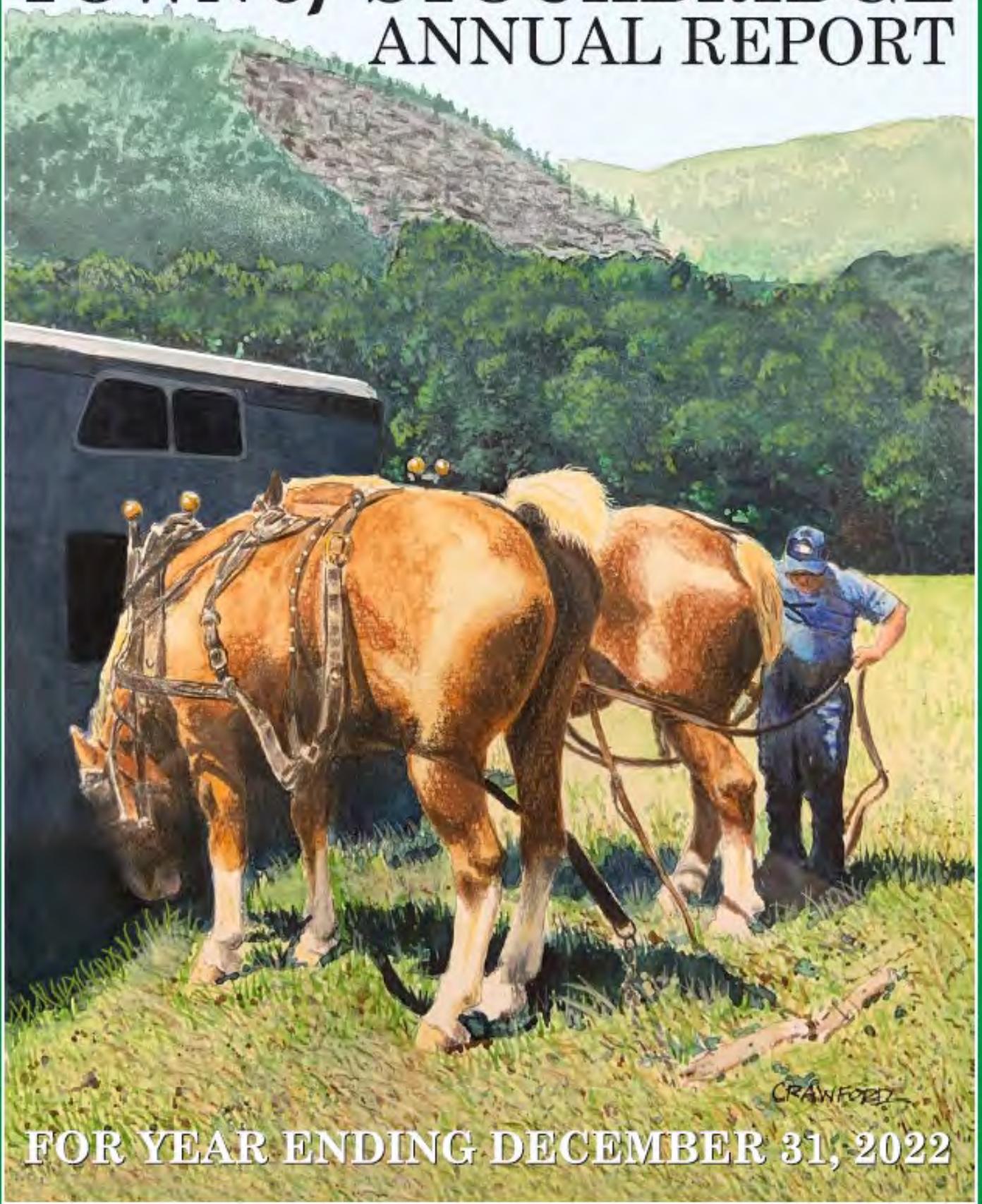


TOWN *of* STOCKBRIDGE ANNUAL REPORT



FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

AUDITORS ' REPORT

Pursuant to Section 1681/83, Title 24 V.S.A., we have verified the foregoing state cash balances, inspected bank statements; examined the accounts of Town Officers, and to the best of our knowledge the financial statements and reports of receipts and disbursements present the financial condition of the town on December 31, 2022 and they are an accurate record of the funds in the year ended.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathie Burns
Pamela Lyman



In Memory of Sid Hotchkiss

Loved chatting with everyone in town as he worked on the roads
You never had to wonder where you stood with him because he would "tell it like it is"
He loved his horses and horse pulling and remained friends with pullers long after he stopped pulling his own horses
Usually wore only a tee shirt even in winter-- rarely a coat
Could repair anything that broke down in the garage. An excellent welder and superb grade operator
Had a super soft spot for the elderly and for kids. He always kept a pocket full of quarters to flip, and the kids always won. He often made it a point to check in on the older folks who were on his routes.

ON THE COVER

Picture by Greg Crawford

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Warning – ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE

March 7, 2023

Legal voters of the Town of Stockbridge, County of Windsor, State of Vermont, are hereby NOTIFIED and WARNED to MEET **at the Union Meeting House** located on Stockbridge Common on **Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 9:00am**, to transact the following matters:

Article 1: To elect the following officers for the terms indicated and to fill other offices vacant.

1. Moderator for 1-year term.
2. Town Clerk for 3-year term.
3. Town Treasurer for 3-year term.
4. Selectperson for 3-year term.
5. Lister for 3-year term.
6. Auditor for 3-year term. Auditor for 2-year term
7. Agent to Defend and Prosecute suits for a 1-year term.
8. Grand Juror for a 1-year term.
9. First Constable for a 1-year term.
10. Second Constable for a 1-year term
11. Collector of Delinquent Taxes for 1-year term.
12. Trustee of Public Funds for a 3-year term.
13. Cemetery Commissioner for a 3-year term.
14. Memorial Day Chair for a 1-year term.

Article 2: To hear the auditors' report and to take any necessary action thereon.

Article 3: Will the Town vote to pay real estate taxes in two equal installments due on August 15 and November 15?

Article 4: Will the Town vote to elect a Collector of Taxes or to authorize the Town Treasurer to collect current taxes?

Article 5: Will the Town vote to accept the proposed budget? Recommended \$1,039,827

Article 6: Will the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?

Article 7: Will the Town vote to roll the unspent portion of the 2022 Audit expense (\$4,000) and the 2022 Building Maintenance expense (\$4,400) in the amount of \$8,400 into the 2023 Budget?

Article 8: Will the Town vote to contract in the amount of \$30,000 with the Windsor County Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement services?

Article 9: Will the Town vote to change the offices of Town Clerk and Town Treasurer from an Elected position to Appointed offices?

Article 10: To do any other necessary and proper business brought before said annual town meeting.

STOCKBRIDGE SELECTBOARD

Lee Ann Isaacson - Chair

Zachary Cavacas

Michael Ketchum

VOTER INFORMATION

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

CHECKLIST POSTED at Clerks Office, Stockbridge Post Office, and Gaysville Post Office by February 3, 2022. If your name is not on the checklist, then you must register to vote.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE: There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the town clerk's office or going online to <https://mvp.vermont.gov>

ON ELECTION DAY:

If your name was dropped from the checklist in error or has not been added even though you submitted a timely application for addition to the checklist, you can fill out a new registration form.

- ! If the clerk or Board of Civil Authority does not add your name, you can appeal the decision to a superior court judge, who will settle the matter. Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683) for more information.

If you are a first time voter who submitted your application to the checklist individually by mail and did not submit the required document, you must provide a current and valid photo identification, or a bank statement, utility bill, or government document that contains your name/current address.

If you have physical disabilities, are visually impaired or can't read, you may have assistance from any person of your choice. If any voters you know have disabilities let them know they can have assistance from any person of their choice.

If you know voters who cannot get from the car into the polling place let them know that ballot(s) may be brought to their car by two election officials.

If you have any questions or need assistance while voting, ask your town clerk or any election official for help.

NO PERSON SHALL:

- ! Vote more than once per election, either in the same town or in different towns.
- ! Mislead the board of civil authority about your own or another person's true residency or other eligibility to vote.
- ! Hinder or impede a voter going into or from the polling place.
- ! Socialize in a manner that could disturb other voters in the polling place.
- ! Offer bribe, threaten or exercise undue influence to dictate or control the vote of another person.

FOR HELP OR INFORMATION: Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-VOTE (439-8683). (Accessible by TDD)

WAYS OF VOTING EARLY: Not available for the annual town or school meeting.

WARNING POSTED ON: February 3, 2022 (No later than 30 days before election.)

Town of Stockbridge **Volunteer Form**

Stockbridge is full of citizens who care about their town and have skills, talents and interests that our Town needs to move ahead. Without the active participation of our residents, Stockbridge will not continue to be that special place we all enjoy and want to protect and enhance.

This Volunteer Form is for all people interested in helping the Town of Stockbridge. By filling out this form you let us know what areas you might be interested in serving. You're not making any commitment. The Town Clerk will keep your Volunteer Form on file for future reference.

Directions: Thank you for your interest in serving Stockbridge! Simply follow these steps:

1. Check off which position you may want to serve on or join. You may select more than one. If you choose more than one, tell us your top preference.
2. Fill in the personal information so we can contact you when there is a vacancy or need.
3. Return this form to the Town Office via mail @ Town of Stockbridge, P.O. Box 39, Stockbridge, VT 05772, or by emailing to townofstockbridgev@gmail.com

Town Volunteer Positions/Organizations (Check all that you might be interested in):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agent to defend/ Prosecute Suits (elect) | <input type="checkbox"/> Listers (elected) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agent to Convey Real Estate(appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Day Chair (elected) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ambulance Representative (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring (Windsor County Partners) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Auditors (elected) | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderator (elected) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Commissioner (elected) | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commissioner (appointed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collector of Current Taxes (elected) | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Planning Representative (appt) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collector of Delinquent Taxes (elected) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stagecoach Representative (appointed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Commissioner (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> School Directors (elected) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Constable (elected) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stockbridge Central School Volunteer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E.C. Fiber Representative (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stockbridge Central School Coach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Management Coord. (appt) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stockbridge Central School P.T.O. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Committee member (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stockbridge Central School Tutor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fence Viewers (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Selectboard member (elected) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Volunteer (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Town Clerk (elected) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Warden (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Town Clerk (appointed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Juror (elected) | <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer (elected) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green Up Day Coordinator (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Warden (appointed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green Up Day Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Trustee of Public Funds (elected) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Officer (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Consulting (for Town Web Page) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Society member | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Administrator (appointed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inspector of Lumber (appointed) | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Board of Adjustment (apt) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Justices of the Peace (elected) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library Trustee | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If you checked off more than one volunteer position, which one is your top choice?

1. _____

Would you be interested in helping on a special project, like the future use of the Campground?

Yes

No

If you're interested in helping on a special project, please tell us what kind of project you would be interested in working on. (example: Town Website Development)

Name: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Address (or P.O. Box): _____

Town: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Home Phone Number: _____ **Cell Phone Number:** _____

Best time to contact you: _____

Relevant background/experience/education/interest areas: _____

Date: _____

Who's Who in Local Government

Local Office Descriptions

Agent to Convey Real Estate (appointed) – executes the deeds on behalf of the town.

Auditor (elected) –Review and audit all town accounts and prepare the annual town report. Should be very detail oriented. Good writing skills are a plus.

Cemetery Commissioner (elected) –Responsible for the care and management of the town's cemeteries. If no cemetery commissioners are elected, the selectboard fulfills this role.

Collector of Current Taxes (elected) – Collects the taxes for the town. In many towns this function is performed by the treasurer or town manager. Should be detail oriented and good with numbers.

Collector of Delinquent Taxes (elected) – Collects delinquent taxes for the town. Should be good with numbers and able to work with people who are in difficult circumstances. Should also have a thick skin.

Constable (elected) –In some towns the constable is the town's local law enforcement officer, with all powers of search, seizure, and arrest within the town. In other towns, the constable only has the power to serve civil process, assist the health officer in the discharge of his or her duties, destroy unlicensed dogs, kill injured deer, remove disorderly people from town meeting, and, if the first constable, to collect taxes, if no tax collector is elected. Should be good at de-escalating and resolving conflicts.

Emergency Management Director (appointed) –Responsible for the organization, administration, and operation of the local committee that is formed for emergency management in the town or city. The emergency management director is under the direct control of the selectboard but may coordinate his or her emergency management efforts with neighboring towns and cities, and with the state emergency management division and the federal government.

Fence Viewers – (appointed) –Three viewers are appointed by the Selectboard each year. When called upon, they examine fences and other boundaries within the town.

Grand Juror (elected) –Helps to prosecute criminal offenses that occur in the town by giving information to state and local law enforcement. (Generally not a very active position.)

Health Officer (appointed) –Appointed by the Commissioner of Health to a three-year term after recommendation of the town selectboard. Enforces the rules and regulations for prevention and abatement of public health hazards.

Inspector of Lumber (appointed) –Appointed, upon request, to examine, measure, and classify the quality of lumber, shingles, and wood sold within the town.

Justices of the Peace (elected) –Although elected by a town, justices of the peace are county officers. The duties of justices of the peace can include:

- Elections. Justice of the peace are members of the Board of Civil Authority (BCA). Members of the BCA serve as election officials at town elections by Australian ballot and statewide elections. Justices also are responsible for delivering absentee ballots to voters at election time.
- Tax Abatement and Appeals. Justices of the peace sit as members of the town board for abatement of taxes to determine whether a taxpayer’s tax obligation should be forgiven under certain circumstances. Justices of the peace also serve an important role in the town’s tax appeal process. As a member of the board of civil authority justices sit and decide appeals when citizens do not agree with the final decision of the listers.
- Marriages. Justices of the Peace may also solemnize marriages.
- Oaths and Notary – Justices of the peace may also administer oaths in all cases where an oath is required, unless a specific law makes a different provision. A justice of the peace is a notary public ex officio and has all the acknowledgment powers of a notary public. However, the justice of the peace must file with the county clerk in order to act as a notary public.

Listers (elected) –Appraise property within the town for the purpose of property tax assessment. Should be able to be polite, yet firm and not be oversensitive to criticism.

Moderator (elected) –Runs the annual and special town/school meeting. Should have a good sense of humor, be good at group process, and have experience following Roberts Rules of Order.

Planning Commission (appointed) – Appointed unless town votes to elect. Duties include preparing a municipal plan; making recommendations on matters of land development, conservation, and preservation; and participating in a regional planning program. Makes site plan and subdivision permit decisions unless there is a development review board in town. Should have a good working knowledge of all aspects of the town and be able to listen to many sides of an issue.

Regional Planning Commission Representative (appointed) – Helps develop the regional plan and assess municipal land use plans.

Road Commissioner (elected or appointed) –Can be elected or appointed. Has no independent authority but can assist the Selectboard in overseeing town highways at the request of the board. Should have experience with town highways and be a good communicator.

Selectboard Members (elected) –General supervision and control over town; enacts ordinances, regulations, and policies for town; oversees town property and personnel; prepares, presents and manages budget, and oversees roads, including laying out, discontinuing, and reclassifying roads. Sits as local board of health and liquor control commission. Should know the town well, be able to understand all sides of complex issues, and have a very thick skin.

Town Agent (elected) –The town agent used to prosecute and defend suits. The Selectboard now has that authority. Thus, the town agent’s duty consists merely of assisting when litigation is in progress, at the request of the Selectboard. Generally not a very active position.

Town Clerk (elected) – Records, preserves, and certifies the public records of the town. Issues dog, marriage licenses. Runs the local elections, serves as clerk of the board of civil authority, and hears tax abatement requests and tax appeals. Should have the patience of a saint and be a good ambassador for the town.

Town Forest Fire Warden (appointed) –Appointed by the fire commissioner with the approval of the selectboard. Prevents forest fires in the town by enforcing the laws designed to prevent forest fires.

Town Service Office (appointed) –Appointed on or before April 15th of each year. Assists individuals within the town who require emergency food, fuel or shelter assistance when the Vermont Department of Social Welfare is not available.

Town Treasurer (elected) –Keeps the towns and school’s accounts, invests money (with the approval of the legislative body), keeps a record of the taxes voted, and pays orders drawn on him or her. Should be very precise, detail oriented and good at math.

Town Tree Warden (appointed) –Plans and implements a shade tree preservation program for the purpose of shading and beautifying public places. Removes diseased, dying, or dead trees; which create a hazard to public safety or threaten the effectiveness of disease or insect control programs.

Trustee of Public Funds (elected) –Stockbridge is blessed with six endowments. The trusts were created to benefit residents in need, support our schools, provide educational opportunities for our students, and for library materials. Trustees are also responsible for administering the Cemetery Trust Fund. They have a dual responsibility to prudently manage these funds while proactively supporting each fund’s purpose. Candidates should be interested in both roles..

Weighers of Coal (appointed) – Serves as a referee over weights of contested loads of coal.

2022 Town Officials – Elected

Role	Name	Term Through
Moderator	Kent Butterfield	2023
Town Clerk	Lori Scott	2023
Town Treasurer	Lori Scott	2023
Selectboard	Lee Ann Isaacson Zachary Cavacas Michael Ketchum	2023 2024 2025
Listers	Janet Whitaker Richard Furman Beth Dawley	2023 2024 2025
Auditors	Kathie Burns Vacant Pam Lyman	2023 2024 2025
Agent to Defend & Prosecute Suits	Joanne Green Mills	2023
Town Grand Juror	Louis Chap	2023
First Constable	Nathaniel Kennedy	2023
Second Constable	Vacant	2023
Collector of Delinquent Taxes	Susan Pelletier	2023
Trustees of Public Funds	Bill Edgerton Deborah Aldrich Mary Ellen Dorman	2023 2024 2025
Cemetery Commissioners	Brenda Hillier Richard Lunna Mette Rea	2023 2024 2025
Rochester-Stockbridge Unified School Directors	Bill Edgerton/Vice Chair Robert Meagher Amy Wildt/Chair Patrick Hudson/Clerk Justine Calnan-Cavacas Jessica Arsenault -Appt until 5/2023	2023-Stockbridge 2023-Rochester 2024-Stockbridge 2024-Rochester 2025-Stockbridge 2025-Rochester
Justices of the Peace	Suzanne Butterfield Kathie Burns Patrick Giordano Ryan Knox Kelly McDermott-Burns	2025 2025 2025 2025 2025
Memorial Day Chair	Suzanne Butterfield	2023

2022 Town Officials – Appointed

Role	Name	Term Through
Assistant Town Clerk	Elizabeth Dietz	2024
Road Commissioner	Kevin Bagley	2024
Fence Viewers	Richard Lunna Dave Brown Vacant	2023 2023 2023
Agent to Convey Real Estate	Lee Ann Isaacson	2023
Tree Warden	Zachary Cavacas	2023
Inspector of Lumber	William Lynam	2023
Health Officer	Michael Ketchum	2025
Emergency Management Coordinator	Zachary Cavacas	2023
Fire Chief	James Munyon	2023
Fire Warden	Dave Brown	2023
Planning Commission	Regina Toolin Bill Johnson Kevin Travis/Chair Jon Benson Louis Chap Todd Trzaskos Patricia Hardyman	2023 2023 2023 2024 2024 2024 2025
Zoning Administrator	Lee Ann Isaacson	2024
Regional Planning Representative Alternate Representative	Bill Edgerton Kevin Travis	2023 2023
Board of Adjustment	Tom Weymouth Jim Burns Louis Chap Jon Benson Zachary Cavacas	2025 2023 2023 2024 2024
Board of Civil Authority	Town Clerk Justices of the Peace Selectboard	
Green Up Coordinator	Janet Whitaker	2023
Ambulance Representative Representative to Tri Valley Transit EC Fiber Representative EC Fiber Alternative Representative	Beth Dawley Vacant Joshua Trudeau Vacant	2023 2023 2023 2023

Cash Receipts and Disbursements for Year ended 12/31/2022

Cash Balance 1/1/2022		\$ 579,054.13
Receipts:		
Taxes	Current Taxes	2,157,432.28
	Delinquent taxes	308,945.90
State Payments		
	Highway Aid	80,114.77
	Current Use	46,652.00
	Reappraisal	7,571.50
	Highway Grants	111,454.86
	ARPA Grants	105,720.18
	Traffic Fines	1.77
	Fish & Wildlife Lands	22,468.76
	State Education Payment	6,630.25
Licenses & Permits		
	Building Permit fees	2,130.00
	Road Use Permits	260.00
	Dog Licenses	794.00
	Marriage Licenses	100.00
	Liquor License	215.00
Fees	Town Clerk Fees	11,546.51
	Restoration Fees	4,295.00
	New Boston Road Maint.	1,500.00
	Delinquent Tax Collector fees	23,515.52
Interest	Interest on checking	292.94
	Interest on delinq. Taxes	11,928.85
Other	Transfer from Reappraisal Fund	
	Transfer from Construction Fund	
	History Book Sales	25.00
	Transfer from Stanley Tool Acct.	2,000.00
	Trustees of Public Funds	149,004.06
	Fire Department Insurance Claim	
	Tax Anticipation Note	50,000.00
	Forest Service	2,618.00
	Correct Duplicate Payment	(674.00)
	NSF Checks	(3,552.47)
	Misc.	2,063.57
		<u>3,105,054.25</u>
Total Cash Available:		3,684,108.38
Less Checks Written		<u>3,051,155.41</u>
Ending Cash Balance 12/31/2022		<u><u>\$ 632,952.97</u></u>

**Town of Stockbridge
Proposed 2023 Budget**

	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2022	2022 Budget	2023 Proposed Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Use of Fund Balance	0.00	9,750.00	
Restoration Fees	4,295.00	4,500.00	0.00
Building permit fees	2,100.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Current taxes	743,379.43	744,793.36	858,692.00
Current Use Reimbursement	46,652.00	46,000.00	46,500.00
Dog licenses	382.00	400.00	400.00
Educ. tax payment to Town	3,842.06	3,500.00	3,600.00
Fish & Wildlife Land PILT	22,468.76	22,200.00	22,200.00
Grant Income			
Fletcherbrook	20,000.00	0.00	0.00
GIA Taggart	14,800.00	0.00	0.00
Paving Grant	28,960.00	0.00	0.00
Structures Grant	19,297.80	0.00	0.00
ARPA Grant	35,030.84	0.00	0.00
Gaysville Bridge Grant	1,953.56	0.00	0.00
Total Grant Income	120,042.20	0.00	0.00
Highway Revenue	80,114.77	74,000.00	80,000.00
History book sales	25.00	0.00	0.00
Interest on checking	292.94	350.00	220.00
interest on delinquent taxes	11,927.86	8,000.00	10,000.00
Liquor licenses	215.00	0.00	215.00
Marriage Licenses	50.00	0.00	
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,015.54	500.00	500.00
New Boston Rd. Maint.	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Stanley Tool Revenue	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Town Clerk fees	11,563.51	10,000.00	10,000.00
VSA Forest Service	2,618.00	2,400.00	2,500.00
Total Income	1,054,484.07	931,393.36	1,039,827.00
Gross Profit	1,054,484.07	931,393.36	1,039,827.00
Expense			
General Budget			
Selectboard Office			
Abated Taxes	2,373.85	0.00	0.00
Audit	0.00	4,000.00	6,000.00
Legal Fees	7,238.07	3,000.00	8,000.00
Legal Notices	1,281.75	600.00	1,200.00
Selectboard Admin			4,680.00
Selectboard Salary	4,200.00	4,200.00	4,200.00
Total Selectboard Office	15,093.67	11,800.00	24,080.00
Town Clerk/Treas. Office			
Health Insurance	2,539.70	13,500.00	15,000.00
Computer Expenses	6,489.10	6,100.00	6,500.00
Town Website	519.00	1,000.00	750.00
Town Clerk Training	648.20	1,000.00	5,000.00
Accounting Supplies	1,698.36	2,600.00	2,895.00
Asst. Town Clerk	8,327.50	8,300.00	8,300.00
Bond Payment	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Building Maintenance	5,044.23	9,500.00	9,500.00
Elections	1,924.17	1,000.00	1,000.00
Electricity	2,060.32	1,100.00	2,280.00

**Town of Stockbridge
Proposed 2023 Budget**

	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2022	2022 Budget	2023 Proposed Budget
Interest on Bond payment	188.00	2,273.00	250.00
Land Records	6,093.02	4,625.00	4,650.00
LP Gas	1,975.56	1,100.00	2,300.00
Mowing	800.00	400.00	400.00
Office Supplies	1,661.74	1,000.00	1,430.00
Postage	1,332.04	1,500.00	1,500.00
Retirement expense	2,384.97	2,583.36	2,950.00
Telephone	586.44	600.00	600.00
Town Clerk Salary	20,217.00	19,136.00	22,256.00
Town Office rubbish removal	324.00	350.00	350.00
Treasurer Salary	20,182.50	19,136.00	22,256.00
Total Town Clerk/Treas. Office	94,995.85	106,803.36	120,167.00
Auditors Office			
Auditors Salaries	660.00	425.00	540.00
Town Report	4,375.22	4,500.00	4,750.00
Total Auditors Office	5,035.22	4,925.00	5,290.00
Listers Office			
Reappraisal			5,000.00
Lister expenses	1,327.09	2,200.00	1,800.00
Listers Salaries	6,221.25	5,000.00	7,650.00
Total Listers Office	7,548.34	7,200.00	14,450.00
Zoning/Planning Office			
Health Officer	500.00	500.00	500.00
Planning Commission Chair			500.00
Planning Commission	4,989.45	6,250.00	1,500.00
Regional Planning Commission	1,134.00	1,150.00	1,170.00
Zoning Administrator	1,800.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Zoning Expense	593.92	100.00	100.00
Total Zoning/Planning Office	9,017.37	9,500.00	5,270.00
Fire Dept./First Response			
Equipment/Supplies	22,010.66	25,000.00	25,000.00
Fire Dept. Equip Fund	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
Fire Dept. Salaries	11,000.00	10,000.00	12,000.00
Fire Dept. Telephone	370.44	450.00	450.00
Repairs	2,720.56	4,500.00	4,500.00
Total Fire Dept./First Response	66,101.66	69,950.00	71,950.00
Rubbish Removal			
A.B.L.E. Waste Contract	7,440.00	7,000.00	7,440.00
Annual Alliance Fee	9,480.87	9,480.00	9,480.00
Total Rubbish Removal	16,920.87	16,480.00	16,920.00
Law Enforcement			
Animal Control	0.00	150.00	100.00
Constables	0.00	550.00	500.00
Windsor County Sheriff	163.33	3,500.00	
Total Law Enforcement	163.33	4,200.00	600.00
General Operations			
Ambulance	46,670.04	46,670.00	51,696.00
Cemetery	17,000.00	17,000.00	17,000.00
County Tax	8,108.61	8,000.00	8,100.00
Disability insurance	1,194.52	1,320.00	1,320.00
FICA	20,044.80	18,100.00	20,000.00
Liability Insurance	11,552.00	11,536.00	14,307.00

**Town of Stockbridge
Proposed 2023 Budget**

	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2022	2022 Budget	2023 Proposed Budget
Memorial Day	482.20	600.00	600.00
Misc. Town Expense	400.19	2,000.00	2,000.00
Mow Common	800.00	400.00	400.00
Street Lights	2,638.66	2,500.00	2,500.00
Tax Antic. Note Interest	670.68	5,000.00	3,000.00
VLCT Dues	1,982.00	2,000.00	2,043.00
Total General Operations	111,543.70	115,126.00	122,966.00
Total General Budget	326,420.01	345,984.36	381,693.00
Highway Budget			
Mileage	1,054.35	1,000.00	1,500.00
Highway - Personnel			
Highway Overtime	23,263.88	20,000.00	22,000.00
Health Insurance	23,505.40	32,100.00	28,750.00
Highway Payroll	137,252.65	148,000.00	154,000.00
Retirement Expense	10,341.52	11,340.00	11,500.00
Unemployment Insurance	349.00	600.00	600.00
Uniforms	800.00	1,200.00	1,500.00
Workers Comp.	9,115.00	9,115.00	13,164.00
Total Highway - Personnel	204,627.45	222,355.00	231,514.00
Equip. Operations			
Cutting Edges	4,319.58	3,500.00	3,500.00
Diesel	36,946.94	18,000.00	37,500.00
Equipment			11,200.00
Equipment Fund	75,000.00	75,000.00	75,000.00
Roadside Mowing	18,420.00	23,000.00	18,500.00
Gasoline	512.88	250.00	450.00
Repairs & Maintenance			
RM Leaf Blower	22.46	0.00	
RM 2020 International	1,587.23	0.00	
Repairs & Maintenance - Other	481.15	0.00	
RM 2016 Kenworth	9,448.64	0.00	
RM 2017 Ford	1,586.30	0.00	
RM Grader	2,392.43	0.00	
RM International	140.00	0.00	
RM Loader	749.43	0.00	
Repairs & Maintenance - Other		8,500.00	15,000.00
Total Repairs & Maintenance	16,407.64	8,500.00	15,000.00
Small Equipment Repairs	240.48	500.00	500.00
Tires and Chains	5,370.48	3,500.00	17,300.00
Tools	1,700.15	1,000.00	4,000.00
Total Equip. Operations	158,918.15	133,250.00	182,950.00
Highway Materials			
Hydroseed	584.73	0.00	1,200.00
Erosion			3,000.00
Bridges	0.00	500.00	500.00
Chloride	8,332.32	7,500.00	8,500.00
Culverts	14,534.00	15,000.00	12,000.00
Gravel	54,992.50	55,000.00	55,000.00
Guard Rails	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Retreatment	34,228.29	33,304.00	25,000.00
Salt	12,844.63	12,000.00	13,980.00
Sandpile	41,781.77	45,250.00	45,000.00

**Town of Stockbridge
Proposed 2023 Budget**

	Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2022	2022 Budget	2023 Proposed Budget
Signs	1,822.50	1,000.00	3,000.00
Total Highway Materials	169,120.74	174,554.00	172,180.00
Town Garage			
Garage Maintenance	2,117.76	2,000.00	2,000.00
Heating Oil	5,589.75	4,000.00	6,500.00
Rubbish Removal	357.00	450.00	450.00
Shop Supplies	6,578.07	2,500.00	3,000.00
Oils			2,000.00
D.E.F			1,000.00
Town garage electricity	1,911.35	2,000.00	2,200.00
Town garage telephone	1,194.88	1,300.00	1,300.00
Total Town Garage	17,748.81	12,250.00	18,450.00
Construction	37,556.93	30,000.00	35,000.00
VT DEC Annual Fee			2,040.00
Engineering Consulting			8,500.00
Purchased Labor	2,342.06	12,000.00	6,000.00
Total Highway Budget	591,368.49	585,409.00	658,134.00
Grants			
2023 - Fletcherbrook BC2227	19,297.80	0.00	
2023 - Ranney Road Grant GA0427	11,307.04	0.00	
2022 - Taggart Hill GA0191	14,800.00	0.00	
ARPA Grant	35,030.84	0.00	
Fletcher Brook	20,000.00	0.00	
Class 2 Road Grant	28,960.00	0.00	
Gaysville Bridge Grant	1,953.56	0.00	
Total Grants	131,349.24	0.00	0.00
Total Expense	1,049,137.74	931,393.36	1,039,827.00
Net Ordinary Income	5,346.33	0.00	0.00
Net Income	5,346.33	0.00	0.00

**General Fund Comparative Balance Sheet
Town of Stockbridge
As of December 31, 2022**

	<u>Dec 31, 22</u>	<u>Dec 31, 21</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
Mascoma Savings ARPA	172,937.88	0.00	172,937.88	100.0%
Mascoma Savings Checking	460,015.09	579,054.13	-119,039.04	-20.56%
Petty Cash	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.0%
Total Checking/Savings	<u>632,977.97</u>	<u>579,079.13</u>	<u>53,898.84</u>	<u>9.31%</u>
Accounts Receivable				
Accounts Receivable	78,733.95	110,023.87	-31,289.92	-28.44%
Accounts Receivable - Grants	48,257.80	74,701.30	-26,443.50	-35.4%
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>126,991.75</u>	<u>184,725.17</u>	<u>-57,733.42</u>	<u>-31.25%</u>
Other Current Assets				
Prepaid Expenses	0.00	8,904.12	-8,904.12	-100.0%
Total Other Current Assets	<u>0.00</u>	<u>8,904.12</u>	<u>-8,904.12</u>	<u>-100.0%</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>759,969.72</u>	<u>772,708.42</u>	<u>-12,738.70</u>	<u>-1.65%</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>759,969.72</u>	<u>772,708.42</u>	<u>-12,738.70</u>	<u>-1.65%</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
Accounts Payable	292,250.07	374,317.74	-82,067.67	-21.93%
Total Accounts Payable	<u>292,250.07</u>	<u>374,317.74</u>	<u>-82,067.67</u>	<u>-21.93%</u>
Other Current Liabilities				
Deferred ARPA Revenue	172,987.71	102,298.37	70,689.34	69.1%
Deferred Property Tax Revenue	66,518.72	66,518.72	0.00	0.0%
Property Tax Prepaid	0.00	2,613.43	-2,613.43	-100.0%
Accrued Expenses	0.00	7,479.83	-7,479.83	-100.0%
Penalties Collected	425.42	126.59	298.83	236.06%
Payroll Liabilities	8,993.10	11,277.06	-2,283.96	-20.25%
Trustees of Public Funds				
Hollister Fletcher Fund	7,638.27	1,370.52	6,267.75	457.33%
Whitcomb School Fund	1,975.94	3,113.00	-1,137.06	-36.53%
Witcomb Welfare Fund	241.00	0.00	241.00	100.0%
Total Trustees of Public Funds	<u>9,855.21</u>	<u>4,483.52</u>	<u>5,371.69</u>	<u>119.81%</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>258,780.16</u>	<u>194,797.52</u>	<u>63,982.64</u>	<u>32.85%</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>551,030.23</u>	<u>569,115.26</u>	<u>-18,085.03</u>	<u>-3.18%</u>
Total Liabilities	551,030.23	569,115.26	-18,085.03	-3.18%
Equity				
Opening Bal Equity	203,593.16	-20,568.53	224,161.69	1,089.83%
Retained Earnings		-51,828.55	51,828.55	100.0%
Net Income	5,346.33	275,990.24	-270,643.91	-98.06%
Total Equity	<u>208,939.49</u>	<u>203,593.16</u>	<u>5,346.33</u>	<u>2.63%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>759,969.72</u>	<u>772,708.42</u>	<u>-12,738.70</u>	<u>-1.65%</u>

Listing of Investment Accounts 12/31/2022

Citizens Bank

Fire Dept. Equipment Fund	-
Beginning Balance	103,528.99
Transfer from General Fund	30,000.00
Transfer to First Responder Fund	-
Interest Earned	22.21
Ending Balance	<u>133,551.20</u>

Highway Dept. Equip Fund	
Beginning Balance	210,687.75
Transfer From General Fund	75,000.00
Transfer To General Fund	-
Interest Earned	45.48
Ending Balance	<u>285,733.23</u>

Construction/Paving Fund	
Beginning Balance	40,226.17
Transfer From General Fund	-
Transfer To General Fund	-
Interest earned	7.39
Ending balance	<u>40,233.56</u>

Reappraisal Fund	
Beginning Balance	85,675.64
Transfer From General Fund	7,571.50
Interest Earned	16.56
Ending Balance	<u>93,263.70</u>

Lister Training Account	
Beginning Balance	602.42
Interest Earned	0.12
Ending Balance	<u>602.54</u>

Tax Trust CD	
Beginning Balance	30,217.69
Interest Earned	5.58
Ending Balance	<u>30,223.27</u>

Planning Commission Savings	
Beginning Balance	2,879.54
Interest Earned	0.48
Ending Balance	<u>2,880.02</u>

Fire Dept./First Response Savings Account	
Beginning Balance	28,481.60
Donation:	
Bill & Marilyn Edgerton	100.00
Highwood Owners Association	300.00
Lloyd White	150.00
Steve Van Nostrand (Harrington)	1,000.00
Bill Sticht	300.00
In Memory of Sid Hotchkiss	
Bill Sticht	25.00
William Brainard	100.00
Marvin and Barb Harvey	200.00
Bucky & Bev Isham	30.00
Lloyd White	50.00
Havey's Plumbing & Excavating	200.00
Douglas Maynard	100.00
Rob Dorman	25.00
Dave & Cathy Brown	25.00
Kent & Suzanne Butterfield	50.00
Jim & Katrina Munyon	100.00
Rebecca Morse	25.00
Interest Earned	5.60
Ending Balance	<u>31,267.20</u>

History Book Fund	
Beginning Balance	3,343.66
Interest Earned	0.63
Ending Balance	<u>3,344.29</u>

Land Record Restoration Fund	
Beginning Balance	2,682.27
Interest Earned	0.47
Ending Balance	<u>2,682.74</u>

Bar Harbor Bank

Stanley Tool CD	
Beginning Balance	17,475.17
Beginning Balance	(2,000.00)
Transfer to General Fund	35.08
Interest Earned	15,510.25
Ending Balance	<u>15,510.25</u>

Mascoma Bank

Herbert Brown Cemetery Savings	
Beginning Balance	2,274.31
Transfer From Cemetery Checking	980.00
Interest Earned	0.57
Ending Balance	<u>3,254.88</u>

Stockbridge Selectboard Informational Meeting

March 17, 2022

7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Info: +1 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 835 4296 4335 Passcode: 684390

Present: Lee Ann Isaacson, Jim Shands, Zach Cavacas, Lori Scott, Lou Chap, Craig Cowles, Dave Brown, Dominic Smith, Frank & Mette Rea, Kelly McDermott-Burns, Kim Dickenson, Mary Ellen & Rob Dorman, Sherry Ackerman, Susan Pelletier, Sammie Travis, Janet Whitaker, Sharon & William Pavlik, Kim Marsh, Scott Moore, Joanne Mills, Kathie Burns, Deborah Aldrich, Beth Dawley, Kevin Travis, Hattie & Wayne Gifford, Kent Butterfield, Kirk White,

Lee Ann called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and read the informational meeting guidelines.

Lee Ann introduced Kent Butterfield as Moderator and Kirk White, Stockbridge's State Representative.

1) Kirk White Update:

- a) **Bills:** Kirk is on the Commerce and Development Committee. They are focused on one large bill this year for Workforce Development, Child Care and Housing Development. This is house bill 703.
- b) **Re-apportionment and impacts to Stockbridge:** The original plan was for Stockbridge to move to another district with Killington, Pittsfield and Bridgewater. The Stockbridge Selectboard was instrumental in letting the legislature know that Stockbridge is more closely aligned socially and economically with Rochester and Bethel. Kirk let the attendees know that Stockbridge will continue to remain in the current district with Rochester and Bethel.
- c) **Funding:** Kirk reported that the appropriations committee approved \$1.5 million for mapping and cell tower location development, \$8 million for tower construction and \$12 million for carrier capital costs. The goal is 100 new towers.
- d) Kathie Burns asked about the plan for repaving route 100 and there was another question about the traffic on route 100. Kirk will investigate with the transportation committee and post the information.

2) Lee Ann turned the meeting over to Kent Butterfield.

3) **Article 1:** To elect the following officers for the terms indicated and to fill other offices vacant.

- a) **Moderator:** Kent said he has chosen to run again and is on the ballot.
- b) **Selectboard:** Joanne Green Mills reported that Mike Ketchum was unable to attend as he had an emergency at the farm. Jim Shands shared that although his name is on the ballot he has decided that he is not going to run. He conceded to Mike Ketchum.
- c) **Lister 3 yr.:** Beth Dawley confirmed that she has chosen to run again and is on the ballot
- d) **Lister 2 yr.:** Beth Dawley confirmed that Rich Furman who was appointed in 2021 has chosen to run and is on the ballot.
- e) **Lister 1 yr.:** Janet Whitaker was appointed in 2021. She is not on the ballot and could be a write in candidate unless someone else was interested in the role.
- f) **Auditor:** Pam Lyman is the current incumbent and on the ballot.
- g) **Agent to Defend and Prosecute Suits:** Joanne Green Mills has chosen to run and is on the ballot
- h) **Grand Juror:** Louis Chap has chosen to run and is on the ballot
- i) **1st Constable:** No one is on the ballot and Lee Ann confirmed that Nathaniel Kennedy is interested in being a write in candidate.
- j) **2nd Constable:** No one is on the ballot. Kent asked for any volunteers and there were none.
- k) **Delinquent Tax Collector:** Susan Pelletier has chosen to run and is on the ballot.
- l) **Trustee of Public Funds:** Mary Ellen Dorman has chosen to run and is on the ballot.
- m) **Cemetery Commission:** Mette Rea has chosen to run and is on the ballot.

- n) **Memorial Day Chair:** Kent confirmed that Suzanne Butterfield has chosen to run and is on the ballot
- 4) **Article 2:** To hear the auditors' report and to take any necessary action thereon
- a) Kathie Burns read the Auditors report.
 - b) There were no questions or comments
- 5) **Article 3:** Will the Town vote to pay real estate taxes in two equal installments due on August 15 and November 15?
- a) There were no questions or comments
- 6) **Article 4:** Will the Town vote to authorize the Town Treasurer to collect current taxes?
- a) There were no questions or comments
- 7) **Article 5:** Will the Town vote to accept the proposed budget? Recommended \$931,393
- a) Kent Butterfield asked about the \$5,000 for additional construction. Dave Brown responded that it is due to the increase of all the construction hourly costs. He is asking to increase construction from the \$25,000 that it has been for the past few years up to \$30,000.
 - b) Hattie Gifford asked if the detail on the increases in the budget was included in the town report. Lori Scott responded that the line-item detail is part of the budget showing the increases in the individual line items. Hattie also asked about the items in the budget with *asterisks. Lori pointed her to the last page of the budget the with the detail on the items. Hattie provided feedback that it was a bit confusing.
 - c) Joanne Green Mills asked why the garage building maintenance was reduced by \$9,000. Dave Brown responded that the budget was increased last year by \$9,000 to replace the furnace. For 2022, those dollars are reduced. She also asked about general cost increases and Jim Shands responded that the budget was based on what was known in the fall when the budget was put together. Joanne also recognized Dave Brown for all his years of service to the town of Stockbridge.
- 8) **Article 6:** Will the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow money in anticipation of taxes?
- a) There were no questions or comments
- 9) **Article 7:** Will the Town vote to roll the unspent portion of the 2021 Audit expense and the 2021 Land Record expense in the amount of \$9,750 into the 2022 Budget?
- a) Janet Whitaker reported a typo in the town report showing 2020 Land records expense rather than 2021. This was corrected in the posted warning and the ballot.
 - b) Beth Dawley pointed out the increase in volume of property transactions.
 - c) Lee Ann Isaacson reported that the town 3rd party audit only had two minor recommendations that have been implemented to improved financial processes.
- 10) **Article 8:** Will the town vote to replace the 1987 Fire Truck?
- a) Kevin Travis asked if the new truck would need to be financed. Lee Ann responded that this is a multi-year project that would spread the cost out over that time period. Zach responded that over its life, the old truck has cost the town approximately \$2,000 per year. Dave Brown added that it is very difficult to find any parts for a 1987 fire truck. He also reported that the truck has rusted and continues to deteriorate and will only get worse. Beth Dawley asked about the timeline of getting a new truck with the multi-year process. Dave indicated that is at least 8 months to get a chassis and then at least another 180 days to have the body built out. Lee Ann asked if committing to a purchase will lock in pricing. Dave responded that the quote is only good for 45 days. The vendor did not indicate any pricing increases. Scott Moore asked if the town had researched grants that might be available. Dave responded that they have tried to access grants in the past but have not been successful. Lee Ann asked if anyone had any interest in helping with grant research.
- 11) **Article 9:** Will the town authorize cannabis retailers in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863? "Cannabis retailer" means a person licensed by the state Cannabis Control Board to sell cannabis and cannabis products to adults 21 years of age and older for off-site consumption.
- a) Kevin Travis asked if this would be subject to town zoning regulation in addition to state requirements. Kathie Burns asked if homeowners have a say in where these businesses could be located. Zach responded that this is a highly regulated process by the state and Lee Ann responded that Town Zoning

would apply as it does to any other business. Sharon Pavlik added clarity that the vote was to allow these businesses or not.

- 12) **Article 10:** Will the town authorize integrated licensees in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863? “Integrated licensee” means a person licensed by the state Cannabis Control Board to engage in the activities of a cultivator, wholesaler, product manufacturer, retailer, and testing laboratory in accordance with state law.
- a) Zach clarified that this article is for cultivation and production and that 9 is for a retail store. Beth Dawley asked for clarification about Agriculture and is AG is subject to Zoning. Lee Ann Isaacson shared that AG buildings are considered exempt. Jim Shands shared that the process has a lot of hurdles to get through at the state level
- 13) **Article 11:** To do any other necessary and proper business brought before said annual town meeting.
- a) Kathie Brown asked about the Trustee funding of Stockbridge Free Meals to Go and why that funding was provided without a vote of the town. Deborah Aldrich responded that some years ago, the Trustees were authorized to determine the funding and then report back to the town. Jim clarified that when the funding came directly from the town, the town voted each year. Now that the funding comes from Trustee funds, they have been authorized as a fiduciary to make those appropriations.
 - b) Kim Marsh asked about voting on Article 11 items. Kent confirmed that there is no voting on Article 11, it is rather an opportunity for discussion and not decision making.
 - c) Moving from a Calendar to a Fiscal year. Lee Ann shared that with our current calendar year, the town is not funded with taxes until August. This is what requires a Tax Anticipation Note and interest expense.
 - d) Joanne Green Mills asked why the Sherriff costs were in the budget since that was a voted out a few years ago. Jim Shands responded that dollars were put into last year’s budget due to complaints from activities at the ATV trailheads and the summer activities at the Gaysville Bridge. He also shared that over last year, the Sheriff was unable to support this patrol, however VASA did have Sheriff support and covered the ATV trailheads using their budget.
 - e) Hattie Gifford asked about HVAC work at the Town Office. Jim reported that the office has not be updated and he believes it still needs to be. A quote was obtained but it was very expensive and did not move further.
 - f) Gaysville Bridge Project. Lee Ann reported that the details from the public meetings are posted on the town website. She shared that the town is waiting for an update from VTRANS due to the weight limits suggested are lower than optimal for the town needs.
 - g) Kathie Burns asked about federal funding that may be available for the bridge work. Lee Ann shared the ARPA program that is available for the town. There is a TRORC representative meeting with the Selectboard on the planning process for ARPA. Lori reported that funding source doesn’t reflect money coming into the state for infrastructure improvements.
 - h) Janet Whitaker reported that the Rabies clinic will be at the Fire Station on 3/29/2022. Lori Scott indicated that dog registration will be on site for the clinic. The deadline for dog registration is 4/1/2022
 - i) Deborah Aldrich shared a document for pledge funding for the Stockbridge Free Community Meals to go. It will be posted on the town website.
- 14) **Closing and Thank You**
- a) Lee Ann recognized Jim Shands for all his work over the last 6 years. Jim wished the board best for the future.
 - b) Lee Ann shared that the town is always looking for volunteers to help with projects all the time.
 - c) She thanked everyone for attending and reminded everyone that the polls are open from 9-7 on 3/22/2022

The meeting adjourned at 8:45

2022 Town Salaries

Selectmen

Lee Ann Isaacson	\$ 1,400.00
Zachary Cavacas	\$ 1,400.00
Michael Ketchum	\$ 1,400.00

Town Clerk

Lori Scott	\$ 20,217.00
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Treasurer

Lori Scott	\$ 20,182.50
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Highway Dept

Lucas Gibson	\$ 53,615.58
Kevin Bagley	\$ 68,913.65
David Brown	\$ 22,309.80
Edward Ammerman	\$ 15,677.50

Health Officer

Michael Ketchum	\$ 500.00
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Asst. Town Clerk

Elizabeth Dietz	\$ 6,110.00
Beth Dawley	\$ 970.00
Kelly McDermott-Burns	\$ 960.00
Lori Scott	\$ 287.50

Listers

Beth Dawley	\$ 3,487.50
Richard Furman	\$ 2,636.25
Janet Whitaker	\$ 97.50

Delinq. Tax Collector

Susan Pelletier	\$ 23,302.25
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Auditors

Kathie Burns	\$ 345.00
Pamela Lyman	\$ 315.00

Poll Workers

Beth Dawley	\$ 371.25
Kelly McDermott-Burns	\$ 179.00
Kimberlee Marsh	\$ 176.25

Fire Dept/First Response

David Brown	\$ 980.00
Daniel Novotny	\$ 1,440.00
Jim Munyon	\$ 2,860.00
Corey Novotny	\$ 1,080.00
Joseph Nolet	\$ 200.00
Martin Hunt	\$ 260.00
Eric Brown	\$ 280.00
Matthew Johnson	\$ 1,000.00
Joshua Kennedy	\$ 840.00
Coral Hawley	\$ 100.00
Caleb Hawley	\$ 20.00
Taylor Lyman	\$ 600.00
Zachary Cavacas	\$ 340.00
Nathaniel Kennedy	\$ 1,000.00

Zoning Administrator

Lee Ann Isaacson	\$ 1,800.00
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Statement of 2022 Taxes Raised

	Tax Rate	Grand List	Taxes
Non-Homestead Education	1.6271	707,593.26	1,151,324.89
Homestead Education	1.6107	451,846.00	727,788.39
Local Agreement	0.0017	1,159,439.26	1,971.14
Highway	0.4037	1,159,439.26	468,065.69
Town	0.2389	1,159,439.26	276,989.94
Late Filing Penalty - HS122			179.47
Total Taxes Raised			2,626,319.52
Taxes Accounted for as follows			
Current Taxes Collected			2,157,432.28
State Education Payments			168,311.61
Municipal Portion of Tax Credit			4,224.21
Corrections and Abatements			14,459.34
Turned over to Delinquent Tax Collector			281,892.08
			2,626,319.52

Delinquent Tax Collector Report – 2022

It is the duty of the collector of delinquent taxes to notify taxpayers when their taxes are overdue or to take formal collection actions, including conducting tax sales of the property when necessary. Finally, it is the obligation of the collector of delinquent taxes to keep records of all delinquent accounts, and to provide an accounting of these records to the locally elected auditors for inclusion in the annual report of the town. When necessary, for the collection of taxes, the collector of delinquent taxes must conduct tax sales of property.

In 2023, we will be conducting tax sales due to property owners either walking away from the property or after notifying and bringing to small claims court, property owners have ignored the court orders.

Vermont Housing Assistance Program (VHAP) may be available to help.
<https://vermonthap.vhfa.org/> Please contact them or me if I can help in any way.

Susan Pelletier – Delinquent Tax Collector

Summary of Delinquent Taxes as of 12/31/2022

Year	Balance 12/31/2021	Balance 12/31/2022	Collected
2012	43.16	43.16	0.00
2013	841.83	841.83	0.00
2014	909.92	909.92	0.00
2015	887.97	887.97	0.00
2016	42.25	42.25	0.00
2017	290.94	290.94	0.00
2018	842.58	842.58	0.00
2019	1,540.78	1,540.78	0.00
2020	12,327.35	1,999.00	10,328.35
2021	96,071.69	4,558.58	91,513.11
2022 Turnover	281,892.08	74,787.64	207,104.44
Balance Due for 2012-2022 Delinquent Taxes		86,744.65	
Total Collected 2022			308,945.90
*Paid in Full by 1/12/2023		3,411.65	
Total Delinquent Taxes Due		83,333.00	

Delinquent Tax List 2022

Name	Date	Amount
ABSC Realty	2017-22	1,476.68
Andrews, Rodney	2012-15	2,598.87
Barnett, Michell	2022	*553.08
Bartolone, Ben	2018-22	1,309.87
Bernhard, John	2022	126.03
Bilodeau, Joshua	2019-22	1,941.87
Brady, Teri	2014-22	956.62
Bridgewater, Lisa	2022	92.75
Bronson, Richie	2021-22	576.71
Chap, Kevin	2022	2,937.07
Charbonneau, Edward	2022	758.64
Cheney, Jo	2021-22	2,733.32
Commeford, William	2022	1,740.00
Contarino, Lauri	2022	*654.34
Dubrrueil, Dean	2022	5,019.74
Eigenbrod, Wilfred	2022	315.54
Faccioli, Guglielmo	2020-22	1,062.78
Ferri, Michael	2022	716.24
Fuster, Joseph A	2022	1,474.52
Gioiella, Christopher	2022	*1,407.13
Gaysville Store	2022	1,240.19
Germon, Tait	2022	*244.10
Hurlburt, Elizabeth	2021-22	2,571.00
Jagoda, Linda	2022	274.51
Jeskey, Aaron	2022	179.44
Keefe, Thomas	2022	1,873.91
Kelsey, Richard	2022	291.87
Ketchum, Michael	2021-22	9,377.20
Kornberg, Oren	2019-22	893.00
La Casita	2022	1,652.44
Langan, Lance	2022	599.57
Langlois, Alan	2021-2022	2,063.20
Lemery, Raelene	2022	*79.60
Luf, Joshua	2022	626.91
Martell, Todd	2022	160.98
McCullough, Kirk	2022	1,263.51
McRae, Robert	2022	724.57
Murphy, David	2022	2,319.65
Murphy, Michael	2022	2,866.15
Mueller, John	2018-22	1,389.07
Plazaik, James	2022	60.68
Puza, Michael	2022	1,376.62
Roth, Shaun	2022	2,119.22
Sable Mountain Corp	2022	2,682.52
Sheridan, Phillip	2022	1,167.50
Smith, Eugenie	2022	*473.40
Sullivan, Kimberly	2022	2,140.98
Teixeira, Frank	2022	3,552.47
Thompson, John	2021-22	1,129.81
Tweed River Realty	2022	570.12
Vulture MTN	2021-22	9,581.54
Westhaven, Fam Trust	2022	554.22
Whalen, Edward	2022	179.31
Winner, Matthew	2022	2,013.59
Total Amount Due	*Total paid by 1/12/2023	86,744.65



Bill Edgerton, Deborah Aldrich, and Mary Ellen Dorman. Front row--Blaze Edgerton

Stockbridge Trustees of Public Funds Report--2022

Role: Stockbridge is blessed with six endowments. These trusts were created to benefit needy residents, support our school, provide educational opportunities for our students, and for library materials. Trustees are also responsible for administering the Cemetery Trust Fund. They have a dual responsibility to prudently manage these funds while proactively supporting each fund's purpose. See page 2 for descriptions of the trust funds under the Trustee's care.

Assistance Highlights: Assistance in 2022 totaled \$142,912: \$30,550 in High School Graduate and Stockbridge Scholarship Awards* and \$90,759 to support 19 non-profit organizations helping Stockbridge residents. (Before 2015, Stockbridge taxpayers paid for non-profit support.) Trust funds also provided \$15,603 for Stockbridge Central School programs and students and \$6,000 for Town Cemetery care and maintenance. (See pages 3 and 4.)

Financial Highlights: The total portfolio annual rate of return for 2022 was a negative 15.5%. (See page 3.)

Investment Advisory Services: Mascoma Wealth Management LLC of Hanover, New Hampshire, provided investment advisory services. The management fee for the year was \$18,645.

If anyone knows individuals, families, or programs that could benefit from trust funds managed by the Trustees, please call Deborah Aldrich at 234-5140, Mary Ellen Dorman at 234-9281, or Bill Edgerton at 234-5106. Residents needing assistance should contact Capstone Community Action at 12 Prince Street in Randolph, telephone 1-800-846-9506 or 1-802-728-9506. Tax-deductible donations c/o the Stockbridge Trustees of Public Funds are gratefully accepted.

Respectfully submitted:

Stockbridge Trustees of Public Funds: Bill Edgerton, Chair

* For further information about the High School Graduate Award and Stockbridge Scholarship, go to the Stockbridge Town website at: <https://stockbridgevt.gov> and click on "Community."

**Stockbridge
Trustees of Public Funds
Trust Funds**

Keyes Poor/School Fund

Established in 1860 with an original endowment of \$632. Its purpose is to be used “for support of the poor of said town, or if not required for this purpose, to be used for school purposes.”

Albert Whitcomb School Fund

Established in 1897. The original gift was \$20,000, and the will states “the income only shall be annually divided among the school districts in said town; each district shall receive an amount in proportion to the number of scholars attending school.”

Albert Whitcomb Welfare Fund

Established in 1898 and is part of the Albert Whitcomb estate. The original endowment was \$22,323. The will states “the principal to be safely invested and the income only to be used for the relief of the poor in said town.”

Edwina Paine Welfare Fund

Established in 1903 with an original amount of \$2,905. The will states this amount is “to be used and expended for the poor in said town of Stockbridge.”

Chamberlain Library Fund

Established in 1948 by a gift from Vernie Chamberlain that directed the income to buy books for the Stockbridge Library. She specified the books to be religious subjects or biographies of great Americans.

Hollister Fletcher Fund

Established in 2020 by a gift of \$2,114,404 from the Hollister J. Fletcher Trust “to help worthy citizens of the Town to overcome temporary, difficult, or needy situations.”

Cemetery Trust Fund

The Town originally kept these funds and then turned them over to the Trustees in 1938. The Fund contains monies originally given for perpetual care of individual lots, monies from the Albert Whitcomb and Orley Whitcomb Cemetery Trust Funds, and sales of cemetery lots. Additions are made to the Fund whenever cemetery lots are sold. Distributions from these combined funds are provided yearly to the Cemetery Commissioners to supplement the Town’s cemetery appropriation for the maintenance and care of all six Town cemeteries--Abbott, Maplewood, Mt. Pleasant-Ranney, South Hill, Sylvester (Alcorn), and Watkins Cemetery.

Trustees of Public Funds

2022 Financial Report

<u>A. Assets</u>	<u>12/31/2021</u>	<u>12/31/2022</u>
Equities	\$3,256,883	\$ 2,269,409
Fixed Income	\$ 991,328	\$ 1,143,604
Alternative Assets	\$ -	\$ -
Cash	\$ 94,134	\$ 127,974
Assets Totals:	<u>\$4,342,345</u>	<u>\$ 3,540,987</u>

<u>B. Sources & Uses</u>	<u>12/31/2021</u>	<u>Gains 1)</u>	<u>Transfers 2)</u>	<u>Uses 3)</u>	<u>12/31/2022</u>
Hollister Fletcher Fund	\$2,418,683	\$ (369,953)	\$ -	\$ (99,016)	\$ 1,949,714
Whitcomb Welfare Fund	\$1,084,459	\$ (162,710)	\$ -	\$ (22,759)	\$ 898,990
WWF Capstone 5)	\$ 4,591	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,591
Whitcomb School Fund	\$ 394,886	\$ (61,600)	\$ -	\$ (15,137)	\$ 320,125
Paine Welfare Fund	\$ 133,371	\$ (20,661)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 112,710
Keyes School/Poor Fund	\$ 13,212	\$ (2,116)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,096
Chamberlain Library Fund	\$ 9,864	\$ (1,571)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,293
Cemetery Trust Fund	\$ 283,279	\$ (43,281)	\$ 1,470	\$ (6,000)	\$ 235,468
Sources & Uses Totals:	<u>\$4,342,345</u>	<u>\$ (661,892)</u>	<u>\$ 1,470</u>	<u>\$ (142,912)</u>	<u>\$ 3,540,987</u>

Annual Returns: **12.6%** **-15.5%**

<u>C. Comparative Uses</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Hollister Fletcher Fund		\$ 466
HS Graduate Awards	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,500
Stockbridge Scholarship Awards		\$ 27,050
Non-Profit Support	\$ 25,400	\$ 68,000
Whitcomb Welfare Fund 4)	\$ 475	\$ -
Non-Profit Support	\$ 26,459	\$ 22,759
Whitcomb School Fund	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
WSF--One Planet/Other	\$ 6,394	\$ 6,137
Paine Welfare	\$ -	\$ -
Keyes School/Poor	\$ -	\$ -
Chamberlain Library	\$ -	\$ -
Cemetery Trust Fund	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Support Totals:	<u>\$ 77,728</u>	<u>\$ 142,912</u>

<u>D. Trust Expenses</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Financial Mgmt. Fee 5)	\$ 20,168	\$ 18,645
Administrative Expenses	\$ 378	\$ 472
Expense Totals:	<u>\$ 20,546</u>	<u>\$ 19,117</u>

Notes:

- 1) Gains net of Financial Management Fee.
- 2) Fund transfers, donations and Cemetery perpetual care fees.
- 3) Uses do not include Trust Expenses shown under Section D.
- 4) Most direct support for Stockbridge residents is provided through Capstone Community Action. Support includes emergency fuel, rent, utilities and transportation, child care & senior services.
- 5) Financial Management Services: Mascoma Wealth Management LLC, Hanover, N.H.

Planning Commission Report - 2022

Role: The Planning Commission is principally responsible for drafting the Town Plan and the Town's zoning and subdivision bylaws. It also serves in a regulatory capacity, reviewing site plans, subdivisions and Clustered Housing Developments, and may prepare and present building, housing and safety codes, and capital budgets. Commissioners are appointed by the Selectboard and normally serve three-year terms.

Meetings: Regularly scheduled monthly meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the 2nd Tuesday via Zoom and at the Town Office. The public is invited to attend all meetings and hearings. Agendas and meeting minutes are posted on the town website: <http://stockbridgevt.gov>.

2022 Highlights: 2022 was the year we began to update the town plan in earnest. Working with Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission, the commission reviewed the plan in its entirety, and since August of 2022, the commission has been working through the plan chapter by chapter making revisions and updates.

In addition, the Commission ran a town survey during the months of November and December, and the results of this survey have been incorporated into the town plan.

The tasks ahead of the Commission in 2023 include communicating the draft plans, holding hearings and then submitting the draft plan to the Selectboard for review and adoption. Then in the second half of the year, the Commission will focus on updates to the zoning regulations, informed by any changes to the plan and community feedback.

Current Planning Commission members are: Jon Benson, Lou Chap, Patricia Hardyman, Regina Toolin, Kevin Travis (Chair) and Todd Trzaskos.

Respectfully submitted,

Stockbridge Planning Commission
Kevin Travis, Chair

Lister Report – 2022

HOMESTEAD DECLARATION

What is a Homestead Declaration? In Vermont, all property is subject to an education property tax to pay for the state's schools. For this purpose, property is categorized as either non-homestead or homestead. A homestead is the principal dwelling and parcel of land up to two acres surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by the resident as the person's domicile.

What is not a Homestead? Property is considered nonresidential and therefore not a homestead 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 a commercial, including rental, purpose.
- The property is used for a second home, camp, vacation, or summer cottage.

How do I file a Homestead Declaration? The Homestead Declaration is filed using Form HS-122, the Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment Claim or save time by filing your Homestead Declaration online. Many people file their Homestead Declaration 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 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.

Filing Deadlines – You must file a Homestead Declaration annually by the April deadline. If you file after April 15, you will be assessed one of the following penalties.

- Up to a 3% penalty if the non-homestead rate is higher than the homestead education property rate
- Up to 8% if the non-homestead rate is lower than the homestead education property tax.

If you file your declaration after the October filing deadline your property will be classified as nonresidential. You then must pay the higher of the two rates, a penalty, and any additional tax and interest due.

Filing your Homestead Declaration can save you money on your education taxes. Likewise, NOT filing it can cost you money. There is a lot more information about this on-line and can be accessed by looking up Vermont Homestead Declaration.

As can be seen in the Property Transfer Report here in the town report, our sales have been very active this year. This is a statewide trend. Our Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is 75.98% our Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) is now 27.43% The ideal is 100% and 0% respectively. We are now in the "required to reappraise" zone. There are 165 towns statewide that fell into this category this year. We are not alone. As a result we have started the process of finding a reappraisal firm. Please remember that taxes are paid on the Grand List value of a property NOT the price it was purchased for.

We continue to visit properties to update property features in an effort to keep the Grand List current. This is done in the spring and change of appraisal notices are sent at that time, and grievances may be filed then.

From the Vermont tax Department:

“We at PVR are aware that many towns are concerned about the change in the market due to the effects of Covid-19 over the past few years. Sales have increased generally in price and some towns have seen this more than others. This is a typical real estate reaction which is seen when conditions in the world change such as economy, politics etc.

As a result, there are more towns experiencing large drops in their CLA. This is to be expected in a market shift. There will be many more reappraisal orders going out to towns than in a typical year as a result.”

Do not forget to file your Homestead Declaration by April 15, 2022, or the late filing penalty will be added to your tax bill. If you use any of the available tax filing software packages, they might not include this State of Vermont form. So, make sure to check.

It continues to be a challenging job. We appreciate the townspeople’s support in our efforts to maintain the Grand List.

Beth Dawley

Richard Furman

Janet Whitaker

2022 Zoning Administrators Report Town of Stockbridge

The 2022 Zoning activity has remained strong throughout the year with many inquiries from new property owners and interest in a variety of new ways to develop properties.

This year there were 5 permits issued for New Construction, 1 Sign Permit, 1 Permit was issued for an Accessory Structure, 1 permit was issued for an Addition to an existing home, 2 Simple Subdivision permits were granted, 3 Road Access permits, 3 for Renovations that altered the footprint of the original structure and 2 for change of use.

6 Certificates of Compliance were issued. Let me remind those that require a Certificate of Compliance to reach out to me to request a walk-through following project completion.

A few of the permit requests were exempt from needing a permit – however, the application must still be made and filed with the Zoning Administrator for the Town of Stockbridge with regard to any construction to determine whether or a not a project is exempt.

The zoning by laws are posted on our Town website along with the application and fee schedule.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions, I am happy to help.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Isaacson
Zoning Administrator

Stockbridge Road Commissioner Report Year Ending December 31th, 2022

We had a good amount of snow and Ice to start off 2022 along with cold weather which drove the frost into the roads fairly well, that in turn made us have a worse than normal mud season and we used about twice as much gravel as what the town had used in the past couple of years during mud season.

Dave Brown retired the end of March and I want to thank him for his years spent working on Stockbridge's roads.

Along with doing our normal maintenance we had a large project that we did along with subcontractors Richard Veilleux and Harvey's PE, on Fletcher Brook Road starting at Taggart and ending at the Spiegel Road. We received a \$20,000 grant to make road erosion improvements to that area and upgraded the roadway so that it can be plowed if needed and maintained as a class 3 road which it is and has been.

We received a \$28,960 class 2 grant that in conjunction with our paving budget allowed us to pave about a half a mile of Blackmer BLVD starting at the Junction with 107 This project was done by Wilk Paving out of Rutland.

We received a grants in aid grant for the lower end of Taggart at the intersection of Ranney in the amount of \$14,800 for drainage and erosion improvements which we completed in the end of August with help from Richard Veilleux and Ridgetop Excavation.

We also received a Structures grant from VTRANS for \$19,297.80 and replaced a 48" culvert on Fletcher Brook Road above Taggart with a 95"x67" Pipe Arch, Ridgetop Excavation Assisted us for one day to get it installed.

We rented a Roadside mower for 2 weeks in the fall and spent a lot of time working on cutting brush with it. We have a lot more that needs to be done and using the mower is the timeliest way to get it done. I hope to keep working on the brush and get "caught up" with it so we do not have it hitting our equipment and trucks when working on the roads and to improve site distance as well. We "**The Road Crew**" feel strongly that the town should purchase a roadside mower with a chipper. This will allow us to work any time of year on the brush and allow us to mow when needed.

I want to give a big THANK YOU to Luke Gibson and say that I really enjoy working with him.

As always if you see an issue with one of our roads, please call me and/or leave me a message, I try to get around and check the roads as often as I can, however we cannot be everywhere all the time.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if there is an issue.

Thank You

Kevin Bagley Road Foreman/Commissioner 802-431-8446 Cell

Fire Chief Report

As a member of the SVFD for 30+ years, and with the retirement of Dave Brown, I was appointed Fire Chief in April 2022. The department has had wonderful leadership and guidance for the past 35+ years under the direction of Dave Brown. We thank him immensely for his many, many years of service. The Stockbridge Fire Department and First Response were dispatched to a total of 57 calls this past year. Most of these calls were medical emergencies within the town.

This year we replaced the 3rd piece of our battery-operated rescue tools that are used in the event there is entrapment at a vehicle accident. We purchased 5 new air bottles which were removed from the truck due to the expiration of a 15-year life. Two new hand radios were purchased for better communication and 5 new pagers were purchased to replace the old pagers.

Rural fire departments in Vermont can purchase wildland firefighting equipment and PPE from the federal government supply through the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Forestry Division. Annually the Forestry Division offers the wildland fire protective gear and equipment 50/50 purchasing program, which is funded by federal Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) funds. This year I took advantage of this significant financial savings and purchased rakes, shovels, chaps, forestry hoses, gloves, etc..

Engine 1 truck replacement is underway and was originally scheduled to be ready by February 2023, now delayed until early April 2023. The truck pump is currently being built.

The SVFD welcomed one new member this year, Joe Nolet, and he has been a great addition to the team. I would like to thank my fire crew for being dedicated to the fire department over the course of this past year, taking time out of their own busy schedules to respond to our emergencies. Anyone interested in helping on the fire department should contact Jim, 802-747-8828. Just a reminder, requests for burning permits must be directed to the Fire Warden, Dave Brown at 802-353-9392.

Jim Munyon

Fire Chief

Stockbridge Property and Equipment Inventory 2022

	Value
Garage/Fire Station	
Building Value w/ .57 acres	549,600
Contents	20,000
Salt Shed	7,974
Town Office	
Building Value w/ 1 acre	207,000
Contents	20,000
Land	
1.3 acres Stockbridge Com.	26,500
2.1 acres Route 107	30,000
1 acre Whitcomb Hill Road	23,800
Timberhawk Lots	6,697
Chalet Village – 11 lots	
4.7 acres River Road	
1.75 acres Route 100	
21 acres Bridge Street	
19.5 acres Fletcher Brook	
156 Tweed Lane	
118 Tweed Lane	
8.3 acres Route 107	

Stockbridge Equipment

Description	Year Make	Cost	Trade	Purchase Date
Fire Truck	1987 Ford	88,500.00	-	9/18/1987
Cloride Spreader	2005 Titan	6,189.93	-	3/31/2005
Grader	2006 John Deere	216,500.00	30,000.00	7/28/2006
Mini Pumper	2008 Ford	141,500.00	-	7/23/2007
Tandem	2016 Kenworth	179,904.00	-	7/31/2015
Pumper/Tanker	2016 Kenworth	200,000.00	-	9/16/2015
Truck /w plow	2017 Ford	103,926.00	39,000.00	11/3/2017
Hydro Seeder	2017 Epic	5,928.00	-	11/27/2017
Debris Blower	2019 Cyclone	7,600.00	-	10/7/2019
Truck - Dump	2020 International	178,803.00	45,000.00	10/18/2019
Backhoe/Loader	2020 Caterpillar	140,000.00	50,000.00	9/30/2020

Town of Stockbridge - Long-Term Debt as of 12/31/2022

	Date Loan Incurred	Original Amount Borrowed	Balance on 12/31/2020	Principal Payments	Interest Payments	Balance on 12/31/2021
Town Office	2003	210,000.00	20,000.00	10,000.00	188.00	10,000.00
						-
		210,000.00	20,000.00	10,000.00	188.00	10,000.00

2022 Grants

Grant	Total Cost	Paid from 2022 Budget	Grant Received	Grant Receivable
<u>Highway</u>				
Fletcherbrook BC2227	17,587.60	(1,710.20)	19,297.80	19,297.80
Ranney Road GA0427	11,307.04	11,307.04		
Taggart Hill GA0191	20,804.70	6,004.70	14,800.00	
Fletcherbrook BR0891	51,912.43	31,912.43	20,000.00	
Blackmer Paving PO2103	63,056.35	34,096.35	28,960.00	28,960.00
Gaysville Bridge BO2146	2,170.62	217.06	1,953.56	
Total Highway	166,838.74	81,827.38	85,011.36	48,257.80
<u>General</u>				
ARPA Funding	35,030.84	-	35,030.84	
Total	201,869.58	81,827.38	120,042.20	48,257.80

Highway Equipment Hourly Usage

	2017 Ford	2016 Kenworth	2020 Inter.	Hydro Seeder	Grader	2020 Loader	Rock Rake	Chloride Spreader	Chainsaw	Leaf Blower	Back Pack Blower
2022 Q1	189.50	227.00	231.00	-	40.50	130.00	6.00	-	15.75	-	-
2022 Q2	239.00	200.10	75.00	8.00	151.00	121.50	16.00	19.00	25.50	-	-
2022 Q3	177.00	206.50	131.00	5.00	101.00	182.00	4.00	61.50	37.50	-	-
2022 Q4	305.00	230.00	201.00	-	98.00	144.50	-	5.50	20.00	81.00	6.00
2022 Total	910.50	863.60	638.00	13.00	390.50	578.00	26.00	86.00	98.75	81.00	6.00

Highway Material Usage

	Sand yds	Salt yds	Gravel yds	Chloride gal	Ditch Stone yds	Rip Rap yds	Hydroseed loads	Ditch Stone yds	Cold Pack bags
2022 Q1	1,377	111	112	-	-	-	-	-	-
2022 Q2	28	3	2,234	1,175	18	28	7	-	-
2022 Q3	-	-	767	4,775	375	24	7	42	14
2022 Q4	605	37	232	950	-	10	-	-	9
2022 Total	2,009	150	3,345	6,900	393	62	14	42	23

Stockbridge Selectboard Annual Report 2022

2022 brought multiple challenges to the Town of Stockbridge as we began hopeful recovery following the Covid 19 shutdown. The Town worked hard to maintain the March 1 Town Meeting Day but because of COVID impacts, the Board chose to move the town meeting to March 22 and to an Australian ballot. The costs for mailing ballots out to all voters was covered by using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The turnout was very successful. We are exceedingly happy to go back to an open Town Meeting this year. All of the years' minutes are listed on our town website.

The need to replace or refurbish the Gaysville Bridge has been an ongoing HOT topic for the Town of Stockbridge. The Gaysville Bridge Alternatives Presentation discussed the Recommended Scope. Vtrans recommended the option to rehabilitate the bridge. They determined that with the load rating of the existing truss, a rehabilitation could meet all needs of the Town, with the exception of a standard bridge width. Following the presentation on the recommended rehabilitation of the Gaysville Bridge Replacement the Road Foreman, Kevin Bagley, reported that the weight allowed by the current design to rehab the bridge would not meet the fully loaded weight of some of the town trucks. The rehab solution is the most cost-effective recommendation, however there is concern that the limit on weight is not sufficient. The current plan supports 66,000 lbs. and the town truck loaded with sand and plow equipment is over 80,000 lbs. There are a great many homes serviced via the bridge by both the Town Road Crew and the Fire Department. The Select Board opted to draft a letter to the state addressing concerns about the carry weight in the state preferred option and requested that bridge be replaced with a structure adequate to meet the needs of the growing population for at least the next 50 years. The letter has been received and is currently in review by VTrans.

Another ongoing concern that is active is the Rochester High School Repurposing project - It appears the decision to purchase the building will ultimately go to a town vote in Rochester. The Selectboard agreed that they want to see the Town of Rochester buy the building. Questions regarding the future repurposing costs and current maintenance costs need to be addressed. The board recognizes that the Repurposing Committee and the Rochester Selectboard are working to identify available grants and potential fundraising activities. The Stockbridge Selectboard agreed that there is not much to weigh in on until the Town of Rochester decides what they are going to do. The Selectboard agreed that Stockbridge should not participate in any of the repurposing costs. This is a Rochester Town project if they decide to buy the building. The funding that Stockbridge provides to the RSUD is based on the town approved school budget which along with Grand List values and CLA ratio, which drive the education property tax rate. That rate is calculated by the Vermont State Agency of Education. The real question is what to do if the Town of Rochester votes against the purchase of the structure.

Discussion on the best way to fund/finance the new fire truck began in earnest. The initial chassis was ordered based on the town approval to replace the fire truck from the 2022 town meeting. The Board signed contract for the fire truck replacement and the chassis was targeted to arrive at the fabricator in late November. Delays in the building of the chassis have pushed the delivery back to April of 2023 at this juncture. The last Fire Truck was financed through Mascoma bank. The town will need to obtain financing for the remainder of the cost for the building of the vehicle. That will spread the cost out over several years.

The process to install a Cell tower in Stockbridge has begun and construction is underway. At the first Cell Tower Informational Meeting, Will Dodge from DRM presented and reviewed the project status and balloon test results. He also reviewed the FirstNet product that is a segregated network for first responders, firefighters and police that is also installed on cell towers. This gives those providers their own distinct channel. Mr. Dodge requested a Selectboard decision to support or not within 10 days of that presentation by 3/14/2022. The board reviewed the Town Plan Survey results, the Adopted Town Plan, and related Action Plan. This data showed clear town support for the cell tower. The board understood that public safety and emergency responder coverage are key factors in supporting this initiative for the Town of Stockbridge. The board agreed to support the tower at full height and forwarded a letter of support to DRM on behalf of the Town.

Re-apportionment came before the Town and the impacts to Stockbridge were discussed: The original plan was for Stockbridge to move to another district with Killington, Pittsfield and Bridgewater. The Stockbridge Selectboard was instrumental in letting the legislature know that Stockbridge is more closely aligned socially and economically with Rochester and Bethel. The Selectboard testified before the reapportionment committee and was successful in convincing them to allow Stockbridge to remain in its' current district.

A positive goal for Stockbridge Central School was met this year. A Generator was installed in the school building. The Generator was paid for by RSUD and the Selectboard had agreed earlier to pay for the annual maintenance going forward.

The Select Board began the Capital Planning process, working with our auditors– RHR Smith & Company. Representatives from the company provided initial steps that the board could begin with to start the development of a capital plan for Stockbridge. During the 2020 Audit, RHR Smith produced a complete fixed asset listing and depreciation schedule. That is the initial starting point. The board will work with the Road Forman and Fire Chief to estimate the working life of the large cost assets. They will also need to review the buildings and potential high-cost maintenance items. Once compiled, RHR Smith can assist with estimating the plan funding requirements for items that need to be considered for replacement or purchase over the upcoming years. They also identified the following criteria to evaluate the items. Next Steps: Prioritize the identified items at the next Selectboard meeting. a) Safety b) Cost Savings c) Efficiency d) # Of people effected e) Aging or Obsolete equipment f) Affordability g) Grant availability

ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act). The Town of Stockbridge has a total award of \$211,340.70. ARPA Planning has begun with the help of Sarah Wraight of TRORC (Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission). She is assisting with planning the use of these funds. She shared that the US Treasury has simplified the reporting and how the funds can be used. TRORC and the VLCT (Vermont League of Cities and Towns) are recommending that all small towns in Vermont use the Standard Allowance and Revenue Replacement strategy for their awards. This provides the most flexibility in how the town can use the funds. This can be done for any award less than \$10 Million. The Town of Stockbridge made the one-time irrevocable decision to elect the “Standard Allowance” approach for our

ARPA award, to spend on the provision of government services throughout the period of the performance of the grant.

Gaysville Campground Names for Decision – Kevin Travis Planning Commission. a) Kevin reported that the Planning Commission had evaluated names and had come up with two for review with the board. The commission feels that although people in town will always refer to the location as the “Campground”, for the public we needed a name that will not lead to people showing up with camping equipment to stay overnight. The decision was made to go with White River Park at Stockbridge, Vermont

Constable - Recent communication from the State of Vermont regarding requirements for town constables may impact all town ordinances going forward. From the communication “For a constable to perform work as a law enforcement officer (including enforcing municipal ordinances) must be a certified law enforcement officer in the State of Vermont and conform with the annual training requirements and any mandatory training as designated by the council or the legislature.” Discussion has been opened with Ryan Palmer – Sheriff Elect – Sheriff Elect Palmer shared his vision for providing law enforcement support for smaller towns in Windsor County. His vision is to assist towns in solving problems and providing support. The board shared current concerns. The board is interested in participating but there will be costs for the town to participate in the new vision.

Select Board Chair, Lee Ann Isaacson will not be running for Select Board this year. The position is open to any townsperson that is interested. Please contact the Town with your questions about what is involved and one of the Select Board members will happily meet with you.

Lee Ann Isaacson - Chair
Zachary Cavacas
Michael Ketchum

Report Of The
STOCKBRIDGE CEMETERY COMMISSION

This year the Commission continued formulating a policy for the use of the cemeteries in Stockbridge. Different sources of content were used including state guidelines, Day Funeral Home, policies of other towns, prior cemetery commissioners and public input. Our Policy is included on page 88 this report for your reference.

The cost for a cemetery lot is now \$350. If the cornerstones are installed by the Stockbridge Cemetery Commission (SCC), their cost is \$140 along with an installation fee of \$100 for a total of \$590. Getting cornerstones from the Rock of Ages in Barre continues to be a problem with worker shortages delays. Ten sets of stones (40) were ordered this past fall with an expected delivery date of April.

We often get requests for information about burials in the different cemeteries. This past season Mette Rea spent a lot of time updating the Maplewood Cemetery records, assisted in the field by volunteer Daniel Kealey. Utilizing the meticulous, 2006 records of Tom Adams of New Jersey, the 1976 records of Queenie Bird and others were valuable aids in the process. Very soon, with our digital records and a sketch of the Maplewood cemetery, we will be able to provide a guide to specific graves.

During the fall we put the cemetery maintenance up for bid for a three-year term. Only one response to our advertisement was received, being from S&S Ground Maintenance from Granville for \$21,700/year. Clyde (Duke) Maxwell came highly recommended by the Royalton Cemetery Commission, and we decided to accept his services. We would like to express our gratitude and thanks for the many years of excellent service provided by Steve Twitchell of Granville.

We want to thank the many people who have assisted in our efforts, including Lori Scott, Michael Ketchum, Day Funeral Home, Tom Adams, Daniel Kealey, John Dumville, and our attorney Jim Carroll.

For Year Ending 12/31/2022

1/01/2022	Beginning Balance		\$422.72
	Homer Perkins Fund	300.00	
	Town Appropriation	17,000.00	
	Adm. Public Funds	6,000.00	
	Sales of Lots	<u>3,610.00</u>	
Total Revenue		26,910.00	
	Mowing Services	19,432.00	
	Spring and Fall Cleanup	3,498.00	
	Transfer to Savings	980.00	
	Transfer to Adm Public Funds	1,470.00	
	Rock of Ages (cornerstones)	660.00	
	Setting of cornerstones	400.00	
	Advertisement	<u>285.78</u>	
Total Expenses		26,725.78	
Ending Balance			\$606.94

Commissioners: Brenda Hillier, Richard Lunna, and Mette Rea

2022 Property Tax Transfers

Seller	Buyer	Description	Sales Price	Assessed Value
Green Trust	Mills	2.1 ac & Building	N/A	\$306,100
Green Trust	Mills	1.2 ac & Barn	N/A	\$75,000
Begin	Begin	38.83 ac	N/A	
Goswami	Lindahl	1 ac & Dwelling	\$450,000	\$218,000
Turnbull	Hofmann	5.05 ac & Dwelling	\$419,000	\$274,200
Honigford	Ames	21 ac & Dwelling	\$282,500	\$161,700
Thibeault	AZ Investments, LLC	1.80 ac & Dwelling	\$230,000	\$114,100
Sementilli/Neves,etal	BNS Vacation	18.70 ac & Dwelling	\$0	\$273,000
Militano	Wilmington Trust	1.04 ac & Dwelling	\$249,500	\$289,400
Coogan	Kelley	1.58 ac	\$35,000	\$20,000
Bitters	MPR LLC	150.60 ac & Dwelling	\$590,000	\$365,900
Thompson Trust	Pierce	32.50 ac	\$48,200	\$48,200
Cassera	Kenneally	1.07 ac & Dwelling	\$340,000	\$199,300
Arce	Casey	1.61 ac	\$15,000	\$35,000
Campbell	Campbell	2.80 ac	\$24,600	\$24,600
Coogan	Anderson	1.87 ac	\$37,000	\$43,500
Selochan	Kopelman	Condo	\$184,900	\$130,200
Bienstock	Jarecki	2.0 ac & Dwelling	\$164,800	\$150,200
Schmitt-Gaede	Bakerpoole	2.4 ac	\$29,500	\$27,000
Jones	Third Branch	10.50 ac	\$22,200	\$22,200
Collins	Collins Trust	2.15 ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$194,800
Estate of Theodore Green	Theodore Green Trust	1.20 ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$325,500
Theodore Green Trust	Mills	1.20 ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$325,500
Humphrey	Patrone	10.02 ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$235,800
Carter II	Carbonette	1.13 ac & Dwelling	\$112,500	\$56,700
Mills	Pierce	11.00 ac & Dwelling	\$436,900	\$251,700
McCullough	Pierce/Labadie	41.20 ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$156,500
Symon	Howard	9.50 ac	N/A	\$14,200
O'Shaughnessy	Whalen	11.9 ac & Dwelling	\$271,000	\$181,600
Estate of Robert Mcrae	Triest	19.0 ac	\$40,000	\$31,900

2022 Property Tax Transfers

Seller	Buyer	Description	Sales Price	Assessed Value
Fiske	Loveland	1.70 ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$74,600
Caparis	Travis	7.45 ac & Dwelling	\$650,000	\$332,600
Baldwin	Conrad	151.00 ac & Dwelling	\$1,002,076	\$341,800
Cowles and Sinteff	Ovington	1.00 ac & Dwelling	\$396,900	\$191,800
Miller	Pisula	1.15 ac (partial)	\$2,300	N/A
Roussakis	Clark	1.40 ac & Dwelling	\$590,000	\$208,700
Gaede	Gaede	142.3 ac	N/A	\$115,400
Bender	Bender	1/3 int 32.08 ac	N/A	\$289,400
Taggert	Taggert	1.87 ac & MH	N/A	\$84,600
Wales	Rudewick	10.10 ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$234,500
Rudewick	Rudewick	10.10 ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$234,500
Clark	Gnome Homes VT LLC	1.40 ac & Dwelling	N/A	\$208,700
Pins	Winner	.55 ac & Dwelling	\$62,500	\$177,300
Ketchum	Clark	1.50 ac & MH	\$100,000	\$138,400
Sawyer	Laranjo	1.80 ac	\$45,000	\$26,400
Salls	Eckroth	1.40 ac & Dwelling	\$225,000	\$248,000
Richter	Barber	10.40 ac	N/A	\$38,800
Gage	Wedge/Rogalski	4.9 ac (partial)	\$40,144	NA
Wright	Third Branch Investment	10.5 ac	\$0	\$22,200
Lisk	Lindsay	1 ac & Dwelling	\$360,000	\$210,300
Clark	Clark	1/5 int camp & 15 ac	NA	\$93,500
Yara	Wright	38.3 ac	\$85,000	\$52,100
Rudewick	Hames	10.1 ac & Dwelling	\$604,000	\$234,500
Kershner	Tomczak	11.63 ac (partial)	\$135,000	\$35,900
Barber	Bettis	10.4 ac	\$115,000	\$38,800
Rohr	Revocable Trust of Rohr	2 ac & Dwelling	NA	\$261,200
Streeter	Hutchenson	1/2 int camp & 25 ac	\$49,150	\$98,300



Belcher Library

#4452 VT 107 -

Gaysville, Vt. 05746

Belcher Library Report for 2022 -

The Belcher Library gardeners have been working hard to keep the flower gardens and lawns in great shape for everyone to enjoy. We are thankful to Craig Pratt for his diligent attention to mowing and cutting in the summer and snow removal, shoveling and sanding in the winter. Doug Keffer, our leader, has again spent the summer on repairs and projects for the Library including a new 'road-side' Library book box where folks can get Books any time. Sage Campisi, our special projects person, has been doing projects with the youngsters thru out the year.

Hours when the Library is open to the public are Saturdays 9 a.m. til Noon; Tuesdays and Thursdays 4 p.m. til 6 p.m. and Wednesdays 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. Contact can be made by calling 802-234-6608.

Board Members are Doug Keffer, Mary Ellen Dorman, Marjorie Turner, Dawn Cieniewicz, Kim Taylor, Karen Pofcher, Meg Hudson and Sandra Steele, Acting Librarian and Sage Campisi, Assistant.

Stockbridge Historical Society Report

The Stockbridge Historical Society is a non-profit organization whose mission is to “discover, collect, preserve, and exhibit materials, records and artifacts that relate to the civil and natural history of Stockbridge, Vermont”.

2022 was a year of note for the Historical Society. We began the transition of the late Margaret Perkins house in Gaysville from that of a residence to the future home of the Historical Society. Our objective is to have a location where we can store and display items that tell the Story of Stockbridge’s History. Margaret Perkins’ family had a significant part in the history of our town; her father owned and ran the general store in Gaysville and the family connection to the house goes back to the early 1900’s. The house has many items of historical significance and general interest. With the help of volunteers, we have been sorting through these items.



One such unique item is *this* piece of furniture-

Question: 1. What is 7 feet tall, 2. Will tell you the time of day, 3. Can play a tune for a nickel?

Answer: A rare version of a music box by the Regina Company. The company started in 1894 in New Jersey and made disc playing music boxes until about 1920. Today, very few of these music boxes remain. And fewer - if any-like the one here!

This year, the Historical Society also consulted with the Vermont Preservation Trust and the Vermont Historical Society with regard to the Perkins House. Our consultations have been to good effect, with a historical contractor evaluating the property and making suggestions for maintenance/restoration. We have also obtained sources for grants and referrals for contractors that can help with various restoration projects.

Your Stockbridge Historical Society is dependent on the goodwill and help of volunteers in cleaning and sorting at the Perkins House. Our ‘work parties’ have been fun events with interesting discoveries and comradery. If you have a few hours to help with this project, please get in touch!

Along those lines, new members are also appreciated. Anyone interested in learning more about our town’s history is welcome. The annual dues for the Stockbridge Historical Society are by donation with a suggested minimum of five dollars for the year.

The Stockbridge Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. Membership dues or Donations may be sent to the attention of: Vivian Pratt, P.O. Box 75, Gaysville, 05746.

Respectfully submitted: Forrest Newton, President



Windsor County Service Delivery July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Disaster Response

In the past year, the American Red Cross has responded to **11 disaster cases** in **Windsor County**, providing assistance to **36 individuals**. Most commonly, these incidents were home fires. Red Cross workers were on the scene to provide food, clothing, lodging, emotional support, and more to families during their hours of greatest need. Our teams also provide Mass Care to first responders. Things like food, water, and warm drinks strengthen the brave people of your local Fire and Police Departments as they answer the call to keep your residents safe.

Town/City	Disaster Events	Individuals
Ascutney	1	2
Chester	3	8
Perkinsville	1	2
South Royalton	2	6
Springfield	1	1
White River Junction	2	14
Windsor	1	3

Home Fire Campaign

Last year, Red Cross staff and volunteers worked throughout Windsor County to educate residents on fire, safety and preparedness. We made **8 homes safer** by helping families develop emergency evacuation plans.

Blood Drives

We collected **2,106 pints** of lifesaving blood at **67 drives** in Windsor County.



Training Services

Last year, **820 Windsor County residents** were taught a variety of important lifesaving skills such as First Aid, CPR, Babysitting Skills and Water Safety.



Service to the Armed Forces

We proudly assisted **17 of Windsor County's Service Members, veterans, and their families** by providing emergency communications and other services, including counseling and financial assistance.

Volunteer Services

Windsor County is home to **25 American Red Cross Volunteers**. We have volunteers from all walks of life, who are trained and empowered to respond to disasters in the middle of the night, to teach safety courses, to help at our many blood drives, and so much more. The American Red Cross is proud that 90% of its staff is made up of volunteers; they are truly the heart and soul of our organization.





Neighbors Helping Neighbors
802-234-5513 · bethelvtfoodshelf.org

Bethel Area Food Shelf

Neighbors Helping Neighbors in Bethel, Barnard, Stockbridge, and Pittsfield January 2023

The Bethel Area Food Shelf (BFS) continued to experience tremendous growth during 2022. One hundred sixty families in our service area relied on the BFS to supplement their food budget and/or provide traditional holiday meals and gifts for their families. To illustrate the growth: in 2020, 46 families visited BFS; in 2021, the number grew to 100 and in 2022, 160 families relied on this support. When the number of people in these households is considered, we were able to address the food insecurity needs of 600 neighbors. BFS is managed and operated by a dedicated pool of 40+ area volunteers. Five compose our Management Team and 7 rotate as shift leads; 29 are from Bethel, 5 from Royalton, 6 from Stockbridge, and 2 from Pittsfield.

The Bethel Food Shelf is currently a Network Partner of the VT Foodbank and as such can access free and reduced-price food on a monthly basis and participate in periodic grant opportunities. Willing Hands, a regional gleaning nonprofit, provides fresh produce, bread, and dairy products on a weekly basis. Many local churches, schools, businesses, and organizations collaborate with us to fill our shelves, refrigerators, and freezers. Even so, our total expenses for 2022 increased by \$24,000. Donations and grants have helped us keep pace with the increase so far, and we are working to build systems that will allow us to anticipate and meet the increased need through future donations and grants.

We continue to be open two days a week, Mondays from 12-1 pm and Thursdays from 5-7 pm, with deliveries available throughout the service area during these times. We offer free delivery of fresh produce boxes on the fourth Friday of each month and co-sponsor and coordinate Project Happy Holidays annually with the Bethel Area Rotary Club. Any excess funds raised during Project Happy Holidays goes toward our BFS Emergency Fund to help families deal with crises.

If you need help supplementing your food budget, contact BFS at 802-234-5513 or bethelvtfoodshelf@gmail.com. Leave your name, address, and phone number and someone will call you back as soon as possible. There is a shopping list on our website, bethelvtfoodshelf.com. Use it to place an order and request delivery, if needed. Other up-to-date information is available at www.facebook.com/bethelvtfoodshelf. If you'd like to volunteer at BFS, contact cindy@action-circles.com. If you'd like to donate to BFS, send a check to Bethel Area Food Shelf, PO Box 211, Bethel, VT 05032.

We have enjoyed working to revitalize the Bethel Area Food Shelf and look forward to continuing this important work of encouraging neighbors to reach out and help their neighbors in need.

Respectfully submitted,

The BFS Management Team

Paul Boynton, Melissa Harwood, Lisa Warhol, Kim Marsh, and Cindy Metcalf



BFS secured several grants in 2022 for the purpose of purchasing two new refrigerators and a freezer to better serve our community.

Central Vermont Council on Aging
FY22 Report of Services to Town of Stockbridge
December 14, 2022

As a private nonprofit organization, the Central Vermont Council on Aging (CVCOA) is dedicated to the mission of supporting older Vermonters to age with dignity and choice. CVCOA Services are available to those age 60 and up, or to adults with disabilities. For more than 40 years, CVCOA has assisted older Vermonters to remain independent for as long as possible. We connect older adults in our communities to the network of benefit programs and services that they need to thrive. All services are made available to our clients at no charge without regard to health, income, or resources.

At CVCOA, we are the leading experts and advocates in healthy aging for central Vermonters. As the area agency on aging for Central Vermont we are the only community-based provider delivering care coordination, case management, information and assistance, and innovative caregiver supports directly to older Vermonters in their homes, at our office, or by phone.

CVCOA provided one or more of the services listed below to 15 residents of Stockbridge, including 6 residents who received home-delivered and/or congregant meals, 8 who received case management services, and 5 who worked with our Information and Assistance team. CVCOA Case Manager Kathryn Schenkman worked directly with older adults in Stockbridge.

CVCOA Helpline - (802) 477-1364 - has the answers to hundreds of common questions from older Vermonters, their families, and caregivers.

Information & Assistance staff counsels older Vermonters and families on the many available benefit programs and services, such as 3SquaresVT, seasonal fuel assistance, housing, and more.

Case Managers work with clients in their homes to assess needs and develop, implement and coordinate individualized long-term care plans.

Nutrition Services oversees the menu development and technical assistance for home-delivered, congregate, and grab and go meals, and provides the largest source of funding for the 12 nutrition sites that prepare and deliver these meals.

State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) provides personalized Medicare counseling, Medicare & You workshops (now on Zoom), and enrollment assistance for Medicare Part D plans.

Family Caregiver Program promotes the well-being of family members caring for loved ones, administration of the Dementia Respite Grant (which provides much needed financial assistance for respite), training, and Memorable Times Café/Memorable Times Online.

Volunteer Programs provide direct service to community members. Volunteers offer companionship, transportation, assistance with technology, organizing, wellness classes, meal delivery, special event support, errands and grocery shopping, yardwork, creative guidance, and more.

Special Projects and Programs are designed to help alleviate social isolation and loneliness, addressing the accessibility gap for homebound older adults and enhancing social connection through arts and technology opportunities.

In FY21, CVCOA mobilized 238 volunteers to provide direct service, deliver meals on wheels, support nutrition sites, provide wellness classes, assist with Medicare counseling, provide companionship and creative encouragement, and more. These volunteers served over 18,000 hours in Central Vermont communities.

CVCOA served 2,974 unduplicated clients in FY22, plus 2,597 additional interactions with community members for outreach and support throughout our service area.

All of us at CVCOA extend our gratitude to the residents of Stockbridge for their ongoing commitment to the health, well-being, independence, and dignity of older Vermonters in the Stockbridge community and throughout Central Vermont.

Green Mountain National Forest

Town Meeting Report

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

As mentioned in our Town Report last year, we are in the process of building a new Forest Supervisor's Office in Mendon which we expect to be open for staff and visitors in the coming year. The former Rutland-based headquarters (231 North Main Street) for the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests has transitioned to a full-time virtual work schedule which will continue until our new office is completed on U.S. Route 4 in Mendon, Vermont. While our main phone number (formally for the Rutland Office) will remain the same (802) 747-6700, our mailing address has changed to: USDA Forest Service, Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests, PO Box 220, Rutland, VT 05702. Please use this new mailing address and also visit our website for a current listing of Forest Service employees who can assist you throughout this temporary transition:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3838044.pdf.

The following is a summary of what happened in your National Forest throughout the past year:

Botany Program

- In August, a public presentation was given at the Rochester Public Library entitled: "Replacing Invasive Plants with Native Species in the Home Landscape" for residents in all the Upper White River CWMA towns (Hancock, Granville, Pittsfield, Rochester, and Stockbridge) and beyond.

Forest Vegetation Management

- Timber sales were sold in Hancock, Pittsfield, Rochester, Somerset, Stockbridge, and Weston, totaling approximately 8.6 million board feet of sawtimber and pulpwood.
- The Forest provided maple tapping opportunities to six permit and contract holders for almost 9,000 taps in the towns of Lincoln, Stockbridge, Pomfret, Wilmington, and Mount Tabor.
- The Forest analyzed potential vegetation management activities in support of the planned Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project in the Towns of Chittenden, Mendon, Killington, Stockbridge, Pittsfield, Goshen, Brandon, and Pittsford.

Environmental Planning

Although not a completed decision, a major highlight to note includes the near completion of the proposed action for the Telephone Gap Integrated Resource Project located in the towns of Chittenden, Mendon, Killington, Stockbridge, Pittsfield, Goshen, Brandon, Rutland Town, and Pittsford. First initiated in 2019 with field surveys and public input, the proposed action is designed to change the existing conditions within the project area to meet Forest Plan goals, objectives, desired future conditions of forest resources. Formal invitation for public input on the proposed action is expected to start in early 2023 followed by an effects analysis to be documented in an environmental assessment.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement & Monitoring

Wildlife habitat was improved and maintained through maintenance of openings on the Forest, both permanent and temporary. Approximately 100 acres of upland openings were maintained by mowing, or mastication in the towns of East Dorset, Goshen, Granville, Hancock, Hartford, Manchester, Mount Holly, Mount Tabor, Pomfret, Rochester, Stockbridge, Barnard, Pomfret, Salisbury, Readsboro, Weston, Stratton, Woodford, and Winhall.

This summer was the initial pre-treatment survey season in Dover, Jamaica, Mount Tabor, Searsburg, Stamford, Sunderland, Weston, Wilmington, and Woodford. Peregrine falcon nest sites on the GMNF in Rochester, Salisbury, Stockbridge, and Wallingford continue to be monitored,

Public Outreach / Conservation Education

The Nature Watch Snorkel Program returned in 2022. After a 2-year break due to the pandemic the Green Mountain National Forest and the White River partnership successfully got students back in the water. Students learned about the importance of freshwater resources and their role in protecting them by collecting aquatic insects and actually getting in wetsuits to see under the water. Over two weeks, 250 students for the following schools participated: Bethel, Stockbridge, Rochester, Chelsea, Tunbridge, Killington, Barnard, Sharon, and Braintree. This program was held at the CCC Site in Rochester from September 12th through the 23rd.



GREEN UP VERMONT
www.greenupvermont.org

Green Up Day
May 6, 2023



Stockbridge Green Up Day Statistics

- Volunteers 35-40
- Miles Cleaned 12 miles
- 55 bags for 580 lbs. of trash disposed
- Tires: 29
- Strangest item collected: Nothing unusual
- Thank you to the Town Road Crew for use of the town truck to collect
- Big Thank you to Janet Whitaker for her time coordinating the event in Stockbridge

Green Up Day on May 7, 2022 was a wonderful success thanks to 19,141 volunteers statewide who participated on Green Up Day picking up nearly 500 tons of trash! Stockbridge town coordinator, Janet Whitaker, reported 40 volunteers picking up 55 bags of litter and 29 tires on 12 miles of town roads.

The infographic shows that all your hard work to beautify Vermont is crucial and that it makes where we get to live, work, and play, a truly special place. As one of Vermont's favorite unofficial holidays, it is imperative for today and future generations to build pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont environment, as well as keep residents civically engaged.

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding again for Green Up Day 2023.

Green Up Vermont initiatives are year-round for further our impact with waste reduction initiatives, additional clean-up efforts, and educational programs.

Green Up Vermont is a private nonprofit organization that relies on your town's support to execute the tradition of cleaning up our roads and waterways, while promoting civic pride, and community engagement. **Thank you for your support of this crucial program that takes care of all our cities and towns.**

Your donations make a huge impact and can be made on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or anytime online at www.greenupvermont.org.

Visit our website, like us on Facebook (@greenupvermont), and follow us on Instagram (greenupvermont). greenup@greenupvermont.org 802-522-7245



One Planet Afterschool Program
Bethel, Chelsea, Newton, Sharon, Stockbridge,
Rochester, Royalton, Tunbridge

Dear Town of Stockbridge,

December 2, 2022

We want to thank you for your support of \$3,000 for the 2022-23 fiscal year. We utilized this funding to support our summer camp. Please see our report below.

REPORT:

One Planet's mission is to create a dynamic learning environment after school and during the summer that inspires and supports students in becoming compassionate global citizens and lifelong learners.

This summer Rockbridge (Rochester/Stockbridge) One Planet Summer Camp engaged 50 children in grades K-6th with exciting theme-based projects for 5 weeks. Activities ranged widely this summer depending on the week's theme. The 5 themes this year included Around the World, Become Recording Artists, Mountain Biking with Ridgeline Outdoor Collective, S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), and Theater with the WRV Players. Students also participated in a number of exciting field trips. This summer campers traveled to VINS in Quechee, ECHO and The Spirit of the Ethan Allen in Burlington, and a variety of swim trips. Finally, we continued to offer our Counselors-in-Training program which gives local middle school students the opportunity to join the program giving them leadership roles and the power to make decisions.

Thanks to the support of the Town of Rochester, we were able to continue to offer families reduced summer pricing. We also provided a sliding scale and scholarships for those families in need. Parents were truly grateful to see their kids smiling, connecting with their peers and having a summer camp experience.

We want to thank the town of Stockbridge for supporting our program with a contribution of \$3,000. We would like to request \$3,000 for 2023-24 fiscal year. Please let me know if you need any more information or have questions.

Sincerely,

Hayley Zoerheide, One Planet Program Director
hzoerheide@wrvsu.org, 802-763-3812



2022-2023

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Housekeeper

Cassie Bettis
Housekeeper



ParkHouseVT.org

802-767-3416

Director@parkhousevt.org

Dear Friends in Stockbridge,

In 1985, community members voiced frustrations that there were not enough near-by housing options for elders unable to continue living on their own. Many of our older residents had no choice but to move away from our community, away from people and places they have loved throughout their lives. All five area towns of Granville, Hancock, Rochester, Stockbridge and Pittsfield came together to work to create an alternative solution.

With funding from Vermont Community Development, Vermont Housing Conservation Board, and the wonderful generosity of our local community members, Rochester Community Care Home, Inc. was able to repurpose the old Rochester Inn and open Park House to our first residents in July of 1991. Since then, we have been called "Home" by almost 200 older and qualifying adults.

Park House is many things to many people— a historical landmark, a community center, a place to serve others—but above all, it is home to up to 16 residents seeking companionship, assistance, comfort, and community. Residents of Park House are as diverse as our community is. Some live on fixed incomes while others are more financially comfortable; some are healthy and vibrant while others are more physically limited. While a good number of residents hail from the valley area, some have come to us from further away in order to live near family.

Park House has managed to maintain its commitment to provide affordable housing to seniors in our community for the past 29 years. Each year it seems that the costs for basic necessities continue to increase. These past couple of years, that increase has been even more dramatic. The staff and Board of Trustees have continued to work hard to keep expenses in check and to maintain that commitment to affordability. Our non-profit organization relies on grants, fundraising events and on your generous contributions and appropriations to cover our expenses and to remain an affordable Home.

Our nearly three decades of service to this community would not have been possible without generous community support. We sincerely thank you for your past support and hope that you will vote to continue that support again this year. We would love to see you here at the house for a brown bag lunch, a musical performance, or just a good old rocking chair porch chat!

Lolly Lindsey
Executive Director

Together with the Park House Board of Trustees and Staff

Quin-Town Center for Senior Citizens

PO Box 113

1097 Route 100

Hancock, VT 05748

802-767-3763

quintownsc@gmail.com

11/28/2022

To the Town of Stockbridge Select Board/Budget Committee and Community Members:

Quin-Town Center for Senior Citizens is based in Hancock and since 1972 has given senior citizens in the area a place to go for on-site meals each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at noon. We also provide nutritionally balanced meals delivered to homebound members through our Meals on Wheels Program.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our senior center. To keep our clients safe, we have had to temporarily change our onsite dining, currently serving onsite meals on Wednesdays. However, we continue to provide nutritionally balanced meals to help meet the dietary requirements of our seniors by offering our new To-Go Meals Program and continue delivering Meals on Wheels each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Our Meals on Wheels Program not only provides healthy meals to seniors, but also provides us with an opportunity to perform a wellness check for our senior neighbors.

The Quin-Town Center for Senior Citizens is requesting a donation from each of our surrounding towns. Our request from Stockbridge is **\$5668.00** for the coming year. The donation is well spent. We have supplied nearly 5,000 meals this past year to seniors at the center including our new To-Go Meals Program and our Meals on Wheels Program.

Your donation will cover a portion of our operating budget not reimbursed by our contract with the Central Vermont Council on Aging. Therefore, each contributing town and its citizens become participants in the successful operation of our program that provides quality meals and social enrichment for our aging neighbors and relatives.

We continue to supplement our funds with a very successful annual appeal each fall and have increased our search for grants and other fundraising events. We would be glad to meet with you if you have any questions. Thank you for your generous support in the past and for considering our current request.

Sincerely,

Quin-Town Board of Directors

Board of Directors

~ Natalie Clook, Acting President ~ Kent Butterfield, Vice President & Treasurer ~ Beverly Allen, Secretary ~

Members: Annette West

Phyllis Deeting, Executive Director ~ Vacant Cook ~ Vacant Assistant Cook ~

SAFELINE, INC.
P.O. Box 368, Chelsea, VT 05038
safelineinfo@safelinevt.org
(802) 685-7900 office
(800) 639-7933 24/7 hotline

Safeline, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that provides free and confidential services for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking in Orange County and northern Windsor County.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, Safeline provided 2,305 services for 337 victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual abuse.

14 services were provided for 2 victims who identified themselves as residents of Stockbridge. 2 males were provided services. These services included 1 family violence situation and 2 referrals and 1 legal advocacy. It is likely that these statistics are understated, as victims often choose not to give any identifying information out of fear for their own safety.

A trained advocate is always available to provide crisis support, safety planning, resources, information and referrals through Safeline's 24 hours a day/7days a week Hotline (1-800-639-7233). Survivors can also choose from a wide array of additional services including legal advocacy, day shelter services, job readiness skills development, and financial management education.

In addition to providing direct services, Safeline is a resource for the community at large and is committed to changing the culture of violence. As part of this work, Safeline offers a full range of prevention education for community organizations, schools, medical centers, faith communities, youth groups, and anyone who is seeking information about domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking.

We thank the voters of Stockbridge for your support as we work to end domestic violence and sexual abuse in Stockbridge.

The Sharon Academy

Town Report 2022

The mission of The Sharon Academy is to nurture intelligent, independent and creative thinking in a small school community, awakening students to their immense potential and the difference they can make in the world

While COVID-related absences are still noticeable, it has been a relief to return to “normal” operations this year. One example of where it was especially wonderful to be generally mask-free was during this year’s high school Interim—“**The Addams Family**” was performed the week before Thanksgiving and was thoroughly successful as the community-building adventure it was designed to be. We look forward to the Middle School equivalent—this year’s **Circus**—on Friday, March 24 (6pm Carnival, 7pm show) and 25 (3pm Carnival, 4pm show), on the High School campus.

Other events to look forward to are **Arts Day** (April 2, and back after a two-year COVID-related hiatus), our second annual **Phoenix Phest** (Saturday, June 3) and our graduation ceremonies (Middle School on 6/16, High School on 6/17).

In the meantime, we are in the midst of our 10-year NEASC Accreditation process, led by Assistant Head of School Kate Fabrikant. We are finding this round to be as constructive and enlightening as our first 10 years ago, and look forward to the Program Visit at the beginning of April.

New initiatives at both the high school (our modular schedule) and middle school (community-focused Wednesdays) are in full swing, and a rigorous feedback process focused on identifying needed adjustments for next year has begun. We are thrilled to see Middle School teacher Fallon Abel off to Finland on a Fulbright Award to study social-emotional learning, and eagerly look forward to supporting her in implementing a robust, 7–12 social-emotional learning program after her return. Faculty and staff at both campuses continue to explore ways of designing “deep learning” experiences for our students, focusing on teaching the skills needed for connecting and flourishing in our constantly changing, increasingly complex, and technologically infused world.

Lastly, the STEAM Wing project has gone out to bid, and while at the time this report is being written we are still waiting to see the bids, by the time it is read we expect to be preparing to break ground!

Thank you to all of you who have donated time, expertise, and financial support to TSA and our students. Your support helps us to fulfill our mission of knowing, valuing, and challenging each student so that they may become the thinkers, creators, problem-solvers, and leaders our world needs.

Please consider coming by for a visit or attending one of the events mentioned above. TSA considers itself to be a part of the local community - you are always welcome.

Mary Newman

Head of School
The Sharon Academy



STOCKBRIDGE FREE COMMUNITY MEALS TO GO 2022 Annual Report

The mainstream food economy is not working for everyone.
Two out of five Vermonters are now food insecure, up from one in four.

SFCMTG is an experiment in creating a local food economy that works for our whole community.

Our goal is to make locally sourced, prepared food easily accessible for all of us, to become self-sustaining through broad community support, and to become a model for other rural communities.

Through the generous participation of this community and with help from the Stockbridge Trustees of Public Funds, we have made a great start. See details below.

This locally sourced prepared food is for everyone regardless of ability to pay, available for pick up from our freezer in the concession stand at Stockbridge Central School, weekdays from 2:45 – 7:00 PM.

To sustain universal access, SFCMTG needs broader ongoing community support.

To this end, we are now inviting community members who can afford to do so to commit to supporting this project on an ongoing basis by signing up for our flexible Prepared Food CSA.

The CSA shares are available in various sizes:

Small	\$20/week	One container/week	\$15 covers the cost of the food. \$5 pays it forward.
Medium	\$40/week	Two containers/week	\$30 covers the cost of the food. \$10 pays it forward.
Medium+	\$75/week	Three containers/week	\$45 covers the cost of the food. \$30 pays it forward.
Large	\$100/week	Four containers/week	\$60 covers the cost of the food. \$40 pays it forward.

A container means one large container, two small containers, or one pizza.

Most large containers have enough food for two people.

Not sure you can get there every week? No problem!

Withdraw the specified number of containers per quarter at your own pace.

STOCKBRIDGE FREE COMMUNITY MEALS TO GO
2022 Annual Report (cont.)

Not sure you can use that much food? No problem! There is no obligation to use the food!
Not sure what's in the freezer? Check the menu on our website: stockbridgecommunitymeals.org
Mix and match: For example, if you do not have \$40/week in your budget to pay it forward but you would like four containers per week, you can sign up for the medium share twice...
To pull this off, we need subscribers at every level.
We are a 501c3. All contributions beyond \$15/container are tax deductible.
First time CSA subscribers will receive a free cake made by Stockbridge baker Lea Desforages!
Please sign up on our website: stockbridgecommunitymeals.org
Thank you!

We have now completed our first full calendar year of operation.

In 2022:

In a rural town with a population of 711 and no grocery store, we distributed 5,388 containers (10,776 servings) of wholesome (largely organic) prepared food. Almost all of the \$78,404 spent on food-related labor and materials went to local farms, cooks, and independent markets: your money stayed in your community. Total costs (food, labor, containers, registration fees, marketing...) were \$85,000 and Total monetary donations for the same period: \$31,755. The Stockbridge Trustees of Public Funds has supported us at the rate of \$1000/week with the understanding that this rate of support will diminish as community support increases.

In 2022, we distributed an average of 104 containers per week.

In the first two weeks of 2023, we distributed an average of 144 containers per week without any increase in our income.

We have applied for grant money (which we may or may not receive) to help us boost our inventory as we work to develop a broad base of ongoing community support.

Many thanks for the generous contributions which in 2022 covered 37% of our costs.

If you can afford to do so, please sign up for our flexible Prepared Food CSA and help us develop a robust local food economy and make sure that everyone is well fed.

If you cannot afford to sign up for our CSA

Please enjoy the food and contribute what you can afford. Every contribution helps!
Contribute at the site or mail a check (SFCM) to 621 River Road 05772 or VENMO @SFCMTG
For more information, including pictures of the land and the people your money supports, please visit our website: stockbridgecommunitymeals.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION & GENEROSITY!

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Aldrich, Founder



A Vermont Domestic Non-Profit Corporation
Email: summermusicforkids@gmail.com
Mailing address: PO Box 134, Gaysville, VT 05746

Summer Music for Kids

Officers:

President

Susan Bushnell

Vice-President

Lucy Marsh

Secretary/Treasurer

Bill Edgerton

Director of Marketing

Anne Jeka

Teachers:

Barb Smith

Clarinet

Flute

Saxophone

Scott Paulson

Trombone

Trumpet

Percussion

Emerson Gale

Cello

Violin

The Summer Music for Kids camp held in the summer of 2022 was a resounding success! Sixteen 4-6th grade students (homeschoolers included) from the communities of Rochester, Stockbridge, Granville, Hancock, and Pittsfield began learning to play and care for their instruments and received fun exposure to theater, visual, and other musical arts.

The aim of Summer Music for Kids is to provide access to instrumental music education to all students in the Valley communities regardless of financial constraints or other barriers. Instrumental private lessons with top-notch area teachers, instrument rentals, transportation, and snacks were offered free of charge to the campers.

Thanks to our generous donors, including many Valley businesses, residents, and the Trustees of Public Funds, our camp became a reality. Because our Board of Directors is entirely volunteer, we were able to maximize the services of our teachers and enrichment and support staff. We had enough left over to continue early-release lessons during the academic year.

We look forward to 2023 and are already planning for greater participation and musical involvement. We may even be able to expand to a day-long camp, continuing with last year's campers and adding a new set of beginners!

Our teachers for 2023 will be Scott Paulson (percussion, trumpet, trombone), Barbara Smith (flute, clarinet, saxophone), and Emerson Gale (violin and cello).

For more information, please e-mail summermusicforkids@gmail.com or contact Bill Edgerton at EdgeeastVT@gmail.com.

Summer Music for Kids appreciates the diversity of human beings and does not discriminate based on race, disability, religion, sexual orientation, sex or gender identity.

REPORT TO STOCKBRIDGE ON TRI-VALLEY TRANSIT (TVT) SERVICES October 2022

Thank you for the Town of Stockbridge's generous support last year. During the past four years, your support helped us provide an annual average of **112 free Dial-A-Ride trips** for Stockbridge residents either by volunteer drivers or on wheelchair accessible vehicles. TVT's Dial-A-Ride and Shuttle Bus Systems provided a total of 158,302 rides for the year. All of TVT's transportation programs enable community members to maintain their independence, gain and keep employment and access critical healthcare and quality-of-life services.

Dial-A-Ride Programs – Focus on specialized populations including elders, persons with disabilities and low-income families/individuals who are unable to access the bus system. **In Stockbridge, Dial-A-Ride offers direct access from home to: medical treatments, meal site/senior programs, adult day care services, pharmacies, food shopping, social services, vocational rehabilitation, radiation & dialysis and substance abuse treatment.**

Bus System – Promotes economic development, energy conservation, mobility independence and quality of life. **Stockbridge residents can access the 89'er South route via the Rochester Extension at the Park & Ride at the junction of Routes 100 & 107.**

The state and local grants through which we provide these services require us to raise up to 20% "local match" dollars. TVT's requests from towns account for approximately 5% of the 20% requirement.

Please include this in your town report as space allows. Thank you!



TRORC 2022 YEAR-END REPORT

The Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission is your regional planning commission. We are governed by a Board of Representatives appointed by each of our 30 member towns. We work to make the area better today, and to articulate a vision for tomorrow that has a thriving regional economy and keeps the Region's outstanding quality of life. The following are highlights from our work in 2022.

Technical Assistance on Planning Issues

Our staff support your local officials by being a wealth of information on many subjects, enabling them to serve you better. We provide advice on zoning, capital budgeting, and preventing flood damage; review solar and cell tower projects; stay abreast of state and federal initiatives so that local government can take advantage of these; and have worked hard to address the region's housing crisis. TRORC staff have also assisted numerous towns with revisions to municipal plans, bylaws and studies.

Economy and Public Health

This year, TRORC obtained Federal grant funding to support the Region's talented artists, food producers, and other parts of the creative economy sector through training and networking events. We also were able to provide many small businesses with grant funds to weather Covid, as well as guidance to towns on using their federal recovery funds. TRORC worked on public health projects with local hospitals, helped towns grapple with new cannabis legislation, and incorporated health-related goals and policies into town plans.

Emergency Management and Preparedness

TRORC staff continued to serve as liaisons between Vermont Emergency Management and local emergency responders, organizations, and town officials on emergency planning. TRORC assisted several communities with updating their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, helping to reduce future damages from disasters and enable greater state and federal funding when they do happen. When disasters happen, we actively become part of the state and local long-term recovery process.

Energy/Climate Change

TRORC assisted six towns on Enhanced Energy Plans to save money for communities and further the State energy goal of meeting 90% of energy needs from renewable sources by 2050. TRORC has continued working to support town Energy Committees on energy efficiency outreach and education with funding from Efficiency Vermont. We also work on state-level climate policy and local adaptation measures.

Transportation

TRORC managed the Municipal Roads Grants-In-Aid program in our Region getting funding for towns to implement projects including grass and stone-lined ditches, upsizing and replacement of culverts, and stabilizing catch basin outlets. We also work to support our transit agencies, build park and ride lots, and help towns with traffic counts and speed studies.

Specifically in Stockbridge this past year, TRORC helped complete the Local Emergency Management Plan. As part of the Grants in Aid program, staff worked with the town to complete ditching and culvert improvements on Taggart Hill Road. Staff assisted the town on completing a Better Roads planning grant to install an 8-foot squashed culvert on Fletcher Brook Road, as well as a Better Roads grant to realign sections of Mt. Hunger Road. Staff also worked with the town to update the Town Plan and supported the town in navigating how to use ARPA funding.

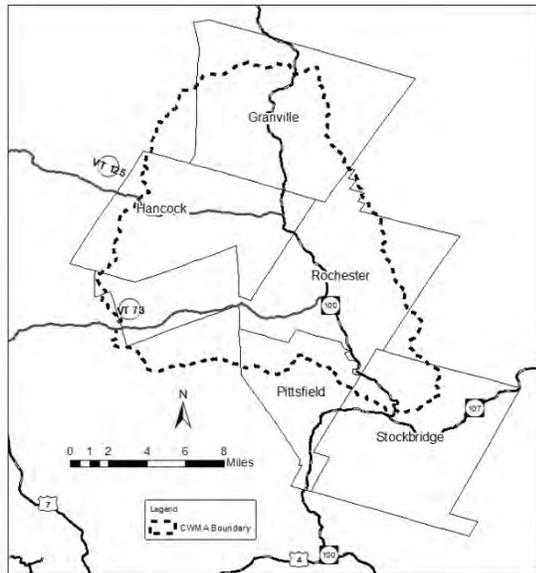
We are committed to serving you, and welcome opportunities to assist you in the future.

*Respectfully submitted,
Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director
Jerry Fredrickson, Chairperson, Barnard*



Upper White River Cooperative Weed Management Association 2022 Report to the Town of Stockbridge

2022 was the tenth year that the Upper White River Cooperative Weed Management Association conducted non-native invasive plant surveys, control, education and outreach along town roads and trails located in the Upper White River watershed. See map showing the project area boundary, below.



CWMA partners include the **Green Mountain National Forest, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, Town of Rochester, and White River Partnership.**

The members are working together to raise awareness about and manage non-native invasive plants.

Non-native invasive plants are plants that are not originally from this area that have exhibited invasive tendencies, spreading rapidly and taking away habitat that native plants need to thrive. They have the potential to negatively impact land and water resources, recreational opportunities, biodiversity, wildlife, and property values. However, the community at large can play a hand in controlling invasive plants on their own properties and community roads through early detection and rapid response activities.

2022 Summary:

CWMA Coordination: Grant funding was received, a coordinator was hired, and several tasks were accomplished.

Monitoring and Control:

No monitoring or control activities were undertaken in Stockbridge.

Education & outreach:

In August, a public presentation was given at the Rochester Public Library entitled: "Replacing Invasive Plants with Native Species in the Home Landscape" for residents in all the Upper White River CWMA towns (Stockbridge, Pittsfield, Granville, Hancock, and Rochester) and beyond.

Interested landowners are encouraged to take action to control non-native invasive plants on their own properties, or to get involved with the Cooperative Weed Management Association. To get involved locally, contact MaryBeth Deller at the Green Mountain National Forest at mary.deller@usda.gov. To learn more about invasive plants in Vermont, visit the Vermont Invasives website: <http://vtinvasives.org>

THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING
TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE
SUMMARY REPORT

Request Amount: \$230.00

For the last 42 years, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with disabilities and the Deaf how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees (~85% of whom have a disability) conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

In FY'22 (10/2021-9/2022) VCIL responded to thousands of requests from individuals, agencies and community groups for information, referral and assistance and program services for individuals living with a disability. VCIL Peer Advocate Counselors (PACs) provided one-on-one peer counseling to **158** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and **6** peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **172** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; **80** of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **91** individuals with information on assistive technology; **39** of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **454** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60. We are also home to the Vermont Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP) which served **29** people and provided **16** peers with adaptive telecommunications enabling low-income Deaf, Deaf-blind, Hard of Hearing and individuals with disabilities to communicate by telephone. Due to the pandemic VCIL was able to start a new (temporary) program, Resilience and Independence in a State of Emergency (RISE) which served over 600 people in the 2 years it was funded. The Rise Program can help provide an array of items or services if the needs are directly related to the Covid-19 epidemic.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our PACs and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont. Our Montpelier office also houses the Vermont Interpreter Referral Service (VIRS) and provides statewide interpreter referral services for sign language, spoken English and CART services for assignments in medical, legal, mental health, employment, educational, civil and recreational settings.

During FY'22, VCIL provided direct services to Vermont residents utilizing the following programs/services:

- Information, Referral and Assistance (I,R&A)
- Home Access Program (HAP)
- Meals on Wheels (MOW)
- Peer Advocacy Counseling (PAC)
- Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF)
- VT Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (VTEDP)

To learn more about VCIL, please call VCIL's toll-free I-Line at:
1-800-639-1522, or, visit our web site at www.vcil.org.



September 9, 2022

Stockbridge town
PO Box 39
Stockbridge, VT 05772

Dear Select Board,

The mission of Vermont Family Network (VFN) is to empower and support all Vermont children, youth, and families, especially those with disabilities or special health needs. Formed in 2008 when two organizations, the Vermont Parent Information Center (VPIC) and Parent to Parent of Vermont (P2P), merged, VFN has collectively served families across Vermont for more than 30 years. Vermont children, youth, and families are provided with a “one-stop shop” to help them reach their full potential. VFN gives a strong start, lifts family voices, and advances inclusive communities.

We are writing you today to ask for your support in continuing to serve families in Stockbridge town and throughout the state, with an appropriation of \$ 250. Traditionally primarily funded through state and federal grants, we find that waning funds threaten to slow our work and minimize the number of families we can support. We are reaching out to communities like Stockbridge town where we have served many families to seek your help. Your appropriation will help ensure the work we can do all around the state continues to happen with the same excellence and care that it has for the past 30 years.

We are proud to serve over 1,500 families yearly with expert information, referral, and assistance services provided by family support consultants located in Williston, Newport, and Rutland, an annual conference and more through our Family Support Program.

Vermont Family Network is also home to Puppets in Education, an educational puppetry team that teaches children and parents about important issues like anxiety awareness, bullying, child abuse, and disability awareness through engaging performances that emphasize compassion, respect, effective leadership, and communication. Each year over 10,000 school children and adults benefit from these educational programs and workshops.

Thank you so much for your consideration. The funding received will go a long way to ensuring our ability to continue to provide the much-needed services to Vermont families. Please feel free to reach out to me at Claire.giroux-williams@vtfn.org, or my cell phone at 301-509-2435 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Claire Giroux-Williams".

Claire Giroux-Williams
Development Manager
Vermont Family Network

600 Blair Park Road, Suite 240, Williston, Vermont 05495 · 1-800-800-4005
VermontFamilyNetwork.org · info@vtfn.org

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP)

TIME TO SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR CATS AND DOGS!

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (**VSNIP**), under the VT Department of Children & Families, is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society. **Funded by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, this monetary resource is limited by the number of dogs licensed, which is required by law by six months of age.**

Puppies and kittens can have the first rabies vaccination after 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a veterinary office for this vaccination, Tractor Supply Stores hold monthly clinics as well as humane societies during the month of March. Call for their schedules. After the vaccination, contact your town clerk and provide proof of the rabies vaccination to license your dog.

Rabies IS in Vermont and it IS deadly.

Licensing a dog:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, VNH made 155 in-home visits to 19 residents. This included approximately \$4,579 in unreimbursed care to residents.

- **Home Health Care**: 124 home visits to 17 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.
- **Hospice Services**: 20 home visits to 1 residents who were in the final stages of their lives.
- **Long-Term Care**: 11 home visits to 1 residents with chronic medical problems who need extended care in home to avoid admission to a nursing home

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

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

Sincerely,

Anthony Knox

Anthony Knox
Community Relations Manager

White River Partnership 2022 Annual Report to Stockbridge

The White River Partnership (WRP) is a membership-based, nonprofit organization formed in 1996 by a group of local people who shared an interest in keeping the White River healthy. The WRP envisions a White River watershed in which individuals and communities work together to make informed decisions that result in clean water, fewer flood damages, improved access to the river, and more. Here are some highlights from our work in 2022:

- WRP staff and 35 volunteers completed the 5th year of our White River Water Trail Stewardship Program, **monitoring river access sites every month during the summer** to remove trash and to report hazardous conditions. We started and ended the season with river cleanup events – in sum, 100 volunteers **removed 8,000 pounds of man-made trash** from the river in Bethel, Hartford, Pomfret, Randolph, Rochester, Royalton, Sharon, Stockbridge, and Tunbridge.
- WRP staff and 25 trained volunteers **completed the 22nd year of our water quality monitoring program**, testing bacteria, conductivity, and turbidity at 22 swimming holes in 13 towns – including Gaysville Bridge, Mouth of Tweed River-Stockbridge, and Peavine Park-Stockbridge – every two weeks from late-May through August. We shared results via email, our website, and our Facebook and Instagram pages.
- The WRP worked with willing landowners, partners, and two work crews to **plant 5,535 native trees and shrubs along the White River and its tributaries** in 8 locations to improve water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and flood resilience.
- The WRP worked with 3 towns to complete on-the-ground projects to **improve clean water and recreational river access**: 1) new infrastructure at the Rochester Town Garage eliminates polluted runoff into the river; 2) a new gravel path and stone stairway improves river access at Broad Brook Access in Sharon; and 3) a kiosk & sign will educate visitors at the new White River Park in Stockbridge.
- The WRP engaged 1,250 students and teachers from 30 schools – including Stockbridge Central School – in **hands-on education programs that raise awareness about watershed health**, including crayfish sampling & identification, Freshwater Snorkeling with the Green Mountain National Forest, Trout in the Classroom with Greater Upper Valley Trout Unlimited, waterbugs sampling & identification, wildlife track & sign monitoring along the river, and more!

For more information

White River Partnership
PO Box 705, S. Royalton, VT 05068
(802) 763-7733, info@whiteriverpartnership.org
www.whiteriverpartnership.org and www.facebook.com/WhiteRiverPartnership

White River Solid Waste Alliance

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

Bethel and Royalton jointly owned a 22-acre parcel of land on Waterman Road in Royalton which had been improved to provide facilities for the aggregation and shipment of municipal solid waste, recyclables, and a variety of Household Hazardous Waste Materials. The site also contains the now closed landfill which served area towns from 1970-1993. As of July 1st, 2022, the Town of Royalton is the sole owner of the Transfer Station. By contractual arrangement, member towns Barnard, Bethel, Granville, Hancock, Rochester, and Stockbridge, also utilize the Waste Management Program.

In May 2016, the VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation approved the program's new "Solid Waste Implementation Plan" (SWIP) for purposes of managing solid waste and recyclables in accordance with objectives of current local, state, and national priorities. The new SWIP which began July 1st, 2020, will run Through June 2025.

Our facility operates under a license (or certification) which is renewed every 10 years. An application to renew was submitted to the Vermont Solid Waste Management Division in February 2014, and approval was issued May 7th, 2014. The certification is valid until March 31, 2024.

From July 1st, 2021, through June 30th, 2022, a total of 4,079.10 tons of solid waste and 382.27 tons of recycling were collected. From July 1st, 2021, through February 2022, solid waste was collected at the Transfer Station "Tipping Floor". This material was loaded into trailers for shipment to an in-state lined landfill. Recycling was directed to various facilities for processing. Various special wastes are regularly collected in addition to the usual recyclables. These include paint, fluorescent bulbs, used motor oil, antifreeze, lead acid, and electronic materials. All fees vary depending on the material involved and the current expenses to the program for handling the materials. From February 2022 through December 2022, The Tipping Floor was closed for repair, so all solid waste was being shipped out in open top 30-yard containers. The Tipping Floor reopened in January 2023 and the Transfer Station is back to full capacity.

Collection events for Household Hazardous Waste were held in April 2022 at the Royalton Transfer Station and in September 2022 at the Rochester Town Hall parking lot. A total of 182 families participated in the two events. These events provided a means for citizens of the member towns to safely dispose of materials, particularly those not normally taken at the facility such as pesticides, various cleaning compounds, acids, bases, contaminated fluids, etc. The events are open to all member towns at no cost for up to 10 pounds or 10 gallons of materials. Small Quantities of materials generated by businesses are also acceptable at collection events but a fee corresponding to program costs is assessed on business participants and an appointment must be made in advance. There will be 2 events in 2023. One at the Royalton Transfer Station on Saturday, April 22nd and one in Rochester in the town Hall parking lot on Saturday, September 30th. This will allow access for towns not located near the Transfer Station to attend a hazardous waste collection event.

We consider the solid waste program to be comprehensive in the service provided to the public, and the program staff are well trained to provide advice or assistance. Please call 763-2232 with any questions.

Summer Hours: (April 1-Oct 31) Tuesday, Thursday, 7-1, Friday 7-2 Saturday 7-3

Winter Hours: (Nov 1-March 31) Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 7-1 Saturday 7-2

Facility Staff are onsite on Wednesday's (closed to the public) from 7-1 for operations and maintenance

Web Address: whiteriveralliancesoldiwaste.org

Find us on Facebook at Royalton Transfer Station for the most up to date information.

Royalton Solid Waste Facility
122 Waterman Road
Royalton, VT 05068
802-763-2232
whiteriveralliancesolidwaste.org

Summer Hours: (April 1 – Oct 31) Tuesday, Thursday 7-1 Friday 7-2 Saturday 7-3
Winter Hours: (Nov 1 – March 31) Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 7-1 Saturday 7-2

Pricing Effective January 1, 2022

Bulk Waste \$170.00/ton. \$20.00 minimum
Per Bag 1-14 Gal/\$3.00 15-35 Gal/\$5.00 36 Gal and up/\$8.00

Recycling \$3.00 per visit
Food Scraps \$2.00/gallon 1 gallon minimum

Yard Waste (small branches, grass, leaves)
\$50.00 cubic yard **1/2 yard minimum. 1.5” maximum on branches.** NO stumps
Christmas Trees \$20.00 must be free of tinsel and all decorations.

Freon Appliances (refrigerators, freezers, water coolers dehumidifiers) \$25

Scrap Metal \$5.00/cubic yard
See attendant before you dump please

Composters \$65.00 Return fee of \$20 applies after 3 days

Vehicle batteries \$1.00 each
Waste Oil \$1.25/quart
Antifreeze \$1.25/quart

Propane Tanks

Small Camping \$3.00
Grill Size \$8.00

PLEASE DO NOT PUT PRESSURIZED TANKS IN METAL PILE!!!!!!

Fluorescent Bulbs **No Charge**
Latex/oil Based Paint **No Charge**

Tires

Car and Light Truck \$7
Car and Light Truck W/ Rim \$10
Heavy Duty Tire \$25
Heavy Duty Tire W/ Rim \$35
Tractor or Heavy Equipment Tire \$75

Computers, TVs, Tabletop Printers, Keyboards, Monitors FREE for VT households, charities and businesses with up to 10 employees.
Microwaves, Stereos, Game Consoles, Record Players, DVDs, VCRs, Cordless Phones, Fax Machines \$5.00 Large Printers/Copiers \$25-75

WHITE RIVER VALLEY AMBULANCE

Thank you, neighbors, for your continued support of White River Valley Ambulance. We are a non-profit, professional emergency medical service and ambulance transport agency serving the towns of Barnard, Bethel, Braintree, Brookfield, Granville, Hancock, Pittsfield, Randolph, Rochester and Stockbridge, an area of over 500 square miles. We are designated as a Vermont Critical Care Paramedic service, the highest licensed skill level that the state recognizes. With our 14 full-time staff and several part-time staff we maintain two Paramedic level staffed ambulances 24/7, 365 days a year. From January 1, 2022, through November 30, 2022, White River Valley Ambulance responded to 1,550 emergency calls and transfers. This includes Advanced Life Support transfer between hospital.

Training in emergency medical response is also an important part of our mission. We are a regional American Heart Association Training Center, providing CPR and First Aid courses to community members across central Vermont. We also provide advanced practice training to emergency response professionals and volunteers from throughout the state.

Funding for WRVA comes from billed insurance and budget allocations from the towns we serve. Every town pays the same amount per capita. In 2022, the per capita amount will increase from \$65.00 to \$72.00. Town contributions pay for about 54% of the cost of ambulance activities.

Looking back on 2022 and ahead to 2023, we are ever grateful for the numerous first responders and fire departments with whom we work with and who volunteer their time to help a neighbor in need. Your dedication and commitment to serve makes a difference in the lives of those who call for help. For that, we can never thank you enough. **3190 Pleasant St., Bethel, VT 05032 802-234-6800 www.wvra.org**

**Matthew Parrish,
Executive Director**

White River Valley Ambulance, Inc.

2023 Budget

DRAFT 2.5

MONTHLY PAYMENTS BY TOWN FOR JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023

Month	Barnard	Bethel	Braintree	Brookfield	Granville	Hancock	Pittsfield	Randolph	Rochester	Stockbridge	Totals
Assessments	71,424.00	139,824.00	86,904.00	47,448.00	21,672.00	25,848.00	36,288.00	343,728.00	79,128.00	51,696.00	903,960.00
January	5,853.83	10,550.00	6,638.17	3,600.00	1,721.17	2,220.33	3,024.00	27,032.00	6,021.00	4,308.00	70,968.50
February	5,853.83	10,550.00	6,638.17	3,600.00	1,721.17	2,220.33	3,024.00	27,032.00	6,021.00	4,308.00	70,968.50
March	5,853.83	10,550.00	6,638.17	3,600.00	1,721.17	2,220.33	3,024.00	27,032.00	6,021.00	4,308.00	70,968.50
April	5,853.83	10,550.00	6,638.17	3,600.00	1,721.17	2,220.33	3,024.00	27,032.00	6,021.00	4,308.00	70,968.50
May	5,853.83	10,550.00	6,638.17	3,600.00	1,721.17	2,220.33	3,024.00	27,032.00	6,021.00	4,308.00	70,968.50
June	5,853.85	10,550.00	6,638.15	3,600.00	1,721.15	2,220.35	3,024.00	27,032.00	6,021.00	4,308.00	70,968.50
July	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,024.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,308.00	79,691.50
August	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,024.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,308.00	79,691.50
September	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,024.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,308.00	79,691.50
October	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,024.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,308.00	79,691.50
November	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,024.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,308.00	79,691.50
December	6,050.15	12,754.00	7,845.85	4,308.00	1,890.85	2,087.65	3,024.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,308.00	79,691.50
Total	71,424.00	139,824.00	86,904.00	47,448.00	21,672.00	25,848.00	36,288.00	343,728.00	79,128.00	51,696.00	903,960.00

Months	Barnard	Bethel	Braintree	Brookfield	Granville	Hancock	Pittsfield	Randolph	Rochester	Stockbridge	Totals
Jan - June	35,123.00	63,300.00	39,829.00	21,600.00	10,327.00	13,322.00	18,144.00	162,192.00	36,126.00	25,848.00	425,811.00
July - Dec	36,301.00	76,524.00	47,075.00	25,848.00	11,345.00	12,526.00	18,144.00	181,536.00	43,002.00	25,848.00	478,149.00
Total	71,424.00	139,824.00	86,904.00	47,448.00	21,672.00	25,848.00	36,288.00	343,728.00	79,128.00	51,696.00	903,960.00
2023 Budget	71,424.00	139,824.00	86,904.00	47,448.00	21,672.00	25,848.00	36,288.00	343,728.00	79,128.00	51,696.00	903,960.00
Difference	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

OPTIONAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS BY TOWN FOR THE SIX MONTHS FOLLOWING DECEMBER 31, 2023 (No increase at least until July 1, 2024)

Month	Barnard	Bethel	Braintree	Brookfield	Granville	Hancock	Pittsfield	Randolph	Rochester	Stockbridge	Totals
January 2023	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,024.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,308.00	72,359.50
February 2023	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,024.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,308.00	72,359.50
March 2023	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,024.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,308.00	72,359.50
April 2023	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,024.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,308.00	72,359.50
May 2023	6,050.17	12,754.00	7,845.83	4,308.00	1,890.83	2,087.67	3,024.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,308.00	72,359.50
June 2023	6,050.15	12,754.00	7,845.85	4,308.00	1,890.85	2,087.65	3,024.00	30,256.00	7,167.00	4,308.00	72,359.50
Total	36,301.00	76,524.00	47,075.00	25,848.00	11,345.00	12,526.00	18,153.60	181,536.00	43,002.00	51,696.00	434,157.00

AMOUNTS FOR FISCAL YEAR TOWNS' BUDGETS FOR FY 2023-2024

Months	Barnard	Bethel	Braintree	Brookfield	Granville	Hancock	Pittsfield	Randolph	Rochester	Stockbridge	Totals
July - Dec 2023	36,301.00	76,524.00	47,075.00	25,848.00	11,345.00	12,526.00	18,144.00	181,536.00	43,002.00	25,848.00	434,157.00
Jan - June 2024	36,301.00	76,524.00	47,075.00	25,848.00	11,345.00	12,526.00	18,144.00	181,536.00	43,002.00	25,848.00	434,157.00
Total	72,602.00	153,048.00	94,150.00	51,696.00	22,690.00	25,052.00	36,307.20	363,072.00	86,004.00	51,696.00	868,314.00



PO Box 101 • Windsor, VT 05089 • 802-674-5101 • info@wcmentors.org • www.wcmentors.org

Town Narrative - Stockbridge For July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

For almost 50 years, Windsor County Mentors has been creating and nurturing intensive community- and school-based mentoring partnerships, free of charge, to any Windsor County child between 5 and 18 who could benefit from a long-term, trusting relationship with an adult in their community.

Strong evidence shows that mentoring offers vulnerable youth opportunities to share experiences with reliable adults to widen their vision of themselves, helping them to become confident, contributing members of their community and increasing their social and mental wellbeing.

Youth with mentors have:

- Increased high school graduation rates, including higher college enrollment rates and higher educational aspirations
- Enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence
- Improved behavior, both at home and at school
- Stronger relationships with parents, teachers, and peers
- Decreased likelihood of initiating drug and alcohol use

In FY 2022, WCM served and supported school- and community-based mentorships with children from towns throughout Windsor County. Collectively, our mentors volunteered thousands of hours to their communities.

Our surveys demonstrate the positive effects of mentoring:

- Mentors (96%) would recommend mentoring to a family member, friend, or colleague.
- Mentee parents (100%) said their child is hopeful about his/her future.
- Mentees (82%) reported having a mentor has made a difference in his/her life.

Finally, a recent study by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy found almost 30 dollars in benefits to children returned to the community for every dollar spent on mentoring!

WCM employs regional outreach coordinators around Windsor County, assuring that we are able to grant each town the attention it deserves.

Financial support from Windsor County towns helps ensure the well-being of children and their families.

For more information on our mentorships, find us on Facebook, visit our website www.wcmentors.org, or contact us at ProgramsWC@outlook.com 802-674-5101. WCM thanks the voters of Stockbridge for their support for the children of Windsor County.

Matthew Garcia
Executive Director

Windsor County Happenings Fiscal Year 2022-2023

The calendar year 2022 has seen some significant changes in Windsor County; the most significant will have come to pass prior to your reading this; there will be two new Assistant Judges at the helm of the County Government, and a new Sheriff as well as of February 1, 2023. Judge Terie, who had served the County for eight years, decided to step down and pass the torch, and Judge Ricci, who served for over a year after Judge Anderson retired, is also stepping down. In their stead will be newly elected Assistant Judge Alison Johannensen of Taftsville, and former Assistant Judge David Singer of Hartland. Sheriff Ryan Palmer will be replacing Sheriff Michael Chamberlain who had served the County since 1998. Another change is that Windsor County will have a new Deputy Treasurer, as Dianne Bumps will also be stepping down. Pepper Tepperman who is the County Clerk, and Bruce Page who is the Superintendent of our two buildings (the Courthouse, and the County Building) are remaining in their posts. They are *all* to be thanked for their past, and continued years of dedicated service to the constituents of Windsor County.

Other happenings include a slow, cautious re-opening of the Courts to the public for in-person hearings. The Judiciary is aware that Covid is still amongst us, and thus, as of the writing of this report, in-person hearings are still intermittent- some of them are in person, and others are either remote, using Webex, or a hybrid combination. The HVAC system at the Windsor County Courthouse is still in the process of being upgraded to insure the safety of litigants and staff.

The Windsor County Assistant Judges held the preliminary county budget meeting on December 14, 2022, and the final budget meeting was held January 18th 2023. The County Budget for fiscal year 2023-24 had to be increased a bit due to the enormous spike in heating oil prices. I'm sure that doesn't come as a surprise to anyone who heats their residence with oil and/or propane. We are all hopeful that by the time a new budget needs to be crafted for the next fiscal year, heating prices will recede a bit so future budget increases can be kept at a minimum. There has also been some work at the County Building to adjust the heating system there. Additionally, the phone system and the Internet services at the County Building have been upgraded, at a *lower* cost! Increases in spending in all other areas have been kept to a minimum.

Another noteworthy occurrence that will take place in 2023 is that this will be the last year that Windsor County Towns will be making payments for the Courthouse Renovation Bond; the renovation to upgrade the Courthouse and make it handicap accessible was completed 2014. The Courthouse, located in the Shire town of Woodstock, serves the needs of the constituents of Windsor County; it is a historic gem to be admired by all. Do drive by, or visit to see what your tax dollars have accomplished!

2022 Vital Records

Births:

Joseph Ray Fuster to Melissa and Joseph Fuster

Natalee James Chase to Dalice and Caleb Chase

Jameson Oliver Searles to Alliyah and Treavor Searles

Marriages:

Shannon Lee Boule and Emily Sue Brock

Kyle Robert Plastridge and Meredith Wesley Mills

Deaths:

Sidney R. Hotchkiss

Scott Cameron Morrow

Marsha E. Munyon

Peter James Russ

Carola A Schrank

Glenn Edmond Wood

Burials:

Anthony Louis Curiale

Evelyn Marie Folsom

Loraine Jean Putnam

Town Clerk's Report

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2022

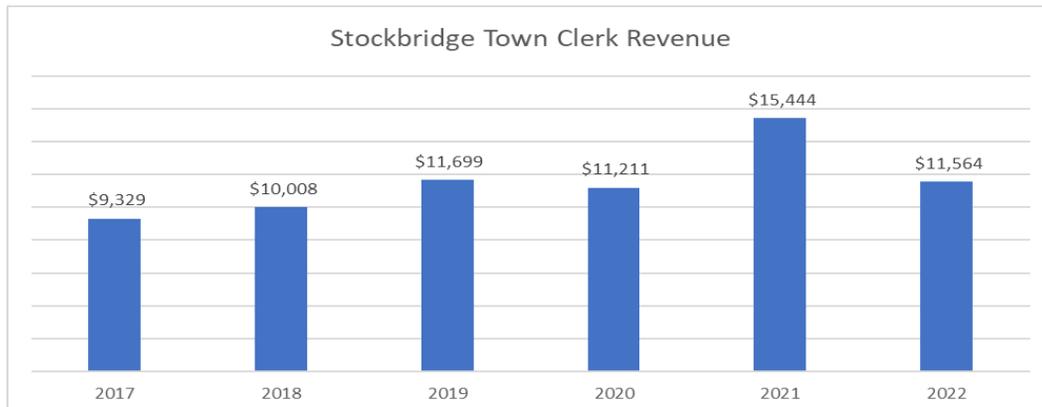
Town Website: We continue to improve the Town Website to facilitate communication. Since the website launched, over 50 people signed up for alerts and notifications. People are also using the email link on the site to contact the town office directly. The overview report below shows that we have experienced a 20-25% increase in current (last 30 days) traffic to the site. Please look at the website when you have a moment. <https://stockbridgevt.gov>.



- **Land Records:**

- On May 1, 2022, the town office went live with online access to all the land records recorded from 1980 to present. This go live event was the culmination of the tremendous amount of work done to scan and index over 35,000 individual pages of documents.
- On June 1, 2022, we began the project of making all the Property Record Cards, commonly referred to as the Lister Cards, available online. We completed testing in September 2022 and went live with the online Lister Cards on September 28, 2022

- **Recording Revenue:** Recording volume and revenue has begun to stabilize after the wild increases in real estate transactions during the pandemic. Town Clerk revenue categories consist of document recording, researcher copies and vault time, licenses and certified copy fees.



- **Office Network:** Working with Panurgy, an Information Technology Services and Training Company in Burlington, we implemented a firewall and local area network to allow for connectivity and to protect the devices and software applications used in the town office. This also allowed us to segregate the Guest WIFI from the town network and devices. For additional data security, we implemented a network storage device for backups and storage and further back that up to Cloud Storage. This gives us multiple levels of redundancy to easily recover the town's systems in the event of a data loss event. We will perform a data recovery test in the spring. Microsoft 365 was also implemented.
- **Internal Communications:** In addition to upgrading the town radio system, we added a new base station to the town office. This allows the office to be in communication with the town trucks even when they are out of cell service range. This is a great improvement for emergency preparedness.
- **Septic System Backup:** On Tuesday, October 25, the Town Office septic system backed up into the entire office. It was due to a root infiltration into the pipe between the septic tank and the pump tank. The pump tank will need to be replaced in the spring and the tree that caused the issue will need to be removed. The damage to the interior was extensive requiring two feet up of sheet rock and trim to be replaced on several walls. All repairs to the interior of the building were completed on January 10, 2023.

PLANNED WORK IN 2023

- Expansion of the types of town records available online
- Cyber-Security implementation and training for town staff and volunteers
- Continued improvements of the town website to enhance communications.
- Continued expansion of the town contact list and better ways to push information out to our property owners and residents. (Email, regular mail, newsletter, website, newspaper)
- Work with the e-911 board to review town road addressing.

GENERAL UPDATES

Assistant Town Clerk: Elizabeth Dietz joined the town office in March of 2022 as the Assistant Town Clerk. Her primary responsibility is recording documents (land records, vital records, liens, etc) and additionally she maintains the index system card structure. She also supports the office with special projects and covers when the clerk is away. I am so thankful that Elizabeth has joined the town team.

My Retirement Plans: What a wonderful journey this has been. There have been so many changes to the town clerk role over the past few years. The shutdown mandated by the State due to the pandemic required an incredible amount of flexibility and patience for both town staff and our customers. Everything needed to be much more remote and electronic. Balancing that with good customer service has been challenging to say the least. It will be wonderful to go back to a real in-person Town Meeting this year. It is a privilege to work and serve this wonderful community of Stockbridge Vermont. I look forward to the rest of 2023 and my retirement when my term expires in March. I have told the Selectboard that I will stay on to provide training for a new Clerk/Treasurer until 6/30/2023. Please reach out if you are interested or have questions about the role.

OTHER INFORMATION

HOMESTEAD DECLARATION AND PROPERTY TAX ADJUSTMENT: All Vermont Homeowners must file their Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment (HS-122) every year. *Even if you are not required to file a Vermont income tax return or you are filing for an extension, you must file your Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Adjustment form by April 15, 2023, to avoid penalties.* A late filed Property Tax Adjustment Claim form and Household Income Form may still qualify for an education tax refund but will be subject to a penalty.

THREE EASY WAYS TO GET YOUR VERMONT INCOME TAX FORMS:

1. Download fillable PDF forms from the web. Download, complete and print forms at <https://tax.vermont.gov/forms-and-publications>
2. Order forms by mail request to: Forms Request, Vermont Department of Taxes, 133 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05633-1401
3. Order forms by phone. Call toll-free in the US at 855-297-5600.

DOG LICENSES:

All dogs 6 months of age and older must be licensed on or before April 1st of each year. A current rabies certificate is required. These numbered tags help the Constables to reunite wandering/lost dogs with their owners.

HISTORY BOOKS:

I have copies of the two town history books for sale. Whether you are new to Stockbridge or a lifetime resident you will enjoy this book. We did a reprint of the 1976 Stockbridge-Gaysville book selling at \$20. The Stockbridge Revisited book is selling at \$24.

REGISTER TO VOTE:

You can register to vote online by using the State of VT's new Elections Management Platform. This streamlined the elections administration process, providing voters with greater access to voter specific information.

By using the My Voter Page, a voter can:

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

We encourage voters to log into their My Voter Page to learn more.

Log in at: <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>

VOLUNTEER FORM:

You will find a volunteer form included in this town report. If you have ever thought you might like to serve on any of the various boards in town, please take a few minutes to complete this form. Even if there are no vacancies at this time you will be notified when something becomes available. If you have any questions about what the positions involve, please give me or any of the current members of that board a call.

TOWN ALMANAC

A Compendium of Old, New and Useful Information and Announcements.

Town Charter - Stockbridge became a Town on July 1st, 1761, chartered by Benning Wentworth, Governor of the Province of New Hampshire, through a grant to William York Grant, being the first one in territory (the same land) was made to William Story. There is nothing further about this grant in town records.

The Land - 28,300 acres

Its People - 718 - 2020 Census

Its Roads – Total 50.312 miles

- 5.12 Class 2
- 33.40 Class 3
- 11.792 State Highway

Its River - The White River enters Stockbridge at the Stockbridge-Rochester line at an elevation of approximately 755 feet. In its course through the town, it falls 175 feet, leaving at the Stockbridge-Bethel line at an elevation of about 580 feet.

Checklist - The Town's current checklist has 580 registered voters.

Dog Licenses - Dog licenses are due April 1st. After April 1st an additional fee is charged. Fees to register dogs are: \$9.00 Spayed Females & Neutered Males and \$13.00 Unneutered dog.

All wolf-hybrids must also be licensed. Rabies shots must be kept up-to-date, and the certificate listed with the Town Clerk.

Taxes Due - Property Taxes are due on August 15th with a second installment due November 15th. All taxes become delinquent on the day following the date they are due and are subject to interest and fees. Stockbridge does not accept postmarks. There is a drop box at the Town Office.

Official Notices & Warnings - The newspaper in which Stockbridge publicizes its official warnings and notices is the Herald of Randolph published weekly on Thursdays.

Garbage Disposal – Stockbridge residents can take their rubbish to the Royalton Solid Waste Facility located at 122 Waterman Road, Royalton, VT. (802) 763-2232. There is a fee for rubbish but no charge for recyclables. You can also contract with North Star Rubbish (802-672-3372) for curbside pickup. Northstarrubbish@gmail.com. There is also a Saturday drop-off held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at the Town Office from 12:00PM – 2:00 PM. for rubbish and recycling. There is a per bag fee for the rubbish.

Post Offices -

Stockbridge, 05772-Phone 746-8041 Window Hours are Monday - Friday 7:30am -1130am
Saturdays - 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Gaysville, 05746-Phone 234-5575 Window Hours are Monday - Friday 12:45pm – 4:45 p.m.
Saturdays - 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.

To Report a Fire - Dial 911

To Call Police - Dial 911 or 234-9933

To Call Ambulance - 911

To Call Clara Martin Center - Dial Toll Free 1-800-622-4244 - 24-hour emergency phone.

Burning Permits - Burning permits are required. Contact Dave Brown, Fire Warden. Please also advise the Stockbridge Fire Department of any major burning to be accomplished. Fire watch towers and residents call in to report smoke.

Town Clerk's Office - The Town office is open to the public Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. and Friday from 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon. Telephone/Fax 802-746-8400. Email Townclerk@stockbridgevt.gov. Town website: stockbridgevt.gov

Selectmen - The Selectboard meets the first and third Thursday of each month in the Town office at 7:00 P.M.

Fire Department - The Stockbridge Volunteer Fire Department meet regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at the Town garage at 7:00 P.M. Jim Munyon, Fire Chief (802) 747-8828

Planning Commission- The Stockbridge Planning Commission has its regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at the Town office at 7:00 P.M. Zoning regulations are in effect and a building permit is required for most projects. Please contact the Zoning Administrator if you have any questions regarding permit requirements.

Rochester/Stockbridge United District School Board - The Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 P.M. alternating between campuses.

Quin-Town Center - The Quin-Town Center in Hancock serves lunch to Senior Citizens on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at noon.

Reminder

**All dogs 6 months of age and older must be
Licensed on or before April 1st of each year. A current
rabies certificate is required.**

Please contact the Town Clerk if you have any questions.

*Historical Fact submitted by Richard Lunna.
New York Patent of Fincastle, an early grant of land that included part of Stockbridge is often confused with being New York's
entire claim to the Town of Stockbridge but that is incorrect.*

Jamie Kinnarney, Superintendent of Schools
Anda Adams, Chief Academic Officer of MTSS
Annette Rhoades, Director of Special Services
Tara Weatherell, Business Manager
Raymond Ballou, Director of Technology
and Communications



wrvsu.org

461 Waterman Road, Royalton, VT 05068
Phone: 802-763-8840 Fax: 802-763-3235

January 18, 2023

To the Residents of Stockbridge:

I am writing this letter to remind the Stockbridge Community that the Rochester/Stockbridge Unified District (RSUD) will be publishing a separate informational mailer on the annual budget and school district meeting. You should expect that publication to arrive in the mail and be available on the Rochester/Stockbridge Unified District website <https://www.rsudschools.org/> in April.

The Rochester/Stockbridge Unified District Board of School Directors has been working in collaboration with the administration to create a 2023-24 school district budget that ensures that we uphold our commitment to high-quality educational programming for our students. Therefore, the budget includes an increase in world language and visual art to increase both positions to two days per week or up from .2fte to .4fte for each position. We have also budgeted to provide instrumental lessons for students at each of our campuses. These investments are being made with a focus on expanding our offerings for students in the visual and performing arts.

We continue to make investments in early literacy instruction, while also continuing our momentum in strengthening our universal approach to math instruction and intervention. We have also continued to budget for outdoor/experiential learning that also provides multiple opportunities for pathways/personalized learning. These enhancements of our educational programming are significant, but we've also seen an investment in additional social/emotional support through the use of federal dollars. I mention all of this in order to ensure that the residents of Stockbridge know that we continue to prioritize the feedback provided in order to make certain that we deliver on the promise of having schools that make certain all students have access to high-quality instruction and supports in order to reach their greatest potential.

Finally, I'm very pleased to report that we will take action this upcoming summer to leverage performance contracting, Covid-19 funding in the form of ESSER, and Efficiency VT grants to upgrade our lighting and controls system at the Stockbridge campus, while also replacing the lighting, heating and hvac infrastructure at the Rochester Elementary School without needing to go to a bond vote or increase the tax rate for the constituents of Stockbridge or Rochester. How did we accomplish this tall task? We accomplished it by ensuring that we leveraged the Covid-19 relief funds we have received to reinvest back into our infrastructure. While also showing fiscal responsibility and restraint to ensure that we keep our budgets in solid shape.

I encourage all of you to stay involved in the exciting work that is occurring at the Rochester/Stockbridge Unified District schools and to participate in our upcoming RSUD Board meetings and Community Forums. Board meeting agendas and our WRVSU community conversations series can be found on the wrvsu.org website.

As always, your feedback is always greatly appreciated.

Thank you all for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Jamie Kinnarney,
Superintendent of Schools, WRVSU

Rochester High School Repurposing Committee 2022 Town Report

In 2022 the Rochester High School (RHS) Repurposing Committee (herein referred to as "the Committee") worked in cooperation with the Town of Rochester and the Rochester Stockbridge Unified District (RSUD), and together with Fairweather Consultants of New Paltz, NY and GBA Architects of Montpelier, VT, on a feasibility study to explore the possibility of an adaptive re-use proposal for the former high school building. The proposal was developed through an extensive community engagement process to meet community-identified needs that include (but are not limited to) childcare, older adult services, Intergenerational Lifelong Learning and Arts Center, local job creation, and economic development. The final report was presented to the public on July 13, in the RHS auditorium, with the concluding opinion being, that although challenging, the project is achievable.

In 2019 RSUD commissioned an engineering study by Black River Engineers that assessed needs of all the buildings now owned by the district. The consultants conducting the 2022 Feasibility Study—that was funded by a VCDB planning grant in the amount of \$50,000—stated that the building has "good bones" but needs upgrades to make it energy efficient. Phase 1 of the Feasibility Study includes building upgrades, based on information contained in the Black River Report that in 2019 were about \$2 million. Adjusted to the current rate of inflation at 35%, the consultant increased the amount to \$3.1 million. Grant funding is anticipated to cover much of the cost of building upgrades.

In the Feasibility Study, consultant Peter Fairweather conservatively estimated the base annual operation costs of the repurposed building at \$91,000/yr. When the cost of maintenance staff and an annual \$50,000 capital reserve fund were included, operation cost estimates increased to \$160,000 a year. Currently the Town does not have a \$50,000 capital reserve fund for any of its property. Fairweather recommends a reserve fund in order to attract reliable well-paying tenants. Information solicited from the Rochester Town Clerk shows that if the Town's budget were to increase by the base annual operating costs of \$91,000, it would necessitate an increase of the tax rate by 16 cents on the dollar value. Therefore, for every \$100,000 in property value, that rate increase would calculate out to be an additional \$16.00. That being said, the goal is for the repurposed building be financially self-sustaining, with tenant rental income covering the annual operation costs.

For many months, the Committee was encouraged by Senator Sanders' Congressionally Designated Funds for this project, in the amount of \$1.5 million through the USDA Community Facilities account. However, expectation of actualized earmark-funding need to be managed, as we learned in late August when we were notified that the project did not receive Congressional approval. In October, Eric Law from USDA did a high school site visit. He reviewed the reuse proposal, and responded that we meet the USDA Community Facilities criteria for funding. He encouraged us to proceed with our project development planning, outlining the important steps to take for a strong USDA application, and suggesting we reapply for the next Congressional earmark opportunity as well.

With ongoing support and guidance from Two Rivers Owtauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC), Green Mtn. Economic Development Corp., VT Council on Rural Development, the VT Dept. of Housing and Community Development, the Committee is proceeding with project development. Currently, the property is undergoing an environmental study of the building and surrounding property, according to regulation protocols established by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), a requirement for most federal funding sources.

Environmental Assessment: Phase 1 of the NEPA includes an assessment of Brownfields and Hazardous Materials (Haz Mat). Environmental consultants appointed by TRORC were onsite in late October to complete both the Brownfields and Haz Mat assessments. The Phase 1 report has been drafted. The hazardous building materials assessment (PCBs, lead, mold, and asbestos) is still in the process of being drafted. TRORC hopes to be able to submit both drafts to the state for review by the end of January. After the state approves them, the reports can be released to the public, possibly in March.

The results of Phase 1 will determine the need to advance to Phase 2, for site testing and sampling, which begins with development of a work plan that takes about 2 months. Since the property has a 10,000-gallon

underground fuel tank, we fully expect to proceed to Phase 2. The Phase 2 sampling work should take about 3 months, if there is no snow cover on the property. Therefore, if Phase 2 starts in March, then the completion of the Phase 2 assessment could be expected by August, assuming normal processing time lines. It will determine if the Haz Mats are below established threshold levels of concern, or not. If below, then the work is done. If they are above threshold levels then more testing may be required. In that case, remediation options will be identified. Thus the town's Yes/No acquisition vote would be informed by a comprehensive environmental assessment after August, given this timeline that was provided by Sarah Wraight from TRORC.

Following the sampling work, developing a site cleanup plan would take a minimum of 3 months. The time requirement for remediation/cleanup of the site will depend on what is there to be cleaned up. It could be anything from a few months to a year. The underground fuel tank will need to be removed and its removal during the Phase 2 process is important so that the soil below the tank can be assessed for the presence of oil.

Alternatively, if a replacement heat source cannot be installed prior to beginning the Phase 2, it is possible to do the bulk of Phase 2 testing without removing the tank by installing an above ground replacement oil tank on a concrete pad, as an interim option to continue heating the building with the current boilers. However, the contractor would need to return at a later date to remove the tank and test underneath it. Each day of fieldwork is very expensive, so it's easier and less expensive to do the tank removal and all soil testing simultaneously.

BRELLA Enrollment: Participation in Vermont's Brownfield Reuse and Environmental Liability Limitation program (BRELLA) provides a way out of the liability chain and enables redevelopment to proceed knowing that legal and financial risks associated with contamination have been put to rest. As the prospective purchaser of the property, the Town has applied for BRELLA participation and is in the process of scheduling a required pre-application meeting with Sarah Bartlett of the VT Dept of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Brownfields Program, in order to complete the application. Participating at that meeting will be Rochester Select Board member Pat Harvey, along with members of the Committee. When the application is ready for submittal, Sarah Wraight from TRORC will arrange payment of the \$500 application fee on the Town's behalf. The Town must be fully enrolled in BRELLA before Phase 2 begins in order to be eligible for state funding for testing and cleanup.

The Town does not have to actually own the site to enroll in BRELLA, but can participate in BRELLA as the prospective property owner. Below are key points regarding the benefit of the Town entering the BRELLA program as a "prospective purchaser" before conducting the Phase 2 of the high school property:

- Once an entity enters the chain of title for a property, they are liable for the cleanup of any contamination that might be on that property. Conducting assessment as a "prospective purchaser" helps manage liability for the Town's municipal budget. Prospective purchasers can withdraw from the BRELLA program at any time if they decide they don't want to move forward with the purchase.
- As a "prospective purchaser" in the BRELLA program, the Town would be given higher priority than the school district in accessing state funding assistance for assessment and cleanup.
- If the Town enters BRELLA as a "prospective purchaser" before conducting the Phase 2, the Town would be exempt from Hazardous Waste Tax. If there is hazardous waste on the property that needs to be removed during cleanup, the state would ordinarily levy a tax on that shipment. Depending on the volume of materials being transported, this can be a significant amount of money.
- If the Town enters BRELLA as a "prospective purchaser" before conducting the Phase 2, the Town would benefit from a 30% cost cap on any mid-course corrections that might need to happen during cleanup of the site.
- If the Town enters BRELLA as a "prospective purchaser" before conducting the Phase 2, the timeline for the Town to obtain a Certificate of Completion will be faster than if the Town owned the property.

It's important to note that after the completion of the NEPA Phases 1 and 2, the Town does not have to acquire the property. Having the Town as the applicant for cleanup funds is more advantageous than a private entity, like a developer. Also of note, it is more difficult to recruit a private developer to take on a site when the

risk/liability is still unknown. The Phase 2 will provide more information, and the site may become more attractive to private entities when the environmental information is known.

Maintaining RHS Building During NEPA Process: In order to keep the building viable throughout the NEPA process, it must be heated. It's been asked why we don't simply drain and shutdown the building. According to expert consultants, the problem with draining and shutting down is that the school is built on a slab. Without heat, the ground beneath the slab can freeze and heave the slab, causing havoc and potentially destroying the building. The ground may be well drained and not a problem, but we have no way of knowing. So, if our goal is to re-use the building we have no choice but to keep it above freezing everywhere inside.

Inflation has doubled the cost of heating fuel, bringing the estimated cost of heating the building this winter to \$66,000, an expense not anticipated by either the RSUD or the Town of Rochester. In September the RSUD Task Force was created, composed of RSUD board members, reps from the Rochester and Stockbridge Select Boards, and members of the RHS Repurposing Committee, with a united commitment to work together to support the work of the RHS Repurposing Committee.

In mid-September the Committee launched a fundraising drive with a \$22,000 funding goal. Thus far the campaign has achieved 50% of its goal. Efforts of the Committee include the following activities: an outreach appeal letter to RHS Alumni, participation in the PHCC Winter Market and sale of holiday cheese cakes by order, made by Committee members Midge Scanlan and Lesley Straus, and a "Holiday Jumble" held at Hancock Town Hall, organized by Dorothy Robson, Sue Ribaud, Pam Reit, and Midge Scanlan, with holiday music and a wide variety items for purchase.

At the January RSUD Heat Task Force meeting, Chair Amy Wildt confirmed that the RSUD board has reversed its position and is currently budgeting to heat the high school building next year. Stockbridge RSUD member Bill Edgerton's 3-prong proposal that shared fundraising responsibility between 3 groups—RSUD, the RSUD Endowment Funds, and the RHS Repurposing Committee—has demonstrated encouraging results that funding for RHS heat this winter is obtainable. Last year the Rochester Trustees of Public Funds contributed \$15,000 towards heating the high school.

On December 15, members of the Committee, Jeff Gephart, Dick Robson, Robert Meagher, and Vic Ribaud met with Superintendent Jamie Kinnarney, Principal Lindy Stetson, and Facilities Manager Lyall Smith to create a plan for monitoring the building for efficient energy management. The meeting resulted in mutual agreement on numerous action items that include: installing simple inexpensive temperature monitors in selected locations in the building that will set off a flashing light if the temperature drops below the desired setting; obtaining from SU inventory recording room temperature monitors to place in selected locations; installing a monitoring device on the boiler to measure when the furnace comes on; weekly dipstick measurement of fuel oil in the HS tank recorded on a running spreadsheet; organizing a group of volunteers to regularly check the building for signs of unexpected temperature drops, who will alert building staff when and if quick intervention is needed.

Floodway/Floodplain Location: State environmental officer Grace Vinson notified the Committee in late June that the high school property is located in both the floodplain and floodway; that its location in the floodway makes it ineligible for federal funding. Since then, Committee member and architect Dick Robson has worked extensively to seek a remedy with Grace and other state employees, and Randy Otis from Dubois and King.

In 2011, Tropical Storm Irene affected the high school building. The lower exterior door into the auditorium lies below flood level, and the auditorium sustained flood damage. With VCDB planning grant funds, the Town appointed DuBois & King to survey the property to establish floodplain and floodway issues. Their map shows the perimeter of the school is below base flood level at the location of aforesaid door only, and that there is a sliver of floodway on the property.

Both the Rochester Planning Commission and the RSUD have approved making a property boundary adjustment to eliminate the floodway from the high school parcel. Regarding the floodplain issue at the auditorium, our consultant architect Gregg Gossens has suggested several possible solutions that would remediate potential

future flooding into the auditorium. As this is a defining issue in our planning process, Dick is consulting with state of VT Floodplain Manager John Brooker-Campbell, requesting his input on problems, solutions and process, to ensure the acceptability of our proposed solutions.

Project Manager: In November, and with remaining VCDB planning grants funds, the Town appointed and the Committee welcomed to the project interim project manager Liz Curry. Owner and principal of CommonLand Solutions, Liz's experience in rural development will assist the Committee to identify project components, issues, and potential solutions that will allow the property to achieve "readiness" to proceed with redevelopment goals. She will identify a range of resources, technical issues, obstacles, and recommended solutions to be investigated so that the RHS Repurposing Project has a clearer pathway for redeveloping the property.

In conclusion, the Committee recommends that the Rochester town-wide vote on acquisition of the high school property be rescheduled until after the completion of the NEPA Phase 2, to assure a more informed vote. Stay updated on the project's progress on our website: www.RHSRepurposingProject.org

Respectfully submitted by Committee Co-Chairs Vic Ribaldo and Kathryn Schenkman, January 16, 2023

RHS Repurposing Committee Members:

Karen and Doran Donovan, Core Committee
Jeff Gephart, Building Advisor, Core Committee
Burleigh Griffith, Childcare Committee
Kayden Hamlin, Childcare Committee
Sandy Haas, Core Committee
Pat Harvey, Rochester Select Board Rep
Cynthia Huard, Lifelong Learning & Arts Committee
Jeanie Levitan, President PHCC, Core Committee, Fundraising
Lolly Lindsey, Dir. Park House, Core Committee, Communications
Robert Meagher, Building Advisor, Core Committee, RSUD Rep
Pam Reit, Dir. GMSI, Lifelong Learning & Arts Committee, Core Committee
Sue Ribaldo, Lifelong Learning & Arts, Core Committee, Fundraising
Michaela Richardson, Childcare, Core Committee
Dorothy Robson, Lifelong Learning & Arts, Core Committee, Fundraising
Richard Robson, Building Advisor, Core Committee
Midge Scanlan, Lifelong Learning & Arts, Core Committee, Fundraising
Lauren Skaskiw, Childcare, Core Committee
Lesley Straus, Pres. RCMS, Lifelong Learning & Arts, Core Committee, Fundraising
Maureen Young, Childcare, Core Committee

**POLICY OF THE
STOCKBRIDGE CEMETERY COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 39, STOCKBRIDGE, VERMONT 05772
802-746-8400**

Introduction

The Stockbridge Cemetery Commission (SCC) is a committee, composed of three commissioners, who are elected to serve a staggered three-year term. Our meetings are announced on the Town's website: <https://stockbridgevt.gov>. and are open to the public. All burial records are open to the public and can be viewed at the Town Office. Please direct all concerns regarding the Cemeteries to the SCC

The Cemeteries in the Town of Stockbridge, Vermont
Abbott, Bartlett, Durkee, Hagar, Maplewood,
Mount Pleasant, South Hill, Stratton, Sylvester, and Watkins

Cemetery Guidelines

Our Cemeteries are always open to visitors. Burials can take place from dawn until dusk between May 1 and November 30, weather permitting. Burials between December 1 and April 30 will, due to special circumstances, be considered by the SCC. Care of the cemeteries is assumed by the SCC. It includes occasional cutting of the grass and general maintenance.

Persons who are eligible to be buried in a Stockbridge cemetery

- A present lot owner
- A person who has been willed a lot by its owner
- A lot owner may leave the lot to the Cemetery, in trust, for the use and benefit of any person designated in the will. If the lot is not mentioned in the will it will pass to the heirs, as if the owner had died without a will. 18 V.S.A. § 5531(a).
- A spouse of the person to whom a lot is willed
- A year-round resident of Stockbridge, VT
- A long-time resident who has spent years in out-of-town care
- A person who has a long-standing personal association with Stockbridge, VT
- A husband or wife is generally entitled to be interred in a lot owned by the spouse. If two spouses live separately, and one spouse owns a lot to which the other has no other legal right to share, the owner-spouse may defeat the other spouse's right to interment by filing a written objection with the cemetery organization at least 30 days before the other spouse dies. 18 V.S.A. § 5531 b

State burials: When a person who is receiving public assistance under Title IV or XVI of the Social Security Act, or nursing home care under Title XIX of the Social Security Act, or assistance under state aid to the aged, blind or disabled, or an honorably discharged veteran of any branch of the U.S. military forces to the extent funds are available and to the extent authorized by department regulations, or who is in the custody of a state institution, or who is an honorably discharged veteran, dies in Vermont, the department of human services (or the agency that has custody of the individual) will pay the burial expenses up to a certain cost to be determined by the department of human services

Purchasing cemetery lots

Lots are solely for the burial of human remains. They measure 4' x 10' and can accommodate 1 casket or 4 urns.

Lots are sold at the discretion of the SCC and in sequential order.

The price of one lot is currently \$350. Four 6" x 6" x 6" blank granite cornerstones are \$140 and the installation of same \$100, for a total of \$590.

Upon receipt of payment by the SCC, a lot location will be assigned and a deed issued to the buyer.

If the buyer has personalized cornerstones installed within one year of Lot purchase date the price of the returned original cornerstones will be refunded.

Lots may not be resold but can be returned to the Town for a refund of the purchase price

**Unless otherwise approved by the SCC
the following regulations must be observed**

- Burial of remains in a casket must be at least 3 1/2' deep, measured from the natural surface of the ground to the bottom of the outside casket.
- Excavation of a burial site must be arranged with our Sexton who is also responsible for finish grading, replacing sod and grass seeding.
- The removal of human remains for burial within the same cemetery, or within or outside of Vermont, requires a removal permit issued by the Town Clerk.
- Vaults or cement grave liners are required with all burials except cremations.
- Prior to installation of a memorial stone, the SCC must verify the lot location, approve the stone's orientation and installation.
- A memorial must be installed within three years of date of death on all occupied lots, with a minimum engraving of the first and last name, date of birth and death of the deceased.
- Perennial plantings are discouraged.
- Lots may not be enclosed with fences, curbing, or hedges.
- Glass, plastic and metal ornaments or containers are discouraged.
- All ornamentations must be removed by November 1st by the lot owner.

Stockbridge Cemetery Commission

Brenda Hillier

Richard F. Lunna

Mette S. Rea

Effective July 1, 2022. Revised Jan 1, 2023