoing

Attest,  Town Clerk

Annual Town Meeting Minutes
Town of Groton, Vermont
Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Brent Abare, Moderator, made opening remarks announcing that the polls were open for the Presidential Primary from 10am-7pm. He stated that the BMU Global Explorers Club was selling food to raise money for a trip to Ireland and England next January. He listed off the available information on the back tables. Brent thanked Aaron Smith for 6 years of service on the Selectboard as he is not running for reelection. Brent opened it up to anyone wanting to express words of encouragement. Peter Lyon, Deborah Jurist and Lawrence Daniels, Sr. spoke. Brent spoke to the update from Joe Parson's that was also on the back table. Brent went over the Roberts Rules of Order. Zac Conaway led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Brent Abare called the meeting to order at 10:15am. Barbara Zander asked for Town Officials to introduce themselves.

ARTICLE 1 To elect the following Town Officers as provided for by the Public Laws of Vermont:

Moderator- Brent asked for nominations, Peter Lyon nominated Brent Abare, Zac Conaway seconded. There were no other nominations. Clerk cast one ballot for Brent Abare for Moderator for a 1 year term. Sue Gordon moved motion, Dawn Evans seconded.

Selectboard Member-Tim Dailey, Sr. nominated Lawrence Daniels, Jr.,(Larry), Brenda Bruleigh nominated Steven Batchelder. Steven explained he would step down from being a temporary highway employee. Brent Abare asked each to give an introduction of themselves. Larry spoke about his work history, that he is a lifelong resident of Groton. He spoke to being a manager of John Deere and how he would bring those skills to the Town to do what is right for the Town. Deborah Jurist asked if there was anything he was hoping to accomplish, Larry said he has no agenda, he just wants to serve and has the time to do so now. Steven Batchelder spoke about also being a lifelong resident and has no agenda with the Town. Deborah asked if he has a goal. Steven talked about living in town and doing the best he can for everyone. Nominations cease. A paper vote was done with Larry receiving 71 votes, Steven receiving 13 votes and 1 abstention. Larry Daniels was elected as Selectboard member for a 3 year term.

Treasurer- Gary Lamberton nominated Lisa Hart, Sue Plant seconded. There were no other nominations. Clerk cast 1 ballot for Lisa Hart for Treasurer, 3 year term. Sue Plant moved motion, Dan Webster seconded.

Road Commissioner-Dan Webster nominated Harold Hatch, David Emerson seconded. There were no other nominations. Clerk cast 1 ballot for Harold Hatch for Road Commissioner for 3 year term. Sue Gordon moved motion, Dawn Evans seconded.

Cemetery Commissioner-Brent Smith nominated Susan Plant, Steven Batchelder seconded. There were no other nominations. Clerk cast 1 ballot for Sue Plant Cemetery Commissioner for a 3 year term. Sue Gordon moved motion, Chub Bruleigh seconded.

Constable- Mary Grant nominated Mark Puffer, David Emerson seconded. Zac explained this is a position without law enforcement authority. The role is to enforce Town ordinances and help with animal control. Phillip Palmer nominated Deborah Jurist, Deborah respectfully declined. Linda Nunn nominated Dan Webster, Harold Hatch seconded. Mary Grant withdrew her nomination

of Mark Puffer. There were no other nominations. Clerk cast 1 ballot for Dan Webster for Constable for 1 year term. Sue Gordon moved motion, Brenda Bruleigh seconded.

Library Trustee-Deborah Jurist nominated Jennie Gaiss, Zac Conaway seconded. There were no other nominations. Clerk cast 1 ballot for Jennie Gaiss for Library Trustee for a 3 year term. Sue Gordon moved motion, Dawn Evans seconded.

Library Trustee-Dawn Evans nominated Donna Russo-Savage, Deborah Jurist seconded. There were no other nominations. Clerk cast 1 ballot for Donna Russo-Savage for Library Trustee for a 3 year term. Dawn Evans moved, Susan Pelkey Smith seconded.

BMU School Board Director- Mary Grant nominated Sasha Emerson, Dawn Evans seconded. No other nominations. Clerk cast 1 ballot for Sasha Emerson for BMU School Board director for a 3 year term. Sue Gordon moved, Alissa Smith seconded.

ARTICLE 2 To hear the reports of the Town Officers. Lisa Hart made a correction to the budget under appropriations, specifically NEK Council on Aging, figure is \$700, when it should be \$1200. Sue Gordon explained the mission of the NEK Council on Aging. She thanked the community for their support. Sue Gordon moved the article, Phyllis Burke seconded. Mike Gaiss gave an update about the NEK Broadband. Dorothy Knott gave an update about the data quality information that was submitted to the State. Dorothy also stated that pictures will be taken of all properties this summer. Gary Lamberton discussed the VOREC grant and the work to the Railroad bed that will be happening this summer. Brent Smith discussed the cemetery and the new projects happening. The motion was carried by voice vote.

ARTICLE 3 Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes on or before Friday, November 1, 2024, by physical or electronic delivery to the tax collector before 5:00 PM est., as the deadline for the payment of taxes? (Postmarks are not accepted as a timely payment) Sue Gordon moved the article, Dawn Evans seconded. No discussion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

ARTICLE 4 Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,245,208 of which \$958,248 shall be raised by taxes and \$286,960 by non-tax revenues? Sue Plant moved the article, Viola Emerson seconded. With the adjustment to the appropriation above, the article needs to be amended to: Shall the voters authorize total fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$1,245,708 of which \$958,748 shall be raised by taxes and \$286,960 by non-tax revenues? Bill Paton moved the amended article, Stuart Russo-Savage seconded. No discussion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

Brent Abare asked for a recess to support the BMU Global Explorers. Hearing no objections the body took a break at 11:30am for 15 minutes.

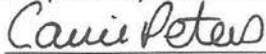
ARTICLE 5 To discuss any other business proper to come before this meeting, this does not include the expenditure of town funds or other business acted upon in the preceding articles. Sue Gordon moved the article, Bill Paton seconded. No discussion. The motion was carried by voice vote.

Shall the voters advise the Selectboard to allow ATV use on the following roads: The Great Rd, Minard Hill Rd up to The Great Rd, Powder Spring Rd to Quarry Rd, Railroad Bed, Annis Rd, and all Class 4 roads? (This is a non-binding, advisory article) 17 VSA 2660(d) Sue Plant motion moved, Barbara Johns seconded. Barb Zander asked a question on the RR bed use, Zac discussed the Town Ordinance on the RR bed. It was also asked why it is written this way listing

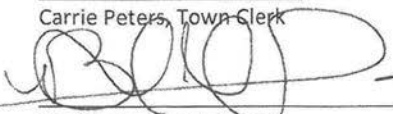
these roads. Aaron explained it has to be written the same way as the petition was written. Viola Emerson spoke for the petition, stating ATV guidelines. Deborah Jurist spoke to the Railroad Bed Ordinance, how it states that it specifically says ATV use is prohibited. Zac further discussed the petition legalities as to how it is an advisory article because the townspeople don't have the legal authority to change this at this meeting. The Selectboard put this petition on as an advisory article to get the town's input. Altoon Sultan-spoke to her thoughts on how dangerous it would be to have ATV use on paved roads in town. Ellen Cady-spoke about living on a Class 4 road and she is the one paying for maintenance to the road and she is against ATV use on the roads. Phyllis Burke-concerns of traffic, pedestrians and narrow in the winter. Dan Webster-roads are wide enough for cars and are wide enough for ATVs. Viola Emerson- stated that ATVs cannot go on State roads. Tristan Vaughan -how can ATVs get to certain roads when you can't get across the State roads? Viola wants to open up use of Railroad bed. Brent Abare said there needs time to work through the details. Sharon York-asked who is going to enforce the rules and take care of issues? Zac said it will be State police, sheriff's department, Vt Fish and Wildlife. Barbara Johns-feels there is revenue for the town. Tristan discussed the damage that can occur. Stuart Russo-Savage-asked what is the need to the town for this? Viola stated it is to get out of Town. Mary Grant-other towns have clubs and foresight to set up systems. Needs to be put on hold and find a benefit to all. Need regulations and a group. Alan Goodine-asked how we will vote on this, it was answered that we will have a nonbinding vote that the SB will take under advisement. Mark Gleicher-turned down in Danville, personally doesn't mind a neighbor going up and down road, if there is a problem he can go talk to person but if the roads are opened up to all, he is wondering how he would talk with them. Bill Paton-safety issue, roads to try to open are mostly north of 302 so would have to truck to another town anyway to get across 302, anyone buying an ATV knows what the current rules are. Dan Robinson-feels it would create an unsafe act of road use, ATV not meant to be the roads should be used off road. Mike Gaiss-There is going to be upgrades from a grant to the Railroad bed and is wondering if there is a group to maintain the trail/roads, to fundraise so no tax payer dollars used. Zac-how snowmobile group is very involved in their trails. Feels a piece is missing from this group to help guide ATV use. Snowmobiles cross roads don't drive down them. Who is going to work with the town on these issues? Martha Montague -lot of responsibility on the selectboard to make this decision right now. Zac explained how the article is nonbinding and is just giving the selectboard guidance. Dan Webster- if there was a group that can address these issues then would selectboard look at it more favorably? Zac explained that there needs to be more work done on this issue. Tom Page-called the question, Dawn Evans seconded. Motion failed by voice vote.


Brent Abare motion to adjourn, Sue Gordon moved, Bill Paton seconded. 12:16pm.

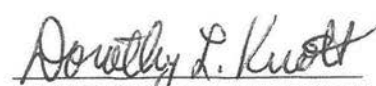
Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Peters, Town Clerk


Moderator, Brent Abare

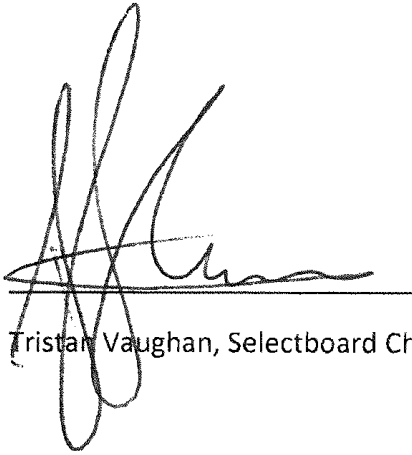

Selectboard Member, Tristan Vaughan


Justice of the Peace, Dorothy Knott

TOWN OF GROTON
WARNING & NOTICE
AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTE
TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024

The Legal Voters of the Town of Groton, are hereby warned and notified to vote at the Groton Community Building, Town Clerk's Office on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, from 10:00 am. to 7:00 p.m., on the following article:

ARTICLE 1 Shall the Town of Groton permit the operation of cannabis retailers licensed by the State of Vermont under Act 164, with such sales also being subject to any town ordinances or regulations that the Town of Groton may lawfully adopt?



Tristan Vaughan, Selectboard Chair



Zachary Conaway, Selectboard



Larry Daniels, Selectboard

Dated the 15 day of MAY, 2024

Filed before posting.

Attest, Carrie Peters, Town Clerk



OFFICIAL RETURN OF VOTES
ELECTIONS DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Election	CANNABIS VOTE (06/18/2024)	Town	GROTON
		District	

1.	Total Registered Voters on checklist for this polling place:	777
2.	Total Number of Voters checked off on the entrance checklist: (this includes absentee ballots)	193
3.	Total number of absentee ballots returned: (Include this count in Line 2)	25

☒ I hereby certify, under the pains and penalties of perjury, that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. By checking this box, no signature is needed and you agree to the terms and conditions under Vermont law.

Carrie Peters

CARRIE PETERS
TOWN CLERK

Lisa Hart

LISA HART
BALLOT CLERK

OFFICIAL RETURN OF VOTES ENTRY

Election	CANNABIS VOTE	Town	GROTON
		District	

Name on Ballot	Party	Town of Residence	Vote Cast
Vote for not more than ONE			
SHALL THE TOWN OF GROTON PERMIT THE OPERATION OF CANNABIS RETAILERS LICENSED BY THE STATE OF VERMONT UNDER ACT 164, WITH SUCH SALES ALSO BEING SUBJECT TO ANY TOWN ORDINANCES OR REGULATIONS THAT THE TOWN OF GROTON MAY LAWFULLY ADOPT?			
YES			113
NO			80
OVERVOTES			0
BLANK VOTES			0
TOTAL VOTES COUNTED			193

Blue Mountain School District #21

The BMU Warning and Ballot were unavailable at time of printing the Town Report. Please go to <https://www.oesu.org/boards/blue-mountain-union-school-district-board> for school information. Or refer to the BMU Annual Report.

2025 Legislative Report

Greetings! I would be remiss if I didn't begin this legislative report by providing thanks for the honor that the 12 towns in the Caledonia District have entrusted me with. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to represent your community in Montpelier.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions or concerns that you might have.

As I write this Vermont's Legislature has been in session for only 7 days, with at least 16 more weeks to go before May's expected adjournment. Please look for legislative updates in local newspapers, online media, social media, and Front Porch Forum.

Voters spoke clearly on November 5th about their concerns related to affordability, housing, energy, and public safety. My focus this session will be on making progress on all of these important topics.

On Jan. 22 the Legislature will receive Governor Scott's public education reform proposal from Secretary Zoie Saunders. It is expected that this proposal will be comprehensive and propose significant changes to how Vermont funds and delivers education, including governance and accountability. Education is a very important and sensitive subject, please stay informed and in contact with your school board.

On January 16th, the Public Utilities Commission delivered its final report on the Clean Heat Standard. Their findings determine that a gallon fee of \$0.58 (starting at \$0.10) on heating fuel is required to meet the goals in the Global Warming Solutions Act. I am not supportive of an additional fee and will instead continue to support the use of Vermont General Fund monies to leverage federal programs and Energy Efficiency Vermont as partners in reducing Vermont's carbon footprint.

I continue to support housing initiatives focused on reducing the cost of housing for all Vermonters through public infrastructure investment, relaxing permitting and regulations, providing certainty to developers, and encouraging mass building and housing density.

Our judicial system and communities continue to struggle with drug crime and violence and repeat offenders. In 2024 Vermont passed legislation aimed at removing repeat offenders from our communities and reducing the backlog in our court system. These are starting to work, but we need to do more this year.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve! Be Well!

Senator Scott Beck

Caledonia District

Barnet, Danville, Groton, Hardwick, Newbury (Orange County), Peacham, Ryegate, Stannard, St. Johnsbury, Walden, Waterford, Wheelock

sbeck@leg.state.vt.us

2025 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2024 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2024	Actual FY - 2024	Budget FY - 2025	Notes
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES				
SELECTBOARD				
Selectboard & Secretary Wages & Payroll Taxes	7,796	7,771.73	7,775	
Selectboard Assistant Stipend	1,200	1,200.00	1,200	
Advertising, Postage, Supplies, Training & Mileage	835	457.79	835	
1. SELECTBOARD TOTAL	9,831	9,429.52	9,810	
TOWN CLERK & TREASURER				
Clerk	44,240	44,791.97	45,780	
Treasurer	51,400	52,499.58	53,165	
Assistant Treasurer	7,160	7,161.84	7,385	
Unused Vacation	600	600.00	600	
Payroll Taxes & Retirement	13,720	13,905.49	14,400	
Health Insurance	63,940	62,687.05	72,720	
Training & Mileage	600	914.60	750	
2. CLERK & TREASURER TOTAL	181,660	182,560.53	194,800	
OFFICE EXPENSES - CLERK & TREAS				
Dues, Postage & Supplies	4,900	4,953.23	5,100	
Telephone/Internet	2,400	2,660.47	2,600	
Land Records Online	1,920	1,760.00	1,920	
NEMRC Disaster Recovery&Support,	3,355	3,306.50	3,380	
3. OFFICE EXPENSES	12,575	12,680.20	13,000	
DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION				
Del Tax Collector Wages	10,000	11,498.14	10,000	Wages off set by Delinquent Tax Penalty
Payroll Taxes/Retirement	1,324	1,502.77	1,324	Revenue (wages paid by penalty portion
Postage,Supplies,Telephone & Advertising	900	842.98	900	of delinquent tax payments)
NEMRC Disaster Recovery	705	705.00	705	
Training & Mileage	30	40.00	30	
4. DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTION TOTAL	12,959	14,588.89	12,959	
TOWN REPORT				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	673	677.40	680	
Postage & Supplies	500	420.54	500	
Printing & Reproduction	1,700	1,725.32	1,700	
5. TOWN REPORT TOTAL	2,873	2,823.26	2,880	
ELECTIONS				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	3,059	3,497.49	846	
Postage, Supplies & Advertising	975	734.44	675	
Training & Mileage	125	100.00	75	
6. ELECTIONS TOTAL	4,159	4,331.93	1,596	
ASSESSORS				
Wages, NEMRC & Payroll Taxes	46,310	43,657.79	50,850	
Dues, Postage & Supplies	950	1,749.81	1,650	
Telephone/Internet	1,800	1,860.59	1,800	
Training & Mileage	600	505.85	700	
NEMRC, Cards, Disaster Recov & GIS Mapping	10,174	8,539.12	10,975	
7. ASSESSORS TOTAL	59,834	56,313.16	65,975	

2025 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2024 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2024	Actual FY - 2024	Budget FY - 2025	Notes
TOWN GENERAL EXPENSES				
VLCT Pacif, Worker's Comp, Unemp Ins	9,180	9,180.00	8,040	
8. INSURANCE TOTAL	9,180	9,180.00	8,040	
Professional Audit/Services	400	0.00	400	
Attorney Fees	1,000	0.00	1,000	
IT Services & Tech Equipment	6,618	5,009.23	2,620	
9. IT, TECH, LEGAL & PROF. SERV. TOTAL	8,018	5,009.23	4,020	
NVDA Dues	836	836.00	935	
VLCT Dues	2,400	2,468.00	2,523	
Money Order Fee,Wire Fee & Interest Expense	200	2,606.93	4,240	
10. DUES, FEES & INTEREST TOTAL	3,436	5,910.93	7,698	
Caledonia County Tax	12,000	17,377.00	15,000	
11. COUNTY TAX TOTAL	12,000	17,377.00	15,000	
TOWN GENERAL EXPENSES TOTAL	32,634	37,477.16	34,758	
1-11 ADMINISTRATION TOTAL	316,525	320,204.65	335,778	
12. PLANNING COMMISSION				
Stipend & Payroll Taxes	539	540.45	810	
Postage, Printing & Reproduction	220	156.40	1,020	
Training & Mileage	50	0.00	50	
PLANNING COMMISSION TOTAL	809	696.85	1,880	
13. ZONING				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	2,589	2,285.34	2,589	
Postage & Supplies	55	41.44	55	
Training & Mileage	200	78.00	200	
ZONING TOTAL	2,844	2,404.78	2,844	
12. & 13 PLANNING AND ZONING TOTAL	3,653	3,101.63	4,724	
PUBLIC WORKS				
14. TOWN CLOCK TOTAL	678	678.32	678	
Ryegate/Groton Recycling	11,500	12,827.17	12,500	
NEKWMD-Assessment	1,142	1,141.44	1,142	
Green Up Day	300	510.00	500	
15. SOLID WASTE TOTAL	12,942	14,478.61	14,142	
16. STREETLIGHTS TOTAL	8,700	9,594.53	9,500	
COMMUNITY BUILDING				
Building Repairs & Maintenance	4,500	2,190.52	3,500	
Rubbish Removal & Supplies	2,500	2,590.30	2,500	
Electricity & Fuel Oil	12,900	10,546.38	10,900	
17. COMMUNITY BUILDING TOTAL	19,900	15,327.20	16,900	
TOWN PROPERTY MAINTENANCE				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	4,315	1,794.79	3,237	
Cleaning	8,000	7,904.00	6,000	
Mowing	5,500	5,050.00	6,500	
Beautification	3,000	2,812.22	3,000	
Park Electricity	650	683.09	650	
Knotweed Removal	3,000	3,000.00	3,000	
Property Upkeep	8,000	597.36	7,000	
Supplies & Mileage	325	500.99	325	
18. TOWN PROPERTY MAINTENANCE TOTAL	32,790	22,342.45	29,712	

2025 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2024 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2024	Actual FY - 2024	Budget FY - 2025	Notes
19. TREE WARDEN TOTAL	324	324.27	324	
Zoom Fees	0	15.99	0	
Town Website	915	915.00	1,220	
Abatement	0	401.41	0	
Miscellaneous Expenses	0	1,093.48	0	
20. MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES TOTAL	915	2,425.88	1,220	
14-20 PUBLIC WORKS TOTAL	76,249	65,171.26	72,476	
COMMITTEES				
Recreation Committee	1,875	1,308.62	1,675	
COMMITTEES TOTAL	1,875	1,308.62	1,675	
PUBLIC SAFETY				
21. ANIMAL CONTROL TOTAL	902	386.75	0	Moved to Town Constable
22. HEALTH OFFICER TOTAL	1,994	1,406.39	1,994	
23. EMER SERVS INSURANCE TOTAL	9,454	9,398.00	8,862	
EMER SERVS GENERAL EXPENSES				
Ambulance Contract	52,536	52,536.00	56,304	
Repairs-ES Building	1,250	757.37	1,300	
Rubbish Removal, Adv. & Supplies	1,100	1,583.53	1,350	
Telephone/Internet	1,300	1,134.00	1,300	
Electricity, Fuel Oil, Propane	5,500	4,084.80	4,500	
Dispatch Fees	3,000	2,203.75	2,400	
24. EMER SERVS GENERAL EXP TOTAL	64,686	62,299.45	67,154	
FAST				
Wages, Stipend & Payroll Taxes	15,318	16,396.20	15,320	
Supplies	4,500	3,919.35	4,500	
Training & Mileage	6,000	2,165.16	6,000	
25. FAST EXPENSES TOTAL	25,818	22,480.71	25,820	
FIRE DEPT				
Wages, Stipend & Taxes	10,787	6,603.86	9,710	
Dues	2,500	1,458.00	2,500	
Gasoline & Diesel	3,150	1,382.50	2,100	
Tanker Loan Payment	20,321	20,320.59	-	
Repairs & Maintenance	10,000	11,411.17	12,000	
Supplies	3,000	3,299.00	3,000	
Training & Mileage	5,200	5,453.84	5,750	
26. FIRE DEPT EXPENSES TOTAL	54,958	49,928.96	35,060	
27. FOREST FIRE EXPENSES TOTAL	1,208	475.17	5,030	
Town Constable Wages & Payroll	3,236	1,828.53	3,880	
Supplies	200	0.00	500	
Poundkeeper	0	0.00	300	
VLCT Pacif, Worker's Comp	670	670.00	1,627	
Sheriff's Contract	10,000	6,424.50	10,000	
28. LAW ENFORCEMENT TOTAL	14,106	8,923.03	16,307	
21-28 PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL	173,126	155,298.46	160,227	

2025 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2024 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2024	Actual FY - 2024	Budget FY - 2025	Notes
CEMETERY				
Contracted Work, Riverside Cemetery	1,600	2,682.50	3,000	
Mowing	12,500	11,653.85	12,500	
Dues & Supplies	700	1,023.15	1,300	
CEMETERY EXPENSES TOTAL	14,800	15,359.50	16,800	
LIBRARY				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	38,480	36,295.03	50,100	
VLCT PACIF-Insurance	1,357	1,357.00	1,661	
Building Rent	18,000	18,000.00	18,000	
Cleaning	0	0.00	2,000	
Books & Digital	4,500	4,567.93	4,950	
Supplies	2,000	2,006.55	2,200	
Telephone/Internet	1,800	1,785.58	1,800	
Software/Support, Legal Fees & Misc.	1,400	1,512.65	1,880	
LIBRARY EXPENSES TOTAL	67,537	65,524.74	82,591	
AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS				
Caledonia Home Health	1,350	1,350.00	1,350	
NEK Learning Services	200	200.00	200	
NEK Human Services	920	920.00	920	
NEK Youth Services	200	200.00	200	
NEK Council on Aging	1,200	1,200.00	1,200	
Rural Community Transportation	800	800.00	800	
Little Rivers Health Care	2,000	2,000.00	2,000	
Community Restorative Justice	250	250.00	250	
Green Up Vermont	100	100.00	100	
Umbrella	650	650.00	650	
VT Family Network	250	250.00	250	
AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS TOTAL	7,920	7,920.00	7,920	
RESERVE FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS				
Computer & Office Equip Fund	2,000	2,000.00	2,000	
Comm Bldg Improvement Fund	0	0.00	0	
Emer Servs Bldg Improvement Fund	5,000	5,000.00	5,000	
Emer Servs Vehicles Fund	24,000	24,000.00	40,000	
Emer Servs Durable Equip Fund	20,000	20,000.00	20,000	
Constable Durable Equip Fund	0	0.00	0	
Reappraisal & Tax Maps Fund	5,000	5,000.00	5,000	
Recreation Fund	0	0.00	0	
Professional Services Fund	24,000	24,000.00	20,000	
Town Emergency Fund	5,000	5,000.00	0	
CB Property Expansion	0	0.00	0	
RESERVE FUNDS APPROPRIATIONS TOTAL	85,000	85,000.00	92,000	
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$ 746,685	\$ 718,888.86	\$ 774,191	

2025 PROPOSED Town & Highway Budget & 2024 Budget vs Actual	Budget FY - 2024	Actual FY - 2024	Budget FY - 2025	Notes
HIGHWAY FUND EXPENSES				
HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES				
HWY LABOR				
Road Commissioner Wages	61,200	59,590.21	63,050	
Equipment Operator Wages	54,080	55,250.00	55,980	
Overtime Wages & Unused Vacation	9,600	11,491.58	9,600	
Temporary Help Wages	3,500	1,701.00	3,500	
Health Insurance	36,000	31,766.57	40,800	
Retirement & Payroll Expenses	16,824	16,897.91	17,685	
HWY LABOR TOTAL	181,204	176,697.27	190,615	
HWY PACIF, WC INSURANCE TOTAL	18,885	18,635.00	20,660	
HWY CONTRACTED WORK				
Roadside Mowing	8,500	4,900.00	8,500	
HWY CONTRACTED WORK TOTAL	8,500	4,900.00	8,500	
HWY INFRASTRUCTURE				
Culverts	4,500	4,498.92	4,500	
Signs	500	396.57	500	
HWY INFRASTRUCTURE TOTAL	5,000	4,895.49	5,000	
HWY MATERIALS				
Sand	18,000	15,993.50	18,000	
Salt	12,000	10,792.20	12,000	
Chloride	12,000	10,090.18	12,000	
Gravel	30,000	17,183.50	30,000	
HWY MATERIALS TOTAL	72,000	54,059.38	72,000	
HWY OPERATING EXPENSES				
Gasoline & Diesel	28,200	27,108.69	29,200	
Rental Equipment	0	0.00	0	
Seeder & Material	1,500	1,375.50	2,000	
Supplies	1,000	376.97	1,000	
Uniforms	3,500	3,629.27	3,500	
Training	150	40.00	150	
Radios & Pagers	500	543.95	700	
HWY OPERATING EXP TOTAL	34,850	33,074.38	36,550	
EQUIPMENT REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE TOTAL	25,000	27,727.14	30,000	
HWY GARAGE REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE TOTAL	9,550	7,234.29	9,050	
SIDEWALK/TOWN PROPERTY MAINTENANCE				
Wages & Payroll Taxes	5,484	4,377.47	5,394	
Gasoline	0	77.00	0	
Propane	800	953.13	950	
Bldg-Tractor Garage	100	0.00	100	
Repairs-Tractor (2004 John Deere)	400	32.58	400	
SIDEWALK/TOWN PROPERTY TOTAL	6,784	5,440.18	6,844	
HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES TOTAL	361,773	332,663.13	379,219	
HWY RESERVE APPROPRIATION				
Hwy Equipment Reserve	72,250	72,250.00	74,420	
Hwy Infrastructure Reserve	10,000	10,000.00	10,000	
Hwy Paving Reserve	50,000	50,000.00	50,000	
Hwy Building Reserve	5000	5000.00	5000	
HWY RESERVE APPROPRIATION TOTAL	137,250	137,250.00	139,420	
HIGHWAY BUDGET TOTAL	499,023	469,913.13	518,639	
GENERAL FUND AND HIGHWAY BUDGET TOTALS	1,245,708	1,188,801.99	\$ 1,292,830	

2024 Actual Revenues & 2025 Estimated Revenues				
	2024 Estimated Revenues	2024 Actual Revenues	2025 Estimated Revenues	
TOWN REVENUES				
TAX REVENUES (no education taxes)				
Current Taxes	521,225.00	343,189.62	577,441.00	
DELINQUENT TAX REVENUES				
Delinquent Tax Principal	0.00	152,676.33	0.00	
Delinquent Tax Interest	9,000.00	9,519.23	9,000.00	
Delinquent Tax Penalty Revenue	10,000.00	11,524.57	10,000.00	
TOTAL TOWN TAX REVENUES	540,225.00	516,909.75	596,441.00	
STATE OF VERMONT REVENUES				
Current Use/Hold Harmless	48,000.00	58,276.00	50,000.00	
PILOT(Payment in lieu of taxes)	97,000.00	105,695.08	101,000.00	
TOTAL STATE OF VERMONT REVENUES	145,000.00	163,971.08	151,000.00	
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES				
Interest Earned	1,000.00	2,021.26	1,000.00	
Misc Revenue	0.00	1,130.82	0.00	
Workers Comp Insurance Refund	1,500.00	2,123.00	1,000.00	
TOTAL MISC REVENUES	2,500.00	5,275.08	2,000.00	
TOWN CLERK REVENUES				
Recordings, Vault Revenue	6,000.00	11,210.00	7,000.00	
Marriage & Dog Licenses	1,900.00	2,132.00	1,900.00	
Liquor/Tobacco/Cannabis Licenses	70.00	170.00	170.00	
Copies & Faxes Revenue	800.00	1,541.00	800.00	
Cott System Online Revenue	0.00	298.00	0.00	
Motor Vehicle Renewals	0.00	12.00	0.00	
TOTAL TOWN CLERK REVENUE	8,770.00	15,363.00	9,870.00	
ASSESSOR REVENUE	790.00	805.00	780.00	
ZONING REVENUE	800.00	990.00	800.00	
COMMUNITY BLDG USE REVENUE	2,100.00	4,475.00	2,100.00	
FAST REVENUE (from Town of Ryegate)	10,000.00	12,858.80	10,000.00	
SHERIFF TICKET REVENUE	1,000.00	2,619.00	1,200.00	
TOTAL TOWN REVENUES (Not including tax revenue)	189,960.00	227,400.76	196,750.00	
Proposed 2025 Town Budget			774,191.00	
Use of Fund Balance			0.00	
2025 Anticipated Revenues			196,750.00	
Difference to be raised by 2025 TOWN Taxes			577,441.00	
HIGHWAY REVENUES				
Hwy Current Tax Revenue	437,023.00	437,023.00	456,639.00	
State Hwy Aid	32,000.00	73,709.46	32,000.00	
TOTAL HIGHWAY REVENUES(Not including tax revenue)	32,000.00	73,709.46	32,000.00	
Proposed 2025 Highway Budget			518,639.00	
Use of HWY Fund Balance			30,000.00	
2025 Anticipated HWY Revenues			32,000.00	
Difference to be raised by 2025 HWY Taxes			456,639.00	
TOTAL Estimated Tax Revenue needed for 2025			1,034,080.00	

2024 - RESERVE FUND ACTIVITY & BALANCES			
Reappraisal Fund		Emergency Service Durable Equipment Fund	
Bank balance on 12/31/23	64,632.82	Bank balance 12/31/23	50,845.45
Revenues:		Revenues:	
Interest received	300.82	Interest received	255.24
2024 Budget appropriation	5,000.00	2024 Budget appropriation	20,000.00
Disbursements:		Disbursements:	
Tablet & Nemrc set up for Pictures	1,955.99	Equipment	17,515.07
Bank balance on 12/31/24	67,977.65	Bank balance 12/31/24	53,555.62
Community Building Improvement Fund		Constable Durable Equipment Fund	
Bank balance on 12/31/2023	93,973.65	Bank balance on 12/31/2023	6,972.28
Revenues:		Interest received	31.37
Interest received	428.78	Disbursements:	
Eclipse t-shirt	390.82	Traffic Logix-Speed Sign Repair	\$305.00
Disbursements:		Bank balance on 12/31/2024	6,698.65
Electrical & improvements	4260.64		
Bank balance on 12/31/2024	90,532.61	Highway Equipment Fund	
		Bank balance on 12/31/23	173,025.48
Emergency Service Building Improvement Fund		Revenues:	
Bank balance on 12/31/2023	54,258.11	Interest received	822.89
Revenues:		2024 Budget appropriation & sold metal	72,684.40
Interest received	214.01	Grant \$	79,396.80
2024 Budget appropriation	5,000.00	Disbursements:	
Disbursements:		borrowed from infrastructure (Mathews Excavating)	178,325.90
Fire Department Roof	44,999.92	Hwy expenses-parts	19,927.65
Bank balance on 12/31/2024	14,472.20	Bank balance on 12/31/24	127,676.04
Emergency Service Vehicle Fund		Highway Paving Fund	
Bank balance on 12/31/2023	140,931.68	Bank balance on 12/31/23	87,271.99
Revenues:		Revenues:	
Interest received	673.80	Interest received	422.07
2024 Budget appropriation	24,000.00	2024 Budget appropriation	50,000.00
Disbursements:		Disbursements:	
Equipment	3615.12	BlakTop Paving	90,662.75
Bank balance on 12/31/2024	161,990.36	Bank balance on 12/31/24	47,031.31
Restoration Fund		Highway Infrastructure Fund	
Bank balance on 12/31/23	29,273.53	Bank balance on 12/31/23	102,464.10
Revenues:		Revenues:	
Interest received	128.12	Interest received	451.21
Funds received from Recordings	3,930.00	2024 Budget appropriation	10,000.00
Disbursements:		Disbursements:	
Copier & Record Books	2,346.17	Partial payment (Mathews Excavating)	79,396.80
Bank balance on 12/31/24	30,985.48	Bank balance on 12/31/24	33,518.51
Recreation Committee Fund		Community Building Property Expansion Fund	
Bank balance on 12/31/23	14,284.61	Bank Balance 12/31/23	5,577.91
Interest received	66.19	Interest Received	12.83
Bank balance on 12/31/2024	14,350.80	Disbursements:	
		Drainage Project Expenses	5,152.90
Town Emergency Fund		Bank Balance 12/31/24	707.84
Bank balance on 12/31/23	20,826.08		
Interest Received	102.27	Computer Equipment	
2024 Budget appropriation	5,000.00	Bank Balance 12/31/23	2002.03
Disbursements:		Interest received	11.58
Bank balance on 12/31/2024	25,928.35	2024 Budget appropriation	2000
		Bank Balance 12/31/2024	4,013.61
Professional Services Fund			
Bank balance on 12/31/23	990.03	Sidewalk Fund	
Revenues:		Bank balance on 12/31/23	2,500.54
Interest received	21.37	Interest received	11.59
2024 Budget appropriation	24,000.00	Bank balance on 12/31/23	2,512.13
Disbursements:		Highway Building Repairs Fund	
Town 2023 Audit- Sullivan & Powers	21,500.00	Bank Balance 12/31/23	5005.07
Bank balance on 12/31/24	3511.40	2024 Budget appropriation	5,000.00
		Interest received	28.96
		Bank Balance 12/31/24	10,034.03
		Total of all Reserve Bank balances	695,495.56

Reserve Fund Articles as voted by year with description of purpose and balance as of December 31, 2024

Reappraisal & Tax Mapping Fund

March 4, 2003, Article 7: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Tax Mapping and Reappraisal Fund in the amount of \$25,000.00?

The Tax Mapping and Reappraisal Fund was established on March 4, 2003 in the amount of \$25,000.00 for the purpose of building up a Reserve Fund to pay for future appraisals and updates of the property values listed in the Grand list and update the tax maps on a yearly maintenance schedule of the Town of Groton. **Balance \$67,977.65**

Community Building Improvement Fund

March 1, 2005, Article 8: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Community Building Improvement Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00? (24 V.S.A. §2804)

The Community Building Improvement Fund was established for the purpose of building up a reserve fund to finance future upgrades and improvements to the Community Building. The monies for this fund are to be used only for the improvement and upgrade of the Community Building. **Balance \$90,531.61**

Emergency Services Building Improvement Fund

March 1, 2005, Article 9: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Emergency Services Building Improvement Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00? (24 V.S.A. §2804)

The Emergency Services Building Improvement Fund is to be used for improvements to the Groton Fire Station.

Including but not limited to: Heating plant, Electrical, insulation, Painting, Door Replacement, Generator installation, internal plumbing and other improvements as voted by the Fire Department. The Fire Department presents their recommendations to the Selectboard for final approval.

Balance \$14,472.20

Emergency Services Vehicles Fund

March 1, 2005, Article 10: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Emergency Services Vehicles Fund in the amount of \$10,000.00? (24 V.S.A. §2804)

The Emergency Services Vehicles Fund shall be used for the replacement of Vehicles to include, Rescue Vehicle/Ambulance, Engine, Forest Fire Vehicle other vehicle as voted by the Fire Department. The Fire Department presents their recommendations to the Selectboard for final approval.

Balance \$161,990.36

Restoration and Preservation Reserve Fund

March 7, 2006 (1st Warned as ARTICLE 7): Shall the Town of Groton establish a reserve fund for the restoration and preservation of the Land and Vital records to be funded by the \$1.00 per page recording fee? (Up graded in 2010 see below)

March 2, 2010 (2nd Article on Warning): ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Groton approve any increase of the annual amount reserved for the restoration and preservation of the Land and Vital records to be based upon the recording fee paid per page as determined by the Vermont Legislature?

The voters of the Town of Groton established a Municipal Records Reserve Fund for the restoration and preservation of "town records" in accordance with VSA Title 24, Section 2804 including, but not limited to, land records, vital records and, proper vault storage of town records. This fund is not to be used for anything other than the restoration, preservation, conservation and computerization of records, to be funded by revenue of not less than \$3.00 per page.

Section 1671 (a) (1) and (6) of this section and this reserve fund shall be retroactive to July 1, 2009. The exact amount shall be determined by the local legislative body.

Shall the Town of Groton approve any increase of the annual amount reserved for the restoration and preservation of the Land and Vital Records to be based upon the recording fee paid per page as determined by the Vermont Legislature? **Balance \$30,985.48**

Recreation Reserve Fund

March 7, 2010: ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Groton authorize the Selectboard to appoint a Recreational Committee and establish a reserve fund of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to be used by the Recreational Committee for any projects and/or activities?

The recreation reserve fund was established and covered large, extraordinary expenses. And will cover short falls in committee events when donations for such events lag. **Balance \$14,350.80**

Town Emergency Reserve Fund

March 4, 2014: ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Groton authorize the creation of an Emergency Reserve Fund for the purpose of unforeseen Emergencies?

Town of Groton Emergency Reserve Fund is created for the sole purpose of providing financial stability to the Town in the case of a severe emergency. Money is to be set aside to support serious issues only with a goal to maintain the fund at 10% of the total budget. When looking for examples of where the application of the money would likely be required, the instance of Tropical Storm Irene applies where the Welton Road Bridge was seriously damaged.

Balance \$25,928.35

Sidewalk Fund

March 3, 2015: ARTICLE 9: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve account to be called “Sidewalk Fund” for the construction and maintenance of sidewalks in the amount of \$15,000.00?

Balance \$ 2,512.13

Professional Services Fund

March 1 2016: ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Groton approve the establishment of reserve account to be called “Professional Services Fund” for the purpose of audit consulting services and to fund the reserve fund with \$4,533.00.

Balance \$3511.40

Emergency Service Durable Equipment Fund

March 5, 2019: ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town establish a Reserve Fund to be called the Emergency Services Durable Equipment Fund to be used for the purchase and replacement of durable Fire Department and FAST equipment in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §2804?

March 5, 2019: ARTICLE 7: What sum of money, shall the Town approve to raise and appropriate to fund the establishment of the Emergency Services Durable Equipment Reserve Fund? “Not to exceed \$18,000.00”

Balance \$ 53,555.62

Constable Durable Equipment Fund

March 3, 2020: ARTICLE 10: Shall the Town of Groton establish a reserve fund to be called the Constable Durable Equipment Reserve Fund to be used for the purchase and replacement of durable equipment associated with the performance of Constable Duties in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 2804?

And appropriate \$4,950.00 to fund this Reserve account?

Balance \$ 6698.65

Highway Equipment Reserve Fund

March 7, 1999: ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters of the Town of Groton approve the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Highway Equipment Fund with the funds from the highway budget, in the amount of \$15,000.00 As budgeted this year, to be used for capital expenses within that department? (24 V.S.A. Sec. 2804)

This fund is to be used for replacement of Highway Department Equipment and unforeseen major capital repairs that could arise. The Highway Department will maintain a replacement schedule and update it annually. At the present time the trucks and grader will be replaced with new, and the loader, backhoe and chipper will be replaced with used.

Funding of this fund is a line item in the highway budget that is increased three percent annually. Other funds would come from the sale of surplus equipment and settlements from insurance claims.

The goal of having this fund is to maintain reliable equipment that will allow the Highway Department to provide a reasonable level of service to the needs of the highways infrastructure while maintaining a stable annual cost. **Balance \$127,676.04**

Highway Paving Reserve Fund

March 4, 2007: ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town of Groton establish a Paving Reserve Fund in the amount of \$40,306.00 of unspent 2007 Highway fund?

This fund is to be used for paving Class 2 and Class 3 projects that follows the parameters of the VTRANS Town Highway Class 2 Roadway Program.

Projects shall include detailed work for the preservation of any Class 2 town highway for resurfacing and reconstruction based on identified needs. Eligible activities include preliminary engineering, construction, and construction inspection/management.

The goal of having this fund is to maintain Class 2 and Class 3 paved highways while maintaining a stable annual cost. **Balance \$47,031.31**

Highway Infrastructures Reserve Fund

March 6, 2012: ARTICLE 7: Shall the Town establish a reserve fund for bridges, culverts and highway infrastructures to initially be funded by a \$2000.00 addition to the 2012 Highway Budget?

This fund is to be used for large highway projects that it would not be feasible to fund in a single year and projects that could take several years to plan and complete.

This fund could also be used to leverage highway grant funds that may become available for smaller projects that maybe unforeseen when setting budgets.

Funding of this fund will be for the annual line item in the highway budget. Additional funding will come from grant funds when in kind work exceeds the actual matching cost of a grant. An example would be in kind work (equipment time and labor) performed by the Highway Department that was reimbursable expenses.

The Highway Department will continue to maintain and update the bridge and culvert inventory at <http://vtculverts.org/> and use the data to aid in replacement schedule. Large structures over 20 feet span are inspected by VTRANS every two years and reported to the Select Board.

The goal of having this fund is to maintain Highway Bridges, Culverts & Infrastructures while maintaining a stable annual cost. **Balance \$33,518.51**

Community Building Property Expansion Fund

March 2, 2021: Article 5: Shall the Town establish a reserve fund to be called the Community Building Property Expansion Reserve Fund for the purpose of designing and implementing a new septic system, addressing the drainage issues, memory wall etc., and to fund it by depositing \$40,000 from the general Fund Surplus? **Balance \$707.84**

Computer Equipment Reserve Fund

March 7 2023: Article 4: Shall the Town establish a reserve fund to be called “Computer Equipment Reserve Fund”, to be used for purchasing and updating the Town’s computer equipment, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 2804? **Balance \$4,013.61**

Highway Building Repairs Reserve Fund

March 7 2023: Article 6: Shall the Town establish a reserve fund to be called the Highway Building Repairs Reserve Fund” to be used for the general upkeep and repairs of the town highway garage, in accordance with 24 V.S.A. 2804? **Balance \$10,034.03**

2024 Grant Activity

Revenues

Powder Spring Culvert Grant	\$	-	Will receive in 2025
Summer Performer Grant	\$	300.00	
Vt Humanities Council	\$	2,000.00	
VOREC Grant	\$	36,763.39	*\$225,000 total to receive
FEMA 2023-Seyon Pond Road	\$	7,189.62	
FEMA 2024	\$	-	
Tree Grant	\$	4,000.00	
Knotweed Grant	\$	4,800.00	
Election Grant	\$	5,000.00	

TOTAL REVENUES	\$	60,053.01
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Expenses

Powder Spring Culvert Grant	\$	184,741.82
Library Summer Performer	\$	300.00
Vt Humanities Council	\$	1,495.41
VOREC	\$	66,720.78
Lister Grant	\$	106.86
Tree Grant	\$	4,319.74
Knotweed Grant	\$	1,150.00
Election Grant	\$	4,888.71

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	263,723.32
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Pending Grants for Groton

Municipal Energy Resilience Program	\$	397,303.24
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*Energy efficiency upgrades to the Town Buildings

Leahy/USDA Grant	\$	200,000.00
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* Combining with ARPA for drainage project

*Fix drainage and parking lot area around Community Building

ARPA Activity

Balance 12/31/2023	\$	251,451.43
Interest Earned	\$	2,079.73
Drainage project expenses	\$	(126,721.09)
Balance 12/31/2024	\$	126,810.08
FEMA-2024 Expenses	\$	196,450.88

TOWN OF GROTON
BALANCE SHEET BY FUND-2024

ASSET	General	ARPA	Highway	Cemetery Restricted	Library Restricted	Reserve Funds Restricted	Grant Fund	Food Shelf Restricted	Total
CASH ACCOUNTS									
CB-General Fund	71,108.16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71,108.16
CB-ARPA Funds	-	126,810.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	126,810.08
CB-Customer ACH Deposits	0.51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.51
CB-HRA acct	828.45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	828.45
Petty Cash	56.38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	56.38
CB-Perpetual Care CD	-	-	-	95,252.85	-	-	-	-	95,252.85
CB-Perpetual Care	-	-	-	1,507.55	-	-	-	-	1,507.55
CB-H.Hosmer Trust	-	-	-	3,301.93	-	-	-	-	3,301.93
WRSB-Development Funds	-	-	-	15,735.07	-	-	-	-	15,735.07
CB-Cemetery Lot Fund	-	-	-	8,485.01	-	-	-	-	8,485.01
WRSB MJ Ricker Hall Trust	-	-	-	1,065.92	-	-	-	-	1,065.92
TD Roosevelt Carter Trust	-	-	-	5,257.35	-	-	-	-	5,257.35
Library Funds	-	-	-	-	27,004.00	-	-	-	27,004.00
Library Endowment Fund	-	-	-	-	5,630.45	-	-	-	5,630.45
Library Capital Improvement	-	-	-	-	12,708.75	-	-	-	12,708.75
Library ACH Account	-	-	-	-	9.00	-	-	-	9.00
Library I-Bond 2022	-	-	-	-	11,220.00	-	-	-	11,220.00
Library I-Bond 2023	-	-	-	-	10,768.00	-	-	-	10,768.00
Library Endowment CD	-	-	-	-	41,524.70	-	-	-	41,524.70
Library American Fund Stock	-	-	-	-	24,891.79	-	-	-	24,891.79
Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-	-	695,495.59	-	-	695,495.59
General Fund CD Reserve	208,254.66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	208,254.66
Grant Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00
Food Shelf	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,287.23	9,287.23
Total CASH ACCOUNTS	280,248.16	126,810.08	0	130,605.68	133,756.69	695,495.59	0	9,287.23	1,376,203.43
Due To/From Acct	116,648.56	\$ (1,000.00)	113,524.75	(1,138.38)	(4,792.97)	(9,173.26)	(212,998.27)	(1,070.43)	(0.00)
TOTAL ASSETS	396,896.72	125,810.08	113,524.75	129,467.30	128,963.72	686,322.33	(212,998.27)	8,216.80	1,376,203.43
Liability	General	ARPA	Highway	Cemetery Restricted	Library Restricted	Reserve Funds Restricted	Grant Fund	Food Shelf Restricted	Total
Health Ins Payable	603.16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	603.16
Accounts Payable	10,566.31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,566.31
Prepaid Taxes	620.15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	620.15
Tax Clearing Account	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Fees Due the State of Vt	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Total Liability	11,789.62	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,789.62
Fund Balance	General	ARPA	Highway	Cemetery	Library	Reserves	Grants	Food Shelf	
Fund Balance General Fund	4,377.85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,377.85
Fund Balance ARPA	-	(125,641.35)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(125,641.35)
Fund Balance Highway	-	-	40,819.33	-	-	-	-	-	40,819.33
Fund Balance Cemetery	-	-	-	740.95	-	-	-	-	740.95
Fund Balance Library	-	-	-	-	1,320.90	-	-	-	1,320.90
Fund Balance Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	142,083.69	-	-	142,083.69
General Fund CD Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	208,254.66	-	-	208,254.66
Community Bldg Improve	-	-	-	-	-	90,531.61	-	-	90,531.61
Comm. Bldg. Property	-	-	-	-	-	707.84	-	-	707.84
Computer Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	4,013.61	-	-	4,013.61
Emer Servs Bldg Improve	-	-	-	-	-	14,472.20	-	-	14,472.20
Emer Servs Vehicles	-	-	-	-	-	161,990.36	-	-	161,990.36
Emer Servs Durable Equip	-	-	-	-	-	53,555.62	-	-	53,555.62
Reappraisal/ Tax Maps	-	-	-	-	-	67,977.65	-	-	67,977.65
Recreation	-	-	-	-	-	14,350.80	-	-	14,350.80
Restoration/Preservation	-	-	-	-	-	30,985.48	-	-	30,985.48
Town Emergency Fund	-	-	-	-	-	25,928.35	-	-	25,928.35
Prof. Services Res Fund	-	-	-	-	-	3,511.40	-	-	3,511.40
Constable Durable Equip.	-	-	-	-	-	6,698.65	-	-	6,698.65
Hwy Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	127,676.04	-	-	127,676.04
Highway Paving	-	-	-	-	-	47,031.31	-	-	47,031.31
Highway Infrastructure	-	-	-	-	-	33,518.51	-	-	33,518.51
Highway Building Repairs	-	-	-	-	-	10,034.03	-	-	10,034.03
Sidewalk Reserve Fund	-	-	-	-	-	2,512.13	-	-	2,512.13
Grants Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	(221,794.79)	-	(221,794.79)
Food Shelf Fund Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	113.77	113.77
Total Prior Years Fund Balance	380,729.25	251,451.43	72,705.42	128,726.35	127,642.82	837,579.28	8,796.52	8,103.03	1,815,734.10
Fund Balance Current Year	4,377.85	(125,641.35)	40,819.33	740.95	1,320.90	(151,256.95)	(221,794.79)	113.77	(451,320.29)
Total Fund Balance	385,107.10	125,810.08	113,524.75	129,467.30	128,963.72	686,322.33	(212,998.27)	8,216.80	1,364,413.81
Total Liability & Fund Balance	396,896.72	125,810.08	113,524.75	129,467.30	128,963.72	686,322.33	(212,998.27)	8,216.80	1,376,203.43

2024 Gross Wage Summary Report

Employee	Position	Gross
Batchelder Steven	Temp Hwy, Fire Fighter	\$950.00
Beck Bobbi	Selectboard	\$750.00
Bruleigh Brenda	EMT	\$2,910.00
Bruleigh Charles	EMT/ Fire Fighter	\$2,240.00
Cowig Jennifer	Library Assistant	\$5,152.50
Conaway Zachary	SelectBoard /Health Officer	\$750.00
Curtis Derek	EMT/ Head of Service	\$4,640.00
Daniels Lawrence	Selectboard	\$1,500.00
Echevarria Cereniti	Library Assistant	\$3,097.50
Gandin Benjamin	Snow Removal/CB Maint	\$2,457.00
Gilbert Shawn	Temp Hwy	\$9,045.00
Green Megan	FireFighter	\$260.00
Hadley Georgia	EMT	\$180.00
Hart Lisa	Treasurer, SB Assistant, Interim SB Secretary, Ballot Clerk, Town Report	\$55,351.58
Hart Steven	CB Maintenance	\$1,377.00
Hatch Harold	Road Commisioner	\$66,003.79
Johnson Wade Jr.	Fire Fighter	\$675.00
Knott Dorothy	Ast Assessor/FireFighter	\$30,840.96
Knott Henry	EMT	\$3,095.00
Knott Wayne	Fire Chif, Fire Fighter	\$2,465.00
Lamberton Gary	IT Person	\$1,500.00
Lapham Frank	Fire Fighter/ CB Maint	\$369.84
Lourenco Joseph	Clock Winder	\$350.00
Murray Steven	Tree Warden	\$300.00
Nahmias Michael	Planning Committee Chair	\$500.00
Nunn Linda	Ballot Clerk	\$56.00
Olicer Harley	SB Secretary	\$1,900.00
Ormiston Louie	EMT	\$830.00
Page Thomas	Selectboard	\$750.00
Palmer Phillip	Hwy Equipment Operator	\$60,287.50
Peters Carrie	Town Clerk, Assist Treasurer, Town Report	\$54,509.84
	CDT-wages are not paid by town	\$11,498.14
Peters Shellby	Ballot Clerk	\$80.00
Russo-Savage Stuart	EMT	\$1,590.00
Smith Aaron	EMT	\$690.00
Smith Brent	Temp Hwy	\$6,284.25
Spira Sarah	Librarian	\$25,388.00
Vaughan Tristan	SelectBoard	\$750.00
	Zoning Admin / Constable / Health Officer Asst	
Webster Daniel	Animal Controll Officer	\$7,460.00
Westinghouse John	Assessor	\$11,375.00
Totals- Employees Reported: 39		\$380,208.90

Delinquent Tax Report as of 12/31/2024

Name

	Total Principal Outstanding	As of 12/31/2024
BEVINS, RANDOLPH		
BOYCE, DOUGLAS		
CALVELLO, NICHOLAS	Tax Year 2021	\$4,854.26
CAMP MUFFET LLC	Tax Year 2022	\$10,235.84
CARBONNEAU, JON	Tax Year 2023	\$28,414.78
CASSERLY, CAIL	Tax Year 2024	\$78,610.18
CORBETT, MARY		
CORBETT, RACHEL		
CROWN, SHAWN	TOTAL	\$122,115.06
DANA, TERRY		
DARLING, HENRY		
DARLING, JAMIE		
DARLING, SHAWN		
DICKEY, CHRISTY	8 properties are on payment plans	
FEESER, GRETCHEN		
FIFIELD, JASON		
FORTE, ROBERT		
FULFORD, HEIDI		
GOODRICH, ROBERT		
GROTON COMMERCIAL		
HAND, SARKIS		
HART, RONALD		
HERBERT, LARA		
JOHNS, BRIAN		
KENNEDY, MICHAEL		
LEPENVEN, LARRY		
MERRYFIELD, MICHELLE		
NURSE, STEFAN		
PAC, JOHN		
PALMER, JAYME		
PATCHEL, BRANDON		
PHILLIPS, PAMELA		
PINETTE, KEVIN		
PROCTOR, SHARON		
QUINTAINE, MARIE		
ROSA, RICHARD		
SHIWLALL, MARJORIE		
STARR, TIMOTHY		
TIERNEY, DAVID		
WIENECKE, ALEX		
WILLIAMS, THOMAS		
WOOD, ROSE MARIE		

Properties that paid in full	
01/01/2025-printing of the Town Report	
Larry Lepenven	
Partial Payments	1572.63
Balance as of printing	\$120,532.28

See www.grotonvt.com for Policy on Collection of Delinquent Taxes

Property Transfers January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

SELLER	BUYER	ACRES	ADDRESS
Lillian Crowley	Shelby Peters & Adam Maxwell	12.44	97 Glover Rd
Emilie & Matt Knisley	DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc	0.24	1435 Scott Hwy
Gale Edwards	Annette Achilles	0.67	1554 Scott Hwy
Maria Trombley Puffer	Nathan & Meredith Puffer	18.78	309 Goodfellow Rd
Leonard Lemieux Jr	John St.Cyr	2.1	570 South County Rd
Stanley Kosakowski	Joseph Moody	10.2	Scott Hwy
Donna Darling	David Parker	1.1	Lakeside Dr
Norma Jean Marcalus Trust	Brian Matarozzo	11.9	Annis Rd
Donald Bourdeau Jr.	Emerson Property Management	40	Seyon Pond Rd
Kelly Bogie	Iain Thurston & Malynda Fulford	1.6	158 Little Italy Rd
Tina Biengardo & Tammy Dennis	Karen & Steven Welch	2.47	455 Powder Spring Rd
Clifford Hatch	Ellen Murphy	1.7	492 Powder Spring Rd
Elizabeth C-Philbrick	Kenneth Toomey	21	Levi Pond Rd
James Lakin	Michael Bilodeau	2.52	2026 Glover Rd
Edward Gadapee	Hillside Property Rentals LLC	0.3	1319 Scott Hwy
Kama & Satira Lord	Justin & Carolyn Rice	0.84	70 Hosmer Brook Rd
Timothy & Jennifer Spooner	John Harkins	0.36	1243 Scott Hwy
Timothy Spooner	John Harkins	0.02	1231 Scott Hwy
Green Mtn Power Corp.	Town of Groton	3.1	Tannery Brook Rd
Shirley Beamis	Eric Lang	54.6	324 Cliffs Hill Rd
Tristan Vaughan	Alex Kapsambelis	24.5	148 Power House Rd
Connor Lucas	Calen Dexter & Bradley Reed	1.4	39 Pine St
Estate of Glendon Randall	Wayne, Rebecca & Ryan Bushey	0.63	95 Starboard Dr
Loretta Frey	Frank & Graycee Rusnak	0.81	1191 State Forest Rd
Mary Grant	Troy & Julie Oliver	0.84	3027 Scott Hwy
DLJ Mortgage Capital Inc	Randolph Bevins	0.24	1435 Scott Hwy
Benjamin & Page Santello	Dean & Deborah Chase	0.48	121 Bealine Dr
Robert Farquharson	Chelsea Farquharson & Jaquelyn White	5.48	501 Glover Rd
William Sprague	Norbert Barnett III	0.34	95 West Shore Dr
Patricia Randall Estate	Steven & Wendy Allen	0.61	109 Starboard Dr
John & Ilana Neville	Ashley & Josh Kennedy	2.88	238 Ricker Mill Rd
Michael Bilodeau	Joseph & Alexa Towle	2.52	2026 Glover Rd
Jannel Carey	Donna, Dan, Morissa,& Thad Robinson	1.11	2259 Great Rd
Chris & Kelly Emerson	Gregory & Kimberly Bisson	75	811 Stewart Dr
Wendell G Bird Estate	James & Pamela Valiante	0.3	278 French Rd
Donald Bourdeau Jr.	Martin Klein	48	Seyon Pond Rd
Neil & Sandra Kugler	Ira & Deborah Schildkraut	33.6	412 North County Rd
Zachary Conaway	Violet Shattuck & Madisyn Garcia	0.99	1618 Scott Hwy
Patricia Randall Estate	ECR VT, LLC	1.02	780 Boulder Beach Rd

Y2025 ANR PILOT REPORT

TOWN OF	DEPARTMENT OF	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	Acres	FMV	Sum of FY24 PILOT
Groton	Environmental Conservation	Groton Lake Dam Site	3	\$63,100.00	\$383.48
Groton	Fish and Wildlife	LEVI POND WMA	259.2	\$78,800.00	\$478.90
Groton	Fish and Wildlife	PINE MOUNTAIN WMA	372	\$372,800.00	\$2,265.65
Groton	Fish and Wildlife	St. Hilaire Parcel	100	\$80,100.00	\$486.80
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Big Deer Campground	25	\$28,600.00	\$173.81
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Bolder Beach	25	\$109,900.00	\$667.91
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Forest Land	11,702.03	\$13,207,200.00	\$80,265.44
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Groton State Forest - Seyon Pond	26	\$106,700.00	\$648.46
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Kettle Pond Campground	20	\$86,000.00	\$522.66
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Lake Groton Cottage Lots	2.07	\$3,000.00	\$18.23
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Lyon Acq. Seyon Block	42	\$29,700.00	\$180.50
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Natural Woodlands Area	149	\$105,300.00	\$639.95
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Page Acquisition	25.7	\$24,300.00	\$147.68
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Ricker Pond Campsite & Frontag	39	\$175,100.00	\$1,064.15
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Ricker Pond Damsite	13	\$12,500.00	\$75.97
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	Stillwater Campground	42	\$136,100.00	\$827.13
Groton	Forests, Parks & Recreation	TNC/Moffatt Acquisition	329	\$250,000.00	\$1,519.35
Groton Total			13,174	\$14,869,200.00	\$90,366.08

Current Use

Overview

In 1978, the Vermont legislature passed a law establishing the Use Value Appraisal of Agricultural, Forest, Conservation and Farm Buildings Property. Today, this program is known as "Current Use" and is administered by the Division of Property Valuation and Review within the Vermont Department of Taxes.

The purpose of the law was to allow the valuation and taxation of farm and forest land based on its remaining in agricultural or forest use instead of its value in the marketplace. The primary objectives of the program were to keep Vermont's agricultural and forest land in production, help slow the development of these lands, and achieve greater equity in property taxation on undeveloped land. Benefits for land enrolled in the program were first distributed in tax year 1980.

Participation in the program has grown as it has evolved. The two most significant changes have been the inclusion of conservation land owned by qualifying nonprofit organizations and the exemption from all property taxes of eligible farm buildings. When an application is approved and recorded in the municipal land records, a lien is established on the enrolled land to recover a land use change tax should all or any portion of the enrolled land become developed.

To ensure that parcels with a use value appraisal are appraised by the local assessing officials consistent with the appraisals for non-enrolled parcels an annual audit is conducted on three towns with lands enrolled program.

Benefits

Land will be taxed based on its use value which is established annually by the Current Use Advisory Board.

Requirements and Terms

Property must be managed according to the approved forest or conservation management plan and according to state standards. It will be inspected at least once every 10 years. The main objective in requiring a management plan is to assure that the land is managed carefully. It is not intended to force a landowner into a particular type of management. A private consulting forester may be asked to prepare, or help prepare, a management plan which meets the landowner's objectives as well as the state standards.

A management plan for forestland and conservation land also includes maps that meet the Current Use Program Mapping Standards. Agricultural land does not require a management plan but does require maps that meet the map standards. These maps are typically prepared by a consulting forester. The Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI) has a number of shapefiles that are available for creating these maps.

A Forest Management Activity Report must be filed by Feb. 1 with the Vermont Department of Taxes to report any management activity which occurred in the previous year. The Department of Taxes will send the relevant FMAR data to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. If you have any questions regarding your FMAR after it has been submitted, you should contact your county forester. Please wait 14 days after you have submitted the FMAR to contact your county forester.

For further details on Use Value Appraisal of Forestland in Vermont review the online brochure or visit the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation website.

Development and Penalties

Once land is enrolled, it is subject to a contingent lien. If this land is *ever* developed, a lien for the amount of the land use change tax is placed on the land. Once the land use change tax is paid, the lien is released. The land use change tax is calculated as 10% of the fair market value of the developed parcel or portion of a parcel. When a portion of a parcel is withdrawn or developed, the fair market value of the portion is determined by valuing the portion as a stand-alone parcel.

In this program, development includes any of the following:

- Transfer where one or more of the resulting parcels is less than 25 acres
- Construction of buildings, roads, or structures not used for forestry purposes
- Commercial mining, excavation or landfill activity, or cutting timber contrary to the management plan or contrary to state standards

The obligation to pay this tax runs with the land in perpetuity. The tax is not due unless and until the land is developed; however, it may be prepaid if the landowner wishes to clear the title.

2024 Use Values

The Current Use Advisory Board established the Use Values for the 2024 tax year on January 23, 2024.

Property Type	Amount
Agricultural Land	\$483/acre
Forest Land	\$188/acre
Forest Land Greater than one mile from a Class I, II, or III Road	\$141/acre

<https://tax.vermont.gov/property/current-use> for more information.

2024 Current Use Exemptions

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASSESSED VALUE</u>	<u>LAND USE ACREAGE</u>	<u>LAND USE EXEMPT AMOUNT</u>	<u>GRANDLIST</u>
AYER PATRICK	\$ 275,000	59.00	\$ 64,200	\$ 2,108
ANAGNOSTAKIS CHRISTOPHER	\$ 112,800	101.00	\$ 74,100	\$ 387
BANKS KEELIN/MCCLEARY NORA	\$ 445,000	113.20	\$ 97,800	\$ 3,472
BASTON DANIEL	\$ 209,100	233.50	\$ 176,200	\$ 329
BECK DARREN D	\$ 232,400	49.00	\$ 45,900	\$ 1,865
BUCKLER STEVEN REVOCABLE TRUST	\$ 243,100	57.45	\$ 79,100	\$ 1,640
CHANANIE JUDITH W	\$ 92,800	51.00	\$ 55,400	\$ 374
CHANDLER HARRY & JUDITH	\$ 462,100	267.08	\$ 283,000	\$ 1,791
CLAPP ALAN B	\$ 287,900	219.00	\$ 257,800	\$ 301
CLOUGH RICK	\$ 206,500	45.70	\$ 39,100	\$ 1,674
CRUM NICOLE ERICH GREG	\$ 184,700	124.76	\$ 119,100	\$ 656
CUTONE RICHARD J	\$ 431,500	129.00	\$ 116,500	\$ 3,150
DANIELS LAWRENCE SR.	\$ 280,700	131.50	\$ 113,600	\$ 1,671
DEMARTINO PAUL REVOCABLE TRUST	\$ 155,100	84.34	\$ 116,900	\$ 382
DOSCINSKI LEONARD & PATRICIA	\$ 457,800	102.70	\$ 128,500	\$ 2,893
DUCHARME HELEN	\$ 80,700	69.69	\$ 70,600	\$ 101
EATON HENRY W	\$ 397,700	55.50	\$ 74,700	\$ 3,230
EDWARDS LESLIE E	\$ 223,200	33.00	\$ 36,100	\$ 1,871
EMERSON CHRIS W	\$ 225,100	71.00	\$ 67,300	\$ 1,578
ENGLE STEPHEN B TRUSTEE	\$ 773,200	810.00	\$ 394,200	\$ 3,790
FLEURIE FAMILY TRUST	\$ 406,900	382.00	\$ 241,200	\$ 1,657
FOSTER-JERRY LUND MOUNTAIN TRUST	\$ 443,200	688.43	\$ 295,200	\$ 1,480
FROST BARBARA J	\$ 60,700	30.20	\$ 32,300	\$ 284
GOODINE ALLEN	\$ 160,900	87.00	\$ 93,800	\$ 671
GOSSELIN EDMUND	\$ 72,000	33.00	\$ 51,600	\$ 204
GREENOUGH BRADLEY	\$ 250,900	122.00	\$ 85,900	\$ 1,650
GRIMES & NOLAN REVOCABLE TRUST	\$ 169,300	107.00	\$ 130,300	\$ 390
HAMLETT NANCY	\$ 309,900	44.00	\$ 47,300	\$ 2,626
HERSEY MARK	\$ 100,700	123.00	\$ 72,200	\$ 285
KERSAKEN VENTURES LLC	\$ 723,900	633.85	\$ 304,400	\$ 4,195
KLEIN MARTIN P	\$ 313,100	93.40	\$ 115,200	\$ 1,979
MARTELL GROTON LLC	\$ 882,000	334.02	\$ 191,300	\$ 6,907
MEADOWSEND TIMBERLANDS LTD	\$ 135,000	128.00	\$ 116,400	\$ 186
MOORE DONALD F JR	\$ 59,100	28.40	\$ 55,000	\$ 41
NIEMASZYK WALTER	\$ 395,500	355.87	\$ 286,200	\$ 1,093
NOYES BRET D	\$ 201,700	164.00	\$ 145,300	\$ 564

2024 Current Use Exemptions continued

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASSESSED VALUE</u>	<u>LAND USE ACREAGE</u>	<u>LAND USE EXEMPT AMOUNT</u>	<u>GRANDLIST</u>
OLIVER LOGAN	\$ 271,600	40.50	\$ 51,800	\$ 2,198
OLIVER TROY A	\$ 204,000	45.00	\$ 42,800	\$ 1,612
PAGE KEITH R	\$ 99,300	38.71	\$ 43,700	\$ 556
PARK FORESTRY NY LLC	\$ 658,600	995.40	\$ 512,400	\$ 1,462
PIGEON POND LLC WANDA GABLE	\$ 2,401,000	1072.00	\$ 924,400	\$ 14,766
POWERS CRAIG	\$ 297,600	32.47	\$ 35,800	\$ 2,218
PUFFER MATTHEW J	\$ 646,100	201.00	\$ 67,300	\$ 5,788
QUINTIN STEVE	\$ 146,200	73.00	\$ 66,600	\$ 796
RUGGLES PATRICIA A LIFE ESTATE	\$ 268,500	43.00	\$ 60,200	\$ 2,083
SMITH BRENT	\$ 196,800	39.00	\$ 44,500	\$ 1,523
SMITH SARA	\$ 192,400	42.70	\$ 54,900	\$ 1,375
STARR TIMOTHY	\$ 137,200	35.80	\$ 40,900	\$ 963
SWEET TREE HOLDINGS 1 LLC	\$ 770,700	760.00	\$ 686,800	\$ 839
THOMAS PAUL A	\$ 192,000	109.50	\$ 111,400	\$ 806
THOMAS PAUL A	\$ 81,000	63.10	\$ 56,800	\$ 242
THOMAS REALTY INC	\$ 240,100	160.50	\$ 163,500	\$ 766
TIMBERVEST PARTNERS III VERMONT	\$ 198,100	224.80	\$ 162,600	\$ 355
VIENS ROBERT G & MARIA L	\$ 351,300	231.50	\$ 171,300	\$ 1,800
WARD RYAN T	\$ 427,500	180.50	\$ 151,400	\$ 2,761
WATERHOUSE CINDY J & LEE J	\$ 350,300	111.50	\$ 138,200	\$ 2,121
WEAVER ERIN	\$ 323,800	36.00	\$ 57,000	\$ 2,668
WELCH CHRISTINE	\$ 396,800	134.50	\$ 143,000	\$ 2,538
WHITEHEAD THEODORE	\$ 66,300	90.00	\$ 53,200	\$ 131
WOSKO REVOCABLE TRUST	\$ 296,000	32.00	\$ 36,000	\$ 2,600
<hr/>				
Grand Totals	\$ 19,674,400	\$ 10,954.07	\$ 8,550,200	\$ 110,442
		Homestead	\$ 1,430,100	\$ 45,360
		Nonhomestead	\$ 7,120,100	\$ 65,082

Groton Selectboard

The Groton Selectboard had some changes in 2024.

In March Aaron Smith stepped down after serving two terms as a selectboard member, Thank you Aaron for your years of service.

Larry Daniels was elected.

In July, Zac Conaway resigned due to a job relocation. Thank you, Zac, for your years of service.

The Selectboard appointed Tom Page.

Tristan Vaughan resigned due to relocating. Thank you, Tristan for your years of service.

The Selectboard appointed Bobbi Beck.

Welcome both new selectboard members.

The Selectboard members would also like to thank Wayne Knott for his many years of service to the Groton Fire Department. Wayne retired as Fire Chief in December of 2024.

Aaron Smith is our new Fire Chief.

We would also like to thank all of the elected and appointed officers. Each and every one of these positions are important in keeping this small town moving forward.

July flooding brought a lot of extra work for the highway department, Town Clerk and Treasurer. Thank you to all those that helped us get through the flood of 2024.

Some of the projects of 2024 were: Fire Department roof replaced, parking lot and drainage project started in the Fall and will be finished in the Spring of 2025. Many Grants have been applied for and awarded to the Town.

If any of the towns people have any questions or concerns, please come to one of the meetings or contact us.

Our goal is to do what is right for the town.

Larry Daniels-Chairperson

Thomas W Page

Bobbi Beck

Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C.

Certified Public Accountants

77 Barre Street
P.O. Box 947
Montpelier, VT 05601
802/223-2352
www.sullivanpowers.com

Richard J. Brigham, CPA
Chad A. Hewitt, CPA
Jordon M. Plummer, CPA
VT Lic. #92-000180

July 24, 2024

Selectboard
Town of Groton, Vermont
1476 Scott Highway
Groton, VT 05046

We have audited the financial statements of the Town of Groton, Vermont as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023.

The financial statements and our report thereon are available for public inspection at the Town Office.

Sullivan, Powers & Co.

Town Clerk's Report

Looking back on 2024, we ran 6 Elections: Town Meeting Day and the Presidential Primary in one day. BMU Budget vote, Retail Cannabis vote, August State Primary, and the November General Election. It was a very busy year. All the elections ran smoothly, and we appreciated the tabulator for the big ones. I think voters are getting the hang of it as well. This year should be much quieter.

On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse was visible in Vermont, attracting thousands of visitors. The partial eclipse began at 2:14 PM and ended at 4:37 PM, though totality lasted only about 3 minutes. It was a fun experience for the town and the state, though the people stuck in traffic after might disagree.

The Town has been fortunate to receive many grants. Hopefully, we will get a few finished this year as many projects were postponed due to the major flooding events that the State had this past summer.

The town suffered close to \$200,000 in flood damage. I have been working with our FEMA representative to submit all the damages, and hopefully, we will see reimbursement at some point this calendar year.

Dog licensing fees have increased due to the State of VT mandating that Towns collect \$2 more per license. I hope this does not deter residents from licensing their dogs as it is always a struggle to begin with.

This is a reminder that there is a mail slot to the left of my door inside the entranceway. It is available 24/7 to drop off any correspondence with the Town (tax payments, dog licensing paperwork and fees, building permits, community building use payments and paperwork, marriage applications, birth/death certificate applications, etc.).

You can check the town website for updates, forms, agendas, applications, and permits. www.grotonvt.com

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.
(802) 584-3276 or townclerk@grotonvt.com or stop by the office.

I continue to enjoy working for the community of Groton.

Respectfully,
Carrie Peters

Treasurer Report

Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C., the Town of Groton's independent auditors, performed the town audit and provided a report on July 24 2024 to the Select Board for year ending 2023.

The Town audit report and financial statements are available at the town office for review. Please contact the office if you're interested in a copy. The 2023 audit can also be found on Groton Town website under Town Treasurer.

If you have any questions please contact me. 802-584-3131 or Treasurer@grotonvt.com or stop by the office.

I'm grateful to be working for our community.
Thank you,

Lisa JK Hart
Town Treasurer

Assessor's Office

The Assessor's Office received a grant from the Vermont Agency of Administration for repairing our survey maps. These funds are from the Municipal Technical Assistance Response. Seventy-two maps were sent to a paper restoration company in Pennsylvania to be restored and repaired.

We have started taking pictures of all parcels. This project will be continued in the spring of 2025.

A contract has been signed with NEMRC to do a reappraisal starting in 2027 and completed in 2029.

There are currently many changes being studied by VT Property Valuation and Review and the Vermont Legislature. One of the changes is to have a complete reappraisal done in all towns every 6 years.

HOMESTEAD DECLARATION- Please remember to file a Form HS 122 when you file your Income Tax. **THIS HAS TO BE DONE EVERY YEAR.**

ADDRESS CHANGES- Please send address changes to the Assessor's Office. This will help us to have up to date information when it is time to mail tax bills and other information to you.

INFORMATION REQUESTS- Please fill these out in a timely manner and return to the Assessor's Office.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

THANK YOU.

Dorothy Knott
Interim Assessor
802-584-3155
assistantassessor@grotonvt.com



State of Vermont
Department of Taxes
133 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-1401

Phone: (802) 828-5860

Agency of Administration

December 26, 2024

000210

Town Clerk
Town of Groton
1476 Scott Highway
Groton, VT 05046

2024 Equalization Study Results

This letter serves as notification of the results of Property Valuation and Review (PVR)'s 2024 equalization study. Every year we are required to certify the equalized education property value (EEPV or EEGL) and coefficient of dispersion (COD) for each Vermont town (32 V.S.A § 5406). This letter also communicates the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) for your town and explains how it will impact your homestead and nonhomestead education tax rates.

Education Grand List (from 411):	\$132,174,095
Equalized Education Grand List (EEGL):	\$206,087,672
Common Level of Appraisal (CLA):	64.13% or 0.6413
Coefficient of Dispersion (COD):	26.39%
2024 Statewide Adjustment (SA):	72.36% or 0.7236
2024 SA Applied to Your Tax Rates:	$[0.6413]/[0.7236] = 88.63\%$ or 0.8863

New for 2025

In 2024 the Vermont Legislature passed Act 183, which updates the adjustment factor applied to education tax rates starting with the 2025-2026 property tax year, beginning on July 1, 2025.

Historically, education tax rates were adjusted by a municipality's CLA from the Equalization Study. Going forward, the new adjustment factor applied to education tax rates will be the CLA divided by a single "statewide adjustment." The "statewide adjustment" is the average level of appraisal for all of Vermont.

For example, if a municipality has a CLA of 60%, and the statewide adjustment is 75%, then the adjustment factor applied to the municipality's education property tax rates will be $0.60 / 0.75 = 0.80$ or 80%.

All Vermont property will still be taxed at 100% of fair market value, but the factor applied to education property tax rates will be calculated differently. More information is available at tax.vermont.gov/statewide-adjustment.

Key Definitions

The **education grand list** in VTPIE is what your municipality reported to the state on the 411 form and includes (if applicable) your municipality's cable and/or tax increment financing (TIF) amounts.

The education grand list represents the municipality's total property value subject to the education property tax (from the most recent grand list available) and serves as the numerator in the computation of the CLA.

The **equalized education grand list (EEGL)** represents PVR's statutorily mandated estimate of your municipality's education grand list total fair market value. It serves as the denominator in the computation of the CLA.

The **common level of appraisal (CLA)** is determined by dividing the education grand list by the equalized education grand list (32 V.S.A. § 5401). A number over 100% indicates that property in your municipality is generally listed for more than its fair market value. A number less than 100% indicates that property is generally listed for less than its fair market value.

The **coefficient of dispersion (COD)** is a measure of how fairly distributed the property tax is within your municipality. It reflects the average deviation of sales ratios (assessed value ÷ sale price) from the median. A high COD means many taxpayers in your municipality are paying more than their fair share, and many are paying less than their fair share. **A COD over 20% necessitates a reappraisal** (32 V.S.A. § 4041a).

Appeals

A municipality may petition the director of PVR for a redetermination of its EEPV and/or COD (32 V.S.A. § 5408). All petitions must be in writing and signed by the chair of the municipality's legislative body. Petitions should contain a plain statement of matters being appealed and a statement of the remedy being sought. Submissions can be made by sending a PDF of the appeal to tax.pvr@vermont.gov or by mailing to Department of Taxes, Attn: **PVR; 133 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633-1401**. **PVR must receive petitions by the close of business on the 35th day after the mailing of this letter.**

Additional Information

If you have questions about your results, please contact your District Advisor or call 802-828-5860. To get answers to many common questions about tax rates and how they are determined, and to see how the current year property tax rates for your municipality were calculated, please see the Department's education tax resources at tax.vermont.gov/education-tax-rates.

To learn more about how the equalization study is conducted, how to read the certified sales report, and additional instructions on how to appeal your results, please see the "Introduction to Vermont's Equalization Study" document at tax.vermont.gov/municipal-officials.

Municipal officials can view your municipality's final computation sheet and final certified sales report in your VTPIE account. Complete Statewide results can be found here: [Equalization Study | Department of Taxes](#).

Sincerely,



Jill Remick, Director
Property Valuation and Review

cc: Chair, School Board
Chair, Selectboard
Superintendent of Schools SD027

Homestead Declaration Information

By Vermont law, property owners whose homes meet the definition of a Vermont homestead must file a Homestead Declaration annually by the April filing deadline. If eligible, it is important that you file so that you are correctly assessed the homestead tax rate on your property. Here is the information you as the property owner need to know about the Vermont Homestead Declaration.

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 nonhomestead or 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.

All property is considered ***nonhomestead***, unless it is declared as a ***homestead***. The education property tax rate levied on nonhomestead property differs from the rate levied on homestead property. 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, 2025.

Please note: If you meet these requirements, except that your homestead is leased to a tenant on April 1, 2025, you may still claim it as a homestead if it is not leased for more than 182 days in the 2025 calendar year.

Nonhomestead Property

Property is considered nonhomestead if one of the following applies:

- Your property is leased for more than 182 days out of the calendar year.
- The property is used exclusively for commercial, including rental, purposes.
- The property is used for a second home, camp, vacation, or summer cottage.

How to File

Online - Taxpayers may file returns using myVTax, our free, secure, online filing site.

Paper Returns - If you cannot file and pay through myVTax, you may still use the paper forms. The Homestead Declaration is filed using Form HS-122, the Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit Claim. Use our filing checklist that follows to help you get started.

Many people file their Homestead Declarations at the same time they file their Vermont income tax returns. However, if you apply to extend the time to file your income tax return, the Homestead Declaration **must still be filed** by the April filing deadline. Even if a person is not required to file a Vermont Income Tax Return, the declaration must be filed by the deadline.

<https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>

<https://tax.vermont.gov/sites/tax/files/documents/HS-122-2022.pdf>

Groton Highway Report

- 2024 was a challenging year, Phillip and I worked hard to stay within the budget but continue to maintain and improve our roads. The flooding this year was hard for everyone, I want to thank everyone for their patience throughout the rest of the year while we worked to get the roads back together
- I would like to thank my whole crew (Phillip, Brent and Shawn) for all the hard work to get things done after the July flood, along with the contractors that helped us. THANK YOU
- We worked with other departments on projects, supplying labor and equipment time, saving them money.
- The box culvert on Powder Spring Road was completed this year, and we did some paving that included that project to try and improve the road.
- Phillip and I try our best to control cost while maintaining a level of service that keeps up with the needed maintenance of the roads.
- I would like to thank the residents of the Town of Groton for all the support in helping us do the best job possible.
- Here are a couple reminders:

23 V.S.A. § 1126a. Depositing snow onto or across highways prohibited

(a) No person, other than an employee in the performance of his or her official duties or other person authorized by the agency of transportation (in the case of state highways) or selectboard (in the case of town highways), shall plow or otherwise deposit snow onto the traveled way, shoulder or sidewalk of a state highway or a class 1, 2, or 3 town highway.

(b) Nothing in this section should be construed to be in derogation of any municipal ordinance regulating the deposit of snow within the limits of town highways. (Added 1997, No. 150 (Adj. Sess.), § 17.)

- Article 7.1 from the Town of Groton Highway ordinance:
Winter Parking- Parking within a town right of way, including turnarounds and/or Cul de sacs, shall be prohibited between November 1 and March 31 of each year except for town owned parking areas where there will be no parking between midnight and 6:00 am. Violators will be towed at the vehicle owner's expense.

Town Garage Phone-584-3209

Harold's Pager 290-1355

Harold Hatch (Cell) (802)424-7918 or stop by the garage

Veterans Exemption

The Local Agreement/Veterans Exemption reduces a Veterans property value by \$40,000. The State of VT pays the taxes on \$10,000 and the town covers the remaining taxes on \$30,000.

This was approved by the Town in 2009.

To be eligible for exemption, Veterans must meet one of the three criteria listed below

- Receive Disability compensation for a service-connected disability rated 50% or higher by the US Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Receive Improved Pension (also called Non –Service Connected Disability Pension) from the US Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Receive a permanent medical retirement from the military.

To be eligible for the exemption, Survivors must be the un –remarried spouse or a minor child of a veteran who met the eligibility criteria above at the time of their death.

Form can be found at the Town Clerks office or go to www.veterans.vt.gov for more information.

VOTERS ONLINE REGISTRATION

Beginning January 1, 2017, eligible persons may register to vote on any day up to and including the day of the election.

Registration is available during all normal business hours of your town or city clerk's office on day's preceding the election and during polling hours on Election Day. 17 V.S.A. § 2144

We encourage voters to log into their My Voter Page:

<https://mvp.vermont.gov/>

By using the My Voter Page, a registered voter can:

- Check registration status
- View information on upcoming elections
- Access voter specific elections information, including directions to a polling place and polling hours
- View a sample ballot
- Request and track an absentee ballot

Online registration can be found at <https://olvr.vermont.gov/>

More information can be found at
<https://sos.vermont.gov/elections/voters/registration/>

Groton Volunteer Fire Department **Annual Report 2024**

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

We have faced some added challenges this year. During the flooding in July our 2 dry hydrants, Cold Water Brook and behind Clark's Landing, were washed out. We are working to repair them and the Landing Zone area.

We responded to 40 plus calls this year.

The Fire Station has a new Roof. The roof was extended to cover the east side entry and generator. We appreciate the good work that was done by local contractors on both of these projects.

Green 911 address signs are available from any member. These signs are reflective and help to mark your driveway and residence. They save minutes in a fire or medical emergency when we are responding to your home. Please consider purchasing one of these signs.

We currently have 22 active members. We are always looking for new members. Members can be trained as firefighters or help with other non-firefighting activities.

Training:

- Members attended the Twin State Fire School at Blue Mountain Union School.
- 8 members became certified as Traffic Control Flaggers by VLCT.
- Several members completed CPR training
- Members attended an Ice Rescue training in February.
- 2 member attended a National Seminar on Building Construction in November
- One member is currently enrolled in Level 1 Certification in East Montpelier

Prevention:

The annual prevention program took place again at Blue Mountain Union School during October. This was a joint venture between Groton, Ryegate, and Wells River Fire Departments.

I would like to thank the members for their dedication and time spent responding, training, maintaining equipment and helping their neighbors in times of need. A special thank you to the families of the first responders for their support, patience and understanding when we respond to emergencies day, night, weekends, and Christmas Day.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fire Chief Wayne C. Knott
Groton Volunteer Fire Department

Groton-Ryegate FAST Squad 2024

**** DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES ****

2024's call volume finished at 250, up from 242 in 2023. Like every year, we had members to respond to a majority of these calls, but still did have some where no one was available. Our contract with Woodsville Ambulance guarantees an ambulance will always respond to provide care, even when our members are not available.

Even with increased call volume, inflation raising prices for supplies, and a number of our perishable supplies expiring and requiring replacement we finished 2024 under budget; partially driven by less than anticipated attendance at the VT EMS Conference. We work hard to manage taxpayer money responsibly and appreciate your continued support.

We started 2024 with some large goals, including establishing a formal rehabilitation program for emergency operations. I am disappointed to report we did not achieve that goal. Sometimes members end up with less available time to work on these goals. We'll focus on this in 2025.

And now, time for our annual PSAs -

First, we're always looking for additional help. In Vermont, you can take EMS courses for free (well, it's still our tax dollars, but directed from the state). There are several different modes available, including blended online and in person courses or fully in person courses. Courses are offered on different schedules, hopefully you can find one that fits your availability.

According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, there are approximately 2,100 unintentional carbon monoxide (CO) deaths per year in the United States. In Wakefield, NH on Christmas there were 4 adult deaths from CO poisoning. We include this as a stark reminder of the importance of WORKING smoke and CO detectors in your homes and places of work. CO is colorless and odorless, and often people don't recognize the signs and symptoms of a CO emergency, and tragedies occur. Please don't be one of these tragedies. If you're not able to afford detectors, please reach out to the FD or FAST Squad, we can help you.

Groton FAST Squad
Derek Curtis- Head of Service

FOREST FIRE WARDEN REPORT

I would like to start by thanking everyone for reaching out to obtain a burn permit and or asking about current fire conditions.

This year we had two forest fires in town one was swiftly extinguished by our amazing Fire department. The second was on state land and handled by the district fire warden directly. I was contacted by the district fire warden and had a meeting with them on the site to discuss and review the fire. I cannot stress enough you cannot burn trash since 2005 when the law passed with the state. The Town of Groton also has its own ordinance and fines for burning solid waste. A copy of this ordinance is available at the town clerk's office or on the town website www.grotonvt.com. If caught burning trash by the fire warden you will be reported to the town and the state of Vermont environmental enforcement officer.

Squatters have been a concern with open burning on both town and state lands. This summer I contacted Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department to have game wardens check out a few locations some they were already aware of. The district fire warden has seen this issue first hand Also our town constable has been very helpful with this.

Monitoring fire danger is as easy as asking Google, Alexa, or whatever you use, "what is today's fire danger for Vermont" this should take you to the Vermont Forest parks and Recreation website this is updated daily.

When we are in high fire danger it will be posted on the town sign outside the town office the website and radio station 101.3 WYKR.

There are 5 levels of fire danger
low, moderate, high, very high and extreme fire danger.

Reminder I will not issue a burn permit when in high fire danger.
Please continue to reach out with questions and to get a burn permit.
I can be contacted at 802-793-3071 or batchelder81@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Batchelder
Forest Fire warden



Annual Report to the Town of Groton, Vermont

The mission of the Groton Free Public Library is to **assemble, preserve, organize, and make freely available to the people of the Town of Groton, books and other resources for education, enlightenment, and recreation.** In 2024 we invested in resources and people in the Groton Community through engagement with local organizations to design programs that connect people and services.

- The Groton Volunteer Fire Department and FAST Squad donated an AED Machine to the library in honor of Jordan Smith. A commemoration ceremony will be held in 2025.
- The Groton Historical Society helped us purchase a new high capacity printer- now available for patrons to use.
- With the support of 302 Cares and Sarky's Smokehouse, we launched Tween & Teen Night. Youth ages 10-19 are welcome to attend this monthly program to connect with peers in a safe, supportive environment.
- Thank you to the Groton Recreation committee for supporting the purchase of our new Bike Repair Station. This amazing resource, located in front of the library adjacent to the bike rack, has a bike tire pump and tools- all available for community use.
- Storytime is now offered with a Northeast Kingdom Community Action Playgroup, weekly on Thursdays from 11am-12:30pm for ages 0-6 and their caregivers.

Community events anchored the year- We had so much fun hosting Smokey's the Bear's Birthday Party with support from the Mentoring Project of the Upper Valley, The Groton Nature Center, The Groton Volunteer Fire Department and FAST Squad, and library Volunteers. We couldn't have asked for better weather for Fall Foliage Day and our now Annual Winter Lights Festival- save the date for Dec. 12th 2025!

This year, in conjunction with our landlord RuralEdge, we were awarded a Capital Improvements Grant in the sum of \$522,043 from the Vermont Department of Libraries with funds from the U.S. Department of the Treasury through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These funds will help us address critical building improvements to ensure that our community has continued access to high-speed internet for the purposes of work, education, and health monitoring here at the Alice Lord Goodine House, home of the Groton Free Public Library. We anticipate that work will be completed by December 2026.

Based on the results of our 2024 program survey, we continue to expand our partnerships with local service organizations to provide a wider range of community based programming. Your input and feedback on our programs and services, along with the library's mission, guides the strategic planning and visioning of our community library. Stop by the library and share your thoughts in our suggestion box, or visit our website to fill out the virtual suggestion box.

We are so grateful for the support from our community- through volunteership and other contributions. Our work here is made possible through funding from our Library Endowment, Annual Appeal, the Friends of the Groton Free Public Library and the Groton Taxpayers. We look forward to welcoming you to the library for opportunities to learn, grow, and connect in 2025. Stay informed about upcoming programs by visiting us at the library or online! Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter at our website: www.grotonlibraryvt.org, or find us on Facebook and Instagram.

Respectfully Submitted by Sarah Spira, Library Director

Trustees: Dawn Miller Evans, Jennie Gaiss, Deborah Jurist, Wayne Knott, Donna Russo- Savage

2024 By the Numbers



391
Library
Cardholders



3863
Library
Visits



3807
Books & Digital
Materials Borrowed



315
Volunteer
Hours Worked



202
Programs
Offered



410
Computer
Sessions



2024 Budget and Actual > 2025 Proposed

Expenses Paid from Town General Fund

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Librarian Wages 2024: 22hrs/Week 2025: 29hrs/Week	\$25,168.00	\$25,388.00	\$33,176.00
Assistant Wages 2024: 12hrs/Week 2025: 17hrs/k	\$10,504.00	\$8,250.00	\$13,260.00
Payroll Taxes	\$2,808.00	\$2,657.03	\$3,668.00
VLCT PACIF & Insurances	\$1,357.00	\$1,357.00	\$1,661.00
Building Rent	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
Cleaning Service			\$2,000.00
Supplies-Library	\$2,000.00	\$2,006.55	\$2,200.00
Books & Digital	\$4,500.00	\$4,567.93	\$4,950.00
Telephone/Internet	\$1,800.00	\$1,785.58	\$1,800.00
Software/Support	\$1,300.00	\$1,452.27	\$1,770.00
Misc. Expenses	\$100.00	\$60.38	\$110.00
Totals	\$67,537.00	\$65,524.71	\$82,595.00

Expenses Paid by Library Funds raised through revenue and donations

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Programs	\$2,500.00	\$3,705.04	\$2,750.00
Postage	\$500.00	\$509.90	\$770.00
Elevator Expense	\$575.00	\$560.00	\$633.00
Books & Digital	\$1,000.00	\$999.18	\$1,100.00
Training & Mileage	\$250.00	\$168.86	\$275.00
Technology Services/ Software	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$462.00
Computer Maintenance	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$330.00
Computers	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,100.00
Furnishings	\$700.00	\$654.60	\$770.00
Misc. Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$952.25	\$1,100.00
Investment Loss			
Totals	\$7,825.00	\$7,549.83	\$9,290.00

Library Funds for Town Report 2024

Library Account Balances

Library Operating Fund (generated through donations and revenue) - Community Bank	\$27,199.00
Endowment Fund Money Market Account- Wells River Savings Bank	\$5,630.45
Endowment Fund CD- Wells River Savings Bank	\$41,524.70
Capital Fund 1 year CD-Wells River Savings Bank	\$12,708.75
Library Annual Appeal Account- Community Bank	\$9.00
American Funds Investment Account	\$24,891.79
I Bond 2022	\$11,220.00
I Bond 2023	\$10,768.00
Total	\$133,951.69

Revenues & donations deposited into the Library Operating Fund in 2024

Donations and Annual Appeal	\$5,317.97
American Funds Investment Gains	\$2,691.89
Dividends from American Funds	\$997.00
Combined Interest Income	\$2,902.34
302 Cares Program Reimbursement	\$947.62
Total	\$12,856.82

Disbursement from Endowment Fund Money Market Account- Wells River Savings Bank

Dero Bike Repair Station	\$2,305
Symquest High Capacity BizHub Printer	\$1,011
Total	\$3,316

Grants Received in 2024

Summer Program Grant	\$300
Vermont Humanities Vermont Early Literacy Initiative	\$1,500
Vermont Humanities Rapid Response Grant	\$500
Total	\$2,300

Library Funds

Groton Free Public Library Operating Fund

March 7, 2006, Article 8: Shall the Town of Groton approve the existing accounts and the establishment of a reserve fund to be called the Groton Free Public Library fund to be funded by grants, gifts, donations, fund raising, existing library investments and other non-taxation sources said fund to be used for library improvements, managed by the library Board of Trustees and dispensed by the Town Treasurer?

Operating expense account funded by annual appeal donations, memorial funds, interest from Endowment and dividends from American Funds.

Balance \$27,199.00

Endowment Fund

Endowment funds are composed of monies that have been gifted to the library in the form of bequests or donations. Endowment monies are not meant to be used to fund routine operational activities or salaries. Endowment funds are to be used at the discretion of the Groton Library Board of Trustees. Any requests for release of endowment monies must be voted on and approved by the Library Board of Trustees. The Library Board of Trustees are responsible for overseeing the use/investment of all endowment funds. The Library Board of Trustees alone holds the power to direct investments and distribute money/assets for the library.

Amendment: 7/13/2015, The Library Board of Trustees voted to remove all financial limitations on endowment requests.

Balance \$5,630.45

Capital Fund Certificate of Deposit

September 26 2013 Library Board of Trustees received an anonymous gift restricted to capital improvements or non-budgeted items at the discretion of the Library Trustees.

Balance \$12,708.75

American Funds

Investment of funds received from sale of book in 1991. Dividends are deposited in Community Bank Fund for use toward the library portion of the monthly operating expense of the building.

Balance \$24,891.79

Library Pay Pal Fund

Account was established to receive money electronically for Annual Appeal Donations.

Balance \$9.00

Series I Bond

October 5 2022 Library Board of Trustees decided to move 10,000.00 from the Capital Fund CD and opened a Series I bond account. Maturity Date 10-01-2052

Balance \$11,220.00

Series I Bond

March 9 2023 Library Board of Trustees decided to move 10,000.00 from Capital Fund CD and open a Series I bond Account. Maturity Date 04-01-2053

Balance \$10,768.00

Library Endowment CD

February 26 2024 Library Board of Trustees decided to move funds to a CD.

Balance \$41,524.70

***Library Funds are not Town funds; they are controlled by the Library Board of Trustees.

2024 Cemetery Budget vs. 2024 Actual Spent, 2025 Budget

Expenses paid from Town General Fund

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Contracted Work	1,400	2,502.50	2,800
Riverside Cemetery	200	180.00	200
Mowing	12,500	11,653.85	12,500
Supplies	700	1,023.15	1,300
Total	14,800	15,359.50	16,800

Cemetery Revenues

Cemetery Lot Sales	600.00
Corner Stone Revenue	0
Corner stone setting fees income	60.00
Perpetual Care Revenue	900.00
Recording Fee Revenue	30.00
Development Funds (non-resident lot sales)	0
CD Interest to Cemetery Lot Acct.	3,790.99
Interest Revenue	4,404.69

Total Revenue	9,785.68
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Cemetery Expenditures

Deposited to Development Funds	0
Recodring Fees	15.00
Corner Stone Expense	0
CD interest paid ot to Cemetery Lot Acct.	3,790.99
Mis, Exp. (clearing between cem, xtr contract work)	4,631.24
Roosevelt/Carter Expense (Chris Bruce xtra work)	607.50

Total Expenses	9,044.73
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Cemetery Fund Balances 12/31/2024

CB Perpetual Care-MM	1,507.55
WGSB-H. Hosmer-Savings	3,301.93
WRSB Development Funds	15,735.07
CB Cemetery Lot-MM	8,485.01
WRSB MJRicker Hall Trust-Savings	1,065.92
TD Bank Roosevelt Carter Trust-Savings	5,257.35
CB Perpetual Care CD	95,252.85

Total	130,605.68
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GROTON CEMETERY RULES

Revision 10/24/24

Cemetery Hours of Operation

The cemetery will open on May 1st and close on November 1st. Burials will be performed after the ground has fully thawed in the spring and will cease after November 1st. Any internments to be held after November 1st will be at the discretion of the Sexton.

Flowers, Flags, and Personal Memorabilia

All flowers, natural and artificial, should be removed from the cemeteries by Oct. 1. The flags will remain on the graves until Veteran's Day in November. Any flowers, plants and flags left in the cemetery may be removed by the maintenance workers.

Footings

In order to facilitate mowing and for the long-term stability of the stones, all the monuments will be set on a cement foundation with footings which extend four inches outward from the monument.

Monuments, Cornerstones, Vaults, Urns and Grass Markers

A cemetery official will have the final say on the placement of all monuments, cornerstones, vaults, urns, and grass markers. Cemetery Commissioners will be responsible for placing cornerstones. All monuments will be set on a 4' (minimum) cement foundation with footings set 4" from the monument. Cremation urns may be interned on any plot with or without existing burials. The addition of a memorial stone is limited to the lot size. The Sexton must be notified of the urn internment and is responsible for the digging and placement, for the location to be officially registered. There is an additional cost for this service. For the number of cremations allowed on the plot, see the current Cemetery Pricing chart. All burial vaults will be made of concrete.

Plantings

Plantings should be small and low maintenance, nothing that will grow to a size which would impede on the surroundings and the ability to maintain the area. They must be clearly marked and only planted between monuments (not in front or behind) in order to cut grass with trimmers. Should maintenance issues arise, the Cemetery Commissioners will assess the situation and do what is deemed necessary to bring the plot into compliance.

Purchasing Lots in a Groton Cemetery

Lots are for sale containing as few as 1 burial plot and up to 12 plots. Lots sold at resident prices will have the resident's name only listed as owner on the deed. Non-residents cannot be listed as co-owners on lots purchased at residential prices. The initial of the owner's last name will be engraved on the cornerstones. There is a price list available through the town clerk.

Specifying Individuals to be Buried in a Lot

At the time of purchase the deed holder can fill out a form that will specify the individuals who can be buried in a specific lot. This document can be notarized and filed with the deed for the current recording fee.

Should a deed holder wish to sell a lot or portion of a lot, they must first sell it back to the town at the same price that it was originally purchased for. Then the town will sell the lot to the new owner based on current pricing. Corner stone for this new lot may not be required if the Commissioners approve.

Please be aware that the only way to securely guarantee who shall be buried in any given lot is for that person to own it. In cases where there might be a family dispute, we suggest that the parties take all steps possible to make clear who shall be allowed to use a lot.

Perpetual Care

Perpetual Care fees cover emergency repair and general upkeep of the cemetery. If you are interested in purchasing a lot in the Groton cemetery, please contact the Town Clerk.

Cemetery Plot Pricing

Size	# of traditional burial sites	# of cremation sites	PLOT PRICE	PERPETUAL CARE	FEES	TOTAL FOR RESIDENTS	TOTAL FOR NON RESIDENTS
12'x4'	1	4	\$100	\$200	\$230	\$530	\$1980
12'x8'	2	8	\$200	\$300	\$230	\$730	\$3495
12'x12'	3	12	\$300	\$400	\$230	\$930	\$5095
12'x16'	4	16	\$400	\$500	\$230	\$1130	\$6690
12'x20'	5	20	\$500	\$600	\$230	\$1330	\$8295

Fees include: recording cost \$15, cornerstones \$140, setting of cornerstones \$60 and administrative costs \$15. The cost of grave and cremation urn preparation is set by the contractor at the time of service.

Plots must be paid in full at the time of purchase.

Groton Cemetery Commission Report 2024

The Cemetery Commission has been improving our cemeteries in many ways this year. As we experienced another summer involving flooding and road closures, thankfully our cemeteries were not affected. Several days of brush cutting and debris removal has improved the appearance of our town cemetery. We encourage folks to take a drive through, take a look and attend our monthly meetings to offer any suggestions to the Commission. Our thanks go out to Tim Dailey for helping to install the Veterans flags this year.

The “new” section of the town cemetery got a huge facelift with the removal of several trees and brush on the hillside. Much appreciation to Emerson & Sons Logging in Groton for the efficient and professional work they performed for us. We are hoping to be able to use this cleared portion of the cemetery for a tiered interment for cremations in the future.

We are very grateful to Steve Hart who took the initiative to apply for a Groton Green Spaces Grant from the Urban and Community Forest Program. The Groton Cemetery now has several beautiful maple trees gracing the front of our cemetery which everyone can enjoy as they drive along Scott Highway on Route 302. This took a lot of work and has significantly contributed to the beauty of our little town.

In response to trying to keep vehicles in the designated roadway areas of the cemetery we worked on refacing the roads in the lower cemetery which has helped. We plan to do the same with the upper cemetery as well. Putting up stakes, tape and other methods has not worked to keep vehicles off the grass. Hopefully, people will see the road clearly and stay on it.

On the business side, we fine tuned a template for contracted services and detailed a scope of work for renewing our mowing contract. Much appreciation to Chris Bruce of C & A Property Maintenance and Lawn Care for his tireless work keeping our cemeteries mowed, despite the wet weather!

Together we look forward to maintaining Groton cemeteries and making them a serene, beautiful place to visit loved ones here in Groton.

Thank you for your support,

Brent Smith

Steve Batchelder

Sue Plant

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2024

Another year has passed and with it many new challenges and adjustments. We experienced “another 100 year flood”, exactly one year to the day from the last one. With this, it brought many changes to the Flood Plain, River Corridors, and Permitting Process.

The new process does not allow me to issue building permits that are in the flood plain or river corridor without having it authorized also by the Agency of Natural Resources. The agency will give me feedback on what needs to be done and if I can issue a permit for the desired use.

I would like to explain our subdivision process for land as there seems to be a lot of confusion about how the process works. Once you provide me with a Subdivision Permit, I will ascertain whether it is a lot line adjustment or an actual subdivision. At that point, if I ascertain it is a Subdivision Permit application, I will forward the application to the Planning Commission. They will need a large copy of the survey to go with the Subdivision Permit. The Planning Commission will also notify all abutters and schedule a hearing where interested parties may voice any concerns they may have. After the permit is given the necessary waiting time for parties to respond, the Planning Commission, at a Planning Commission meeting will vote to accept or deny the subdivision. If the Planning Commission votes to accept the Subdivision Permit, the applicant will be notified. This entire process normally takes 45-60 days as the Planning Commission meets once a month.

In the year 2024, I received 20 Zoning Permits. 19 were completed. One is still waiting for documentation from the State of Vermont and the onsite visit by the Agency of Natural Resources. This is down about 20% from previous years.

The Town is still having issues with property owners NOT getting the proper Zoning Permit for the acts they are doing. This happened several times this year. With the required State of Vermont issues, it is better to contact me if you have a question as to whether you need a Permit or not. Fines can be assessed by the Superior Court if Zoning Bylaws are ignored and not followed.

I can be contacted either by phone at (802) 584-4108, (802)

274-7565, through the Town website or directly through my email at: danjacs@charter.net

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Webster

Groton Zoning Administrator.

The Groton Planning Commission

To our neighbors & Groton property owners

The Groton Planning Commission had another productive year and continues to plan for the future of Groton. The bulk of our year was spent on the Groton Gateway Park planning process. The Town was awarded a Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) grant in 2022, and the Groton Gateway Park planning is a part of the grant award. This past July, the Town acquired the 3.1-acre Former Lower Groton Hydroelectric Station property located adjacent to the Stump Dump on Little Italy Road from Green Mountain Power. The VOREC grant was used complete due diligence, surveys, and securing execution of a deed to acquire this property. Using the grant saved the Town nearly \$10k in due diligence and closing costs. The land is deeded as open and accessible for permanent public outdoor recreation. This newly-acquired property and portions of the neighboring stump dump property are included in the Groton Gateway Park master plan. The Town's planning consultant, SE Group, met regularly with the Planning Commission and co-hosted an open house in June with the community that was well-attended. The feedback provided was incorporated into the final plan, which is due to the Town this winter. A trailhead parking area for the Gateway Park and railbed opened in May 2024. In other VOREC grant news, it was a really tough year on the railbed. Since the VOREC grant award, the railbed has experienced two major floods and a landslide. As a result, the railbed gravel and grading were postponed until the Spring of 2025. The final touches, including the signage and locally-constructed kiosks, will be installed after the grading is complete. Below is a list of the Planning Commission's accomplishments in 2024:

- + Two subdivisions were approved, both creating two lots out of a single lot
- + We conducted a site visit to the land designated for a cemetery off of Park Street to help the Cemetery Commission with their visioning for the property.
- + Commissioner Steve Hart led an effort to apply for a Tree Grant for Groton which the Town was awarded! Steve spearheaded this project which included meeting with a forester to discuss plantings on Town property, overseeing the planting of many trees around the ballfields and cemeteries in Groton. As many of you have seen he's been watering the trees regularly as well. We are a Town known for our trees and forests and these plantings will only add to the beauty that is Groton. Thank you, Steve, for all of your hard work on this.
- + Ongoing discussions regarding the former Brown's Market & Morrison House. A letter of intent was submitted to the Preservation Trust of Vermont for their Village Trust initiative regarding these two buildings located in the core of our village center. While our vision piqued the interest of the team that interviewed a couple of Planning Commissioners, we were not selected to apply for the Grant. The Preservation Trust provided words of encouragement and let us know that, despite not being selected, there is interest in our vision. We look forward to continuing to work with the property owner and townspeople to plan for a more vibrant village core.
- + We reviewed the Town Plan which is due to be updated in the coming year and met with the Northern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) to plan for updating the Town Plan, hopefully using funds provided by the State's Municipal Planning Grant to help with this effort. This will be a planning project for 2025 and there will be plenty of opportunities for the public to provide input on the Town Plan.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of the members of the Groton Planning Commission and the Town's Zoning Administrator, Dan Webster, for their outstanding attendance and thoughtfulness in the past year. The Commission's continued success is a credit to the Commissioners who attend and contribute to each and every meeting and we couldn't do it without you. All townspeople are encouraged to join us at any of our meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Nahmias – Chairperson – Groton Planning Commission

Recreation Committee Report 2024

Do you have Recreation Committee ideas? Do you need sponsorship of a Recreational activity? Please don't hesitate to reach out to any Recreation committee member!

2024 Notable Activities and Events

Barn Quilt Project

Nine 'quilters' got together in February 2024 and made some beautiful barn quilts. A great time was had by all! A show of the quilts was put together for the 2024 Town Meeting.

You may have also noticed a beautiful maple leaf barn quilt on the community building. This was painted by Jennie Gaiss and given to the town.

Sponsorships

Bike fixit station. There is a new bike fixit station on the side of the library parking lot.

Jazzy's Children's Fund Annual Halloween Party.

Winter Lights Festival (a Groton Free Public Library event)

SD Ireland Cement Truck at the Winter Lights Festival

Recreation Committee Members:

Lisa Hart, Janet Page, Michael Gaiss and Jennie Gaiss

The Buckaroos of 302

The Buckaroos of 302 stand at 279 members as of December 30th as we look to improve upon last year's membership. Our volunteer crew had several major projects this fall as we recovered from the July flooding. Projects included resetting the Stephen Hatch memorial bridge by Upper Valley Grill, redecking two bridges, building one bridge, and several bridges needing repair in addition to culverts needing to be reset. A big thanks to Matt Puffer of Puffer Excavation for all his time spent helping to fix our trails! The town railroad bed had 8 culverts installed in preparation for the regrading that will happen in Spring 2025. This work is part of the VOREC grant, awarded to the town of Groton, aimed at enhancing recreation opportunities.

We'd like to thank our volunteers for all that they do and the hours that they put in every fall to keep our 60 miles of trails in top shape. We were able to get trails cleared and open prior to the holidays but we are currently waiting for more snow.

Current list of officers:

President - Taylor Lamberton;

Vice President - Kevin McDonnell;

Secretary - Stuart Russo-Savage;

Trail Master - Gary Lamberton;

Media Coordinator – Suzanne Pare;

Treasurer - Dwaine Smith

The Groton Food Shelf

The Groton Food Shelf would like to thank the following people and organizations for their generous donations of food and/or money.

Kirsten Murch & Alan Massey

Town of Ryegate

Mike & Jennie Gaiss

The Blue Mountain Grange

BMU School

Ken & Barb Nelson

Rich & Judy Thrasher in memory of Norman & Marion Murray & Laurel Murray Goodwin

Ryegate Ticklenaked Tillies

Ryegate Winter Carnival

Americade

Darlings Auto

Jim & Lois Bostrom

Steve & Barb Elliott

Lawrence Cotnoir

Elizabeth Hammell

Brittany Carpenter

Mark Gleicher & Deborah Jurist

Riley & Everett Emerson

Naomi Darling

If we missed you, we apologize and please know your donation was greatly appreciated.

The Food Shelf gave out 16 Thanksgiving Baskets and 16 Christmas baskets, plus gift cards to Ocean State Job Lots so that parents could choose gifts for their children.

If you are in need please call 584-3276, Mon-Thurs. or email townclerk@grotonvt.com to set up a time to pick up food.

<u>Food Shelf 2024 Beginning Balance:</u>	\$8,103.03
Donations:	\$4100.00
Interest Earned:	\$83.60
Expenses:	\$4069.83
(Food, gift cards, personal care items)	
Ending Balance:	\$8,216.80

Resources:

3SquaresVT 1-800-479-6151

Vermont Food Bank, 1-800-585-2265

Vermont 2-1-1, dial 211 or go to vermont211.org

Groton Historical Society



We started the year with a major restoration of the backyard at the Peter Paul House.

A fallen buckthorn tree provided the impetus and the knotweed intervention program added a pathway to the river no one had seen in years. Firewood from the tree was given to a member/neighbor who has been allowing us to access water through his old residence since the house opened.

The brush was burned as a training exercise for three fire departments. We found an old peony bush buried in the undergrowth down by the river.... evidence that someone had a garden there once.

The view from the south windows in the kitchen of the PPH is spectacular.

The focus for the year 2024 was to create new infrastructure to store and protect the GHS collection, update record keeping and prepare space for new donations.

Thanks to one very generous anonymous gift, we began the process of creating an artifact and document vault. There is now shelving and a dehumidifier, with archival boxes and the beginnings of a cataloging system.

The artifact signage at the PPH continues to be updated to be more visible and complete so visitors can readily learn about the cherished gems of Groton's attic.

A beautiful old oak and glass display case has been acquired and awaits filling in the coming months.

As part of a necessary process to update the PPH insurance we engaged the services of an appraiser to help ascertain the value of some items and perhaps uncover the value of a few things we have not considered as significant.

Please consider joining the Groton Historical Society. You can do so online on our extensive website:

www.grotonvthistory.com

History, unlike legend, is composed of things we understand halfway, and seek to grasp ever better.

Historian - Timothy Snyder

Groton Community Club Report 2024



The Groton Community Club had another successful year of supporting both the community and local high school seniors pursuing higher education after graduation.

This year, the Club organized two highly successful events that brought the community together. In March, we hosted our second annual Chicken BBQ Ride-In at the Upper Valley Grill, where 200 chicken meals were served. Snowmobile riders and local residents gathered to enjoy the meal while raising funds for the Club's initiatives.

We also held our first-ever smoker raffle, which was a tremendous success. The overwhelming response raised a significant amount of money, and we look forward to holding another raffle this year.

The annual Chicken Pie Supper also saw remarkable support and attendance. We continued the tradition of offering three seatings and a to-go meal option, selling around 450 meals in total. Additionally, the Groton Community Club awarded \$4,500 in scholarships to graduating seniors continuing their education, helping to support the next generation's academic goals.

We are grateful for the continued support from our community and are excited for another year ahead!

Tracy Emerson
Secretary

The Groton Community Garden



The Community Garden is in its fourth season.

The Groton Community Garden saw an increase in traffic at its free produce stand, which we moved to a spot visible to traffic on 302, near the Community Building.

The stand served as a popular distribution point for produce from the community garden and local gardeners wanting to share their harvest.

A highlight of the summer was a visit by the VEDUCATON Van from the Vermont Garden Network with a delicious workshop on cooking fresh garden vegetables.

The Groton Community Garden is a sponsored program of the Growing Peace Project.

We welcome community volunteers and plant donations for our 2025 season.

grotoncommunitygarden@gmail.com.

Eradication of Japanese Knotweed in Groton

Report from the Invasive Species Working Group

Our initiative to eradicate Japanese knotweed in Groton began following the Town Meeting in 2023. The past two years have been an incredible learning experience for us. In 2023, with permission from the Town and landowners, we tested several recommended treatment approaches, including smothering, injecting and spraying. The first two approaches are applicable for small patches whereas the only practical and effective approach on large patches is spraying with the herbicide glyphosate. But the results have been stunning.

In the summer and fall of 2023, we cut and sprayed herbicide on over an acre of knotweed on the Groton Gateway Park. In spring 2024, there was amazingly little regrowth with only a few small shoots appearing, and these were again sprayed in September. Hopefully, none will appear in 2025 though we will continue to monitor it as long-term dormancy has been reported.

Based on this success, we applied for, and received a Watershed grant from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department to treat the Memorial Park and neighboring private properties along the river. Written permission was obtained from all the landowners. In July 2024, a small team of volunteers cut the tall knotweed canes (you cannot spray them when they are 10 feet high), then in September the much more manageable smaller canes were sprayed with herbicide by a State-certified contractor.

This needs more explanation. The most effective and probably most benign herbicide available is glyphosate. Unfortunately, glyphosate has been erroneously maligned for its toxicity and for inducing cancer. It is far less toxic than many common household products, and its cancer-causing effect is highly questionable. Only one agency (IARC) considers it to be a probable carcinogen, and then at a very low risk. The EPA and similar agencies in at least 15 other countries have concluded it does not cause cancer. The State of Vermont has published a very informative document explaining its relative safety (search the web for “Glyphosate: farming, health and the environment”).

For 2025, the Town has budgeted funds so we can attack the rest of the knotweed on the Gateway Park. Our Watershed grant also contains funds for a second year of treatment along the river in downtown Groton.

Do you have knotweed growing on your property? Importantly, every property owner is legally allowed to treat the knotweed on their own property. Control is critical as knotweed is much more than just an environmental disaster, it will target weak spots in buildings, infiltrate the smallest cracks and wind its way through drains and septic systems, blocking and eventually breaking pipes. The damage can be extremely costly, and its presence can dramatically lower property values. Our working group is here to advise and help you. Our operating document is available on the town website (go to Community, then Links). We can also meet with you, explain our suggested approaches in more detail, and address any specific concerns. We may also be able to physically assist your effort. Contact information is below.

Volunteers. This is an important community effort so please let us know if you are willing to put in a few hours volunteering this summer.

Grateful thanks to the following volunteers who helped cut the knotweed in July, and to our contractor who sprayed it in September: Chuck Gallagher, Dwaine Smith, Nick Smith, Dale Thoreson.

The Invasive Species Working Group: Alan Eastman, Cindy Spoor, Dale Thorenson
Contact: Alan.R.Eastman@Dartmouth.edu.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



As of August 16, 2024 NEK Broadband and CVFiber merged under 30 V.S.A. 3052a forming one Communications Union District (CUD) dba NEKCV. NEK Broadband and CVFiber will continue to use their brands within their respective territories.

The district now includes 71 member communities in Caledonia, Essex, Orleans, Lamoille, Washington and Orange Counties. 50 of our towns currently have public fiber-optic infrastructure, and an 57 towns have started pre-construction licensing work.


Broadband Nutrition Labels - In compliance with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirement that Internet Service Providers (ISPs) display standardized broadband information labels, you will find these listed under the service offerings of NEK Broadband and CVFiber websites.

CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICE PROJECTED GROWTH BY YEAR

2024	33	Towns Served
Projected	665	Miles Built
	8,200	Addresses Passed
2025	50	Towns Served
Projected	1,165	Miles Built
	15,000	Addresses Passed

8200 
SERVICE AVAILABLE
WE NOW OFFER SERVICE TO
8200 ADDRESSES IN THE
NEKCV.

1200 
CUSTOMERS SERVED
NEKCV MORE THAN
DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF
CUSTOMERS SERVED in 2024

665 
MILES OF NETWORK
AT THE END OF 2024, WE
NOW HAVE 665 MILES OF
FIBER NETWORK
THROUGHOUT THE NEKCV.



GRANTS & FINANCING

We were awarded \$2,847,276 through the Community Connect Grant program. This is in addition to the USDA ReConnect grant of \$17,474,000, which we received in 2023.

The Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) approved an additional \$4M in construction grants and \$21M as a match for our Broadband Equity and Deployment Grant Application coming later this year. This brings our foundational support to over \$73 million for the Northeast Kingdom Region and over \$20 million in Central Vermont.

BUILDING CAPACITY

We have doubled the size of staff, with a full-time staff of 12.

We have active warehouses in Danville, Montpelier and Brighton for the storage of construction materials.

In May we completed our first workforce development program, with 7 NEK residents receiving training to become Broadband Technicians/Installers.

BUDGET SUMMARY

NEKCV dba NEK Broadband & dba CVFiber Communications Union District - 2025 Budget / 2024 Budget to Actual

	2024 Combined NEKCV Budget Gov Board	Projected 2024 Year End at 9/30/24	2025 Proposed 2025 Budget
Surpluses from Prior Fiscal Years			\$1,832,742
Income			
Operations Revenue	852,455	874,871	2,047,769
Administrative Grant Revenue	1,885,621	3,442,342	3,856,318
Capital Grant Revenue	36,200,196	16,607,798	36,529,448
Other Revenue	\$0	\$1,837,490	\$1,467,290
TOTAL CASH IN	\$38,938,272	\$22,762,502	\$43,900,825
Expenses			
Operational Cost	\$378,912	\$823,330	\$1,247,036
Administrative Costs	\$1,885,621	\$2,935,997	\$3,856,318
Construction Costs	\$36,200,196	\$17,431,128	\$36,529,448
TOTAL CASH OUT	\$38,464,729	\$21,190,454	\$41,632,802
Annual Net Cashflow	\$473,543	\$1,572,048	\$2,268,023

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

To order our service, get updates, or sign up for our newsletter, fill out the form at get.nekbroadband.org, or cvfiber.net

NEK Broadband

We entered 2024 with the goals of having addresses along our adjusted American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) buildout area connected with broadband service during the year (see 2023 Town Report). We were also awaiting word on the USDA Community Connect Grant that was applied for in June 2023.

The ARPA buildout area included the Great Road-Minard Hill Road-Mt Ara Road corridor as well as Scott Highway (east of the Village). Broadband services started becoming available to residents in this corridor in July 2024, with a current total of 99 addresses now having access.

In October, NEK Broadband (doing business as NEKCV after merging with CVFiber) was awarded a \$2.85M USDA Community Connect Grant. This is resulting in a \$4.1M project to build fiber broadband infrastructure across the area and connect approximately 300 unserved and underserved addresses in Groton and parts of South Ryegate. Basically, if your address currently has electrical service via Green Mountain Electric or Washington Electric, you can expect to have the option by the end of this year to sign-up for NEKCV's fiber broadband service.

A portion of the grant is also for creating a new digitally focused community space that will operate for the next couple of years. Called "The HUB," this standalone space will significantly expand free community access to workspace equipped with high-speed broadband and today's information technology tools. The HUB will be located in the middle of the village, at the former RuralEdge Sash Space (1334 Scott Highway, Groton). A note of sincere thanks to RuralEdge for offering us this space, otherwise we would not have been in position to pursue this grant!

Working with RuralEdge and other partners, we are in the early process of designing the HUB. In the coming months we will send out a community-wide survey. NEKCV is also seeking to hire an employee to staff the space. Doors are expected to officially open sometime this summer.

In addition, funds from this grant will be used to install a Wi-Fi Hotspot at the Groton Nature Center, enabling internet accessibility for residents, visitors, and first responders in a known communications dead zone. In conjunction with this grant, NEKCV has also offered to donate \$17K to the Groton Free Public Library and \$10K to the South Ryegate Library to further enhance their digital equipment capabilities. Both libraries have also been offered free 2/2 Gig Fiber Internet service for the next couple of years as well.

It is hard to overstate the significance and importance of this grant in terms of making accessible access to high-speed internet services a reality across Groton. Our sincere gratitude & appreciation goes out to our past and present Town Officials, residents, businesses, supporters and partners that have worked tirelessly over the last 5 years in so many different ways to bring broadband internet service to our area. It truly took a committed & resilient proverbial Village!

We plan to do multiple info sessions in 2025 to keep community members informed of progress. You can also register to be added to NEKCV's communication list at <https://get.nekbroadband.org/>.

Thank you for your time, input, and patience. It has made all the difference!!!

Mike Gaiss: Groton's Primary Representative on NEKCV's Governing Board
Martin Klein: Groton's Alternate Representative on NEKCV's Governing Board

Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) Implementation Grant

In December 2024, Groton was awarded a Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) Implementation Grant in the amount of \$397,303.24. This grant provides the funding to potentially cover the costs of the following for all three of our municipal buildings: replacing existing equipment with new renewable energy heating systems (+ HVAC improvements), thermal envelope & lighting improvements, new solar panels, new battery backup systems, and adding two EV Chargers at the Community Building.

Of note, there are no (\$0) matching funds that the Town would need to pay associated with this grant. In addition, there is an order of implementation associated with this grant in order to get reimbursed. Weatherization, thermal efficiency, and/or fuel switching recommendations are to be pursued first. Leftover funds remaining in the municipality's award can then be used to pursue the additional energy resilience projects (e.g., solar panels, battery storage, EV charging technology).

Beyond getting all new heating/cooling systems installed, the estimated energy cost savings for the town/taxpayers from the above work from the assessments reports associated with this grant are estimated to be \$16K annually (\$80K over 5 years, \$160K over 10 years). This would be primarily due to the addition of solar panels on all three buildings (assuming they are implemented).

The grant presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to modernize our energy heating/HVAC systems, reduce energy use and operating costs, increase energy resilience, curb greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance comfort in our three municipal buildings.

This grant process began in the fall of 2023. Thank you very much to both past & present Selectboard members for their support behind this initiative. In addition, special appreciation goes out to Carrie Peters for the work she did over this period to keep this opportunity moving forward for our Town and residents.

Mike Gaiss & Dennis Casey

Caledonia County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff James Hemond

970 Memorial Drive St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

P: (802)748-6666 F: (802)748-1684

Email: caledoniasheriff.net

We here at the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department continued to make improvements and provide needed services to the citizens of Caledonia County. Many of you may have noticed a lot of construction being completed during the spring and summer months. Many building improvements were completed to better serve not only the staff but the community as a whole. Our goal was to improve the building and provide a much safer, more accessible and inviting place to work and operate a business.

We added much needed services this year including restoring the Child Passenger Safety Technician to the department. We now offer not only roadside car seat inspections but also onsite inspections as well. Please call or stop by for all of your car seat and passenger safety needs.

We also added a full service AFIS Fingerprint machine. Fingerprints are mandatory for all those seeking employment in the education, federal and state level employment, state and federal licensing, nurses, sports coaches, and many other employment needs. We have had great success so far this year and are looking forward to continuing this service.

We continue to seek qualified, competent applicants to add to the department's depleted roster. We seek out training opportunities for the deputies and office staff to best serve the needs of the department and communities we serve. We continue to work and train with area Law Enforcement Fire, Emergency Services, Mental Health and Human Services Agencies not only in Caledonia County but Statewide.

We completed our annual financial audit for the year and it resulted in no findings or problems of any kind.

The department was also contacted throughout the year by several towns for contracted patrols. Of the 17 towns in the county the department provides services to 10 of these towns. Due to staffing shortages it has been difficult to provide consistent services to these communities but we are working hard to improve as well as increase our presence to provide consistent, quality, and cost effective Law Enforcement Services to you all of you. As much as possible we maintain an active presence with local schools to ensure the safety of students and staff. We provided security for numerous community events, sports events, parades, fairs, festivals and functions to ensure public safety wherever needed. We participated in drills and evacuation plans with area schools, NVRH and assisted during flooding this summer. We continue to assist area public safety, emergency service, mental health agencies, and local business whenever needed. The department maintains a Take Back Drugs Location serving as a drop off for expired, unused and no longer needed Rx medications.

Your dedicated staff here at the Caledonia County Sheriffs' Department will continue to make our best effort to serve all of you in this wonderful community whether you live, work, play or raise a family. I am always available for any questions or comments here at the office and feel free to visit our Facebook page as well.

Respectfully;

James Hemond

Caledonia County Sheriff

Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD) Year-End Financial Report for 2024

The NEKWMD ended 2024 with a surplus of \$65,746.46. Revenues in 2024 were 22.3% above projections, while expenses were 15.4% above projections. Revenues from tire disposal, scrap metal, and the surcharge were responsible for strong revenues in 2024. Some fees used to generate revenues will increase headed into 2025. The surcharge will increase \$2.75/ton from \$26.75 in 2024 to \$29.50 in 2025. This represents a \$0.07 increase on a standard bag of trash. Hauling fees to service recycling centers and schools will be increasing as well in 2025. The rate for recycling centers will increase from \$49/stop to \$55/stop, and the rate for schools will increase from \$33/stop to \$37/stop. Fees for tires will remain unchanged in 2025 as will the per capita assessment (\$1.16/person).

The NEKWMD is entering 2025 with a budget of \$1,030,997 – an increase of 8.8% compared to 2024. The NEKWMD was staffed by eleven full-time and two part-time employees in 2024. The District will be adding a full-time employee in 2025.

There were no additions or subtractions to the District membership in 2024. We continue to serve the largest geographical area and largest number of towns (49) in the State. Our population served is 3rd in the state behind only the Chittenden Solid Waste District and the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District.

Each of the member Towns is entitled to representation by at least one Supervisor. The Board of Supervisors is the principal authority over the NEKWMD and the primary means of contact with the member towns. The Board of Supervisors meets monthly with the District's Executive Director to set the direction of NEKWMD policy.

Since the surcharge on trash is based on the amount of waste produced, members have a clear opportunity to control their waste management costs. Costs can decrease as waste generation rates decrease and recycling rates increase.

We would like to express our appreciation to our able staff for their continuing commitment to our mission. The 47,600 residents of 49 Towns throughout the Northeast Kingdom can be assured that the NEKWMD will continue to address their waste management concerns in a timely and environmentally sound fashion.

Paul Tomasi
Executive Director
NEKWMD

Acceptable HHW Materials

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- AEROSOLS
- AIR FRESHENERS
- AMMONIA
- ARTS AND CRAFTS SUPPLIES
- BLEACH
- CLEANERS (INCLUDES: DRAIN, OVEN, FLOOR, WINDOW, TOILET, RUG, ETC.)
- DISINFECTANTS
- METAL & FURNITURE POLISH
- MOTHBALLS
- MERCURY THERMOMETERS
- NAIL POLISH & REMOVER
- NI-CD, LITHIUM, MI-MH, AND BUTTON CELL BATTERIES
- SPOT & STAIN REMOVERS
- ALKALINE BATTERIES *

GARDEN SUPPLIES

- CREOSOTE
- DIOXINS
- FERTILIZERS
- FLEA KILLERS
- FUNGICIDES
- HERBICIDES
- INSECT SPRAYS
- MURIATIC ACID
- NO-PEST STRIPS
- PESTICIDES
- RODENT KILLERS

GARAGE

- ANTIFREEZE
- BRAKE FLUID *

GARAGE (CONTINUED)

- CORROSIVES
- CAR WAXES AND CLEANERS
- ENGINE DEGREASERS
- FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS *
- GASOLINE/DRY GAS
- KEROSENE
- LEAD-ACID CAR BATTERIES *
- LIGHTER FLUID
- OIL-BASED PAINT
- LATEX-BASED PAINT
- PAINT THINNER
- PROPANE CYLINDERS
- SEALANTS
- STAINS/STRIPPERS
- SWIMMING POOL CHEMICALS
- TRANSMISSION FLUID *
- WOOD PRESERVATIVES
- USED MOTOR OIL AND FILTERS *

* ALSO ACCEPTED AT OIL AND BATTERY STATIONS YEAR ROUND

PLEASE DO NOT BRING:

- ASBESTOS
- EXPLOSIVES, INCLUDING GUN POWDER, AMMUNITION
- FLARES
- INFECTIOUS WASTE
- PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION
- RADIOACTIVE WASTE, INCLUDING SMOKE DETECTORS
- UNKNOWN GAS CYLINDERS
- EMPTY CONTAINERS

**CONTACT THE NEKWMD IF YOU HAVE ITEMS YOU CANNOT IDENTIFY
802-626-3532 or 800-734-4602 or www.nekwmd.org**

Town Building's Use Policy

Town Buildings play an important role in our community and we hope to promote their use while continuing to meet the growing cost of maintenance. We ask that those using the facilities contribute a portion of the money required to cover the cost of cleaning, utilities, heating and general upkeep.

Taxpayer money provides for the bulk of this financial burden but a portion of the increased maintenance cost is due to the increased use and needs.

Increased activity has also required that our scheduling policy be updated to allow for more residents and diverse activities to be accommodated.

All Town Buildings will be available for public use providing there is no conflict with Town-sponsored activities.

Town Building usage by town residents shall take precedence over non-resident, non-profit, or private use.

Space will be scheduled in hourly segments with a fee of \$10.00 per hour for residents & \$15.00 per hour for non-residents. The daily charge for renting Tables and Chairs and taking them off site:

- Plastic 8 Foot Table- \$1.00
- Metal folding chairs-\$.50

There will be a separate \$50.00 cleaning and damage deposit at the time the reservations are made and paid in advance. It will be returned after the space has been determined to be clean and damage free, within 7 days after space use.

Multiple day events will cost minimum \$100.00 plus the \$50.00 deposit fee.

A Donation for the use of Ballfields and Parks would be appreciated.

Funeral related events will be charged a flat fee of \$20.00 for non-resident and free to residents.

Town of Groton will need to be listed as Certificate Holder for General Liability Insurance. Specifics can be found at the Town Treasurer's Office.

The Town Building Sign-Up Sheet and Release of Responsibility Form will be available at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours.

It is the responsibility of the individuals or groups using Town Building's to clean the rented space and to remove their trash & take with you after each use.

The key must be returned promptly after the function. Keys shall not be duplicated.

Misuse of any of the Groton Town Building Facilities and/or premises and/or failure to comply with the above policy, or any of the rules will result in immediate revocation of permission to use any of the facilities in the future.

Updated September 14, 2022

MARRIAGES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>APPLICANT</u>
JUNE 1, 2024	SALENA SUE STEWART	WILLIAM RYAN EDMUNDS
SEPT.7, 2024	BRIANNA SHELBY RITCHIE	ROBERT ALVIN ELDRED

BIRTHS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>MOTHER</u>	<u>FATHER</u>
JULIETTE ROSE FLEURY	AMBER KAYLEE FLEURY	
AMELIE JEAN FLEURY	AMBER KAYLEE FLEURY	
CHASE MATTHEW FULFORD	EMILY JEANNE RUSSO	MASON ALLEN FULFORD
MILES RUSSELL SCHMAIS	BRITTANY DAWN TINKHAM	DANIEL LAZER SCHMAIS
ROSE PASHA SULLIVAN	ELIZABETH ELAINE MEDINA	ANDREW BANNON SULLIVAN
SUMMIT KARL GAFFNEY	TABERTHER MARIE ST.LAURENT	KEITH ROBERT GAFFNEY
ADELA MARIE FLEURY	AMBER KAYLEE FLEURY	

DEATHS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>
MICHAEL OWEN BLAIR	76
CLAUDETTE JEANNETTE DARLING	84
STANLEY RAYMOND PIERCE	88
FRED GRANT	76
PEGGY BURGIN	77
ROY DAVIS	73
JOHN J PAC JR	76
RICHARD A VANCE	84
DANA BENJAMIN SMITH JR	27
DAVID M TIERNEY	67
SHIRLEY E BEAMIS	78

INFORMATION FROM STATE OF VERMONT VITAL RECORDS

Local Health Office Annual Report: 2024

St. Johnsbury Local Health Office | 107 Eastern Ave, Suite 9, St. Johnsbury, VT
802-748-5151 | AHS.VDHStJohnsbury@Vermont.gov

There are twelve Local Health Offices in Vermont, linking communities to the Department of Health. **The St. Johnsbury Office covers towns in Caledonia, southern Essex, and part of Orange counties.** Below are some highlights from 2024. For more details, visit HealthVermont.gov/local/st-johnsbury



Pregnant People, Infants and Children

In 2024, our WIC Program supported over 775 pregnant people, infants, and kids under 5.

- We offer healthy food, breastfeeding help, nutrition advice, and community links.
- With Salvation Farms, we provide free seasonal produce to families.
- Our team offers services through tele-WIC and at clinics. We also collaborate with NEKCA/Lyndon Institute Early Education at their new Family Resource Center.



Collaborations and Collective Impact

Our team is actively collaborating in the community. Here are some 2024 highlights:

- We partnered with NVRH and others for a community health needs assessment.
- We reached out at the St. Johnsbury Community Hub.
- We assessed walking and biking safety in rural areas.
- We partnered with St. Johnsbury School to enhance health and mental health services.



Prepared and Responsive

Our team is ready for community needs and health threats. In 2024, we:

- Vaccinated uninsured people against COVID, flu, and Mpox, teaming up with St. Johnsbury Community Hub, Bridges to Health and others.
- Gave out free water test kits after historic flooding.
- The Northeast Kingdom Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) held preparedness events and Stop the Bleed classes. It also helped with shelter and recovery after floods.



Scan to access
the report online



Resource List

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline - 988

Substance Abuse - VT Help link - call 802-565-LINK (5465) or visit VTHelpplink.org for free and Confidential alcohol and drug support and referral services if you or someone you Know needs help

Vermont Suicide Prevention Hotline - 800-273-8255

The Vermont Network against Domestic and Sexual Violence -
Domestic Violence Hotline- 800-228-7395
Sexual Violence Hotline - 800-489-7273

Central Vermont Council on Aging -
[59 N. Main St #200, Barre VT 05641](#) - 800-642-5119

Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging -
[481 Summer St #101, St Johnsbury VT 05819](#) - 800-642-5119

Green Mountain Support Services -
[93 James Road, Morrisville VT 05661](#) - 802-888-7602
1222 Main St. Suite 102, St Johnsbury VT 05819 - 802-424-1636
After Hours on call Pager: 802-741-7515 or you can e-mail info@gmssi.org

VT Office of Veteran's Affairs - 802-828-3379 or Visit the website at veterans.vermont.gov
Veterans in Crisis - 800-273-8255 - Press 1 to reach the VA Hotline -
Counselors are available 24 hours.

Pathways Vermont - Supportive Services for Veterans and Families -
P0 Box #127 Winooski, VT 05404 - info@pathwaysvermont.org 888-492-8218

DOG LICENSING & THE VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM aka “VSNIP”!

Pursuant to: 20 VS.A. §3581 of the Vermont Statutes Title 20: Internal Security and Public Safety, Chapter 193: Domestic Pet or Wolf-hybrid Control. Sub-chapter 002: Licenses: **A dog must be licensed (registered) by six months of age at your town office to be legal. Proof of a rabies vaccination within the last year is required. Dogs not licensed can be seized and euthanized per state statute.**

Registering identifies your dog. It's proof of protection against rabies in case an animal or person is bitten. Immediate medical attention is needed. Animals not vaccinated and registered could be quarantined or possibly seized and euthanized, enabling the brain to be tested. Rabies is deadly. PLEASE LICENSE NOW!

Vermont Statutes Title 20 - Internal Security and Public Safety Chapter 193 - Domestic Pet or Wolf-Hybrid Control §3621. Issuance of warrant to impound; complaint.

(a)(1) The legislative body of a municipality may at any time issue a warrant to one or more police officers, constables, pound keepers, or appointed animal control officers, directing them to promptly impound all dogs or wolf-hybrids within the town or city not licensed according to the provisions of this subchapter, except as exempted by section 3587 of this title, and to enter a complaint against the owners or keepers of the impounded dogs and wolf-hybrids.

A puppy (or kitten) can have their first rabies vaccination after 12 weeks of age. Community Animal Aid hosts a Wellness Clinic, including rabies vaccinations, for those unhoused or those receiving state benefits usually on the 2nd Saturday of the month: East Barre Fire Station. Check for updates: AnimalAidVT@gmail.com or 802-734-0259. Tractor Supply Stores host a monthly rabies clinic, and some VT Humane Societies and veterinarians offer a rabies clinic in March.

THE VT SPAY NEUTER INCENTIVE PROGRAM aka “VSNIP”

VSNIP helps income eligible Vermonters have dogs and cats spayed/neutered and vaccinated at a very reduced cost to them. Veterinary offices are throughout the state and we invite other veterinarians to join this altruistic effort to help continue eliminating routine euthanasia of mostly, an over population of cats and kittens. For an application, call 802-672-5302. Push #2 for instructions, or visit: VSNIP.VERMONT.GOV Sue Skaskiw, Administrator

**ALL DOGS MUST BE
LICENSED BY APRIL 1, 2025!**

Dog License Fees

**Intact Male or Female Dogs - \$16.00
by April 1st**

**Altered Male or Female Dogs - \$12.00
by April 1st**

**After April 1st additional fees will be
added**



VERMONT STATE LAW

In accordance with VSA 20 (3581) all Dogs shall be licensed by April 1st of each year. Or

You will be in violation of this Vermont Statute and of The Town Ordinance.

Pursuant to 20 V.S.A. § 3621, the Groton Selectboard will issue a warrant to impound or find homes or destroy all unlicensed dogs and wolf hybrids in the town. Pursuant to the warrant and 20 V.S.A. § 3624, the Constable and Animal Control Officer are required by law within 90 days to destroy all such unlicensed dogs and wolf hybrids within the town. A person who fails to license a dog or wolf-hybrid in the required manner shall be fined up to \$500.00.

WE DO NOT WANT TO TAKE YOUR ANIMALS, BUT STATE LAW REQUIRES US TO IMPOUND UNLICENSED DOGS!

You will need to show a recent rabies certificate and a spayed or neutered certificate if your dog(s) has been altered. If you no longer have this animal, please contact the Groton Town Clerk to let her know.

Groton Town Clerk's hours - Monday through Thursday 8:00 am –4:00 pm

Dropbox located inside the entranceway to the left of the Town Clerk's door, is open 24/7 to drop off paperwork and fees.

THERE IS NO RABIES CLINIC SCHEDULED IN GROTON FOR 2025