# Annual Report Cown of Stratton, Permont



July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015



A photograph dated approx. 1910 of the abandoned Lime Kiln operation known as the Martin and Fitts Lime and Cement Co., located on what is now Larry Bills's property, off of Pike Hollow Rd.. Note the three-furnace kiln behind the building. Lime stone was extracted from a lime deposit located up the hill, then brought by rail down to the furnace for processing. Only the ruin of the furnaces currently remains. Photographs of the building were not known to exist when the Town History was written.

On The Cover: A recently acquired photograph dated approx. 1910, showing the Stratton Meetinghouse (at right) and the Parsonage (currently the home of Lorraine Weeks-Newell at left). The large building beside the Meetinghouse is the Wyman Hotel, while a farmhouse, which likely also belonged to the Wymans, is at the center of the photo. The Wyman Hotel had gone out of business and was abandoned in 1888, just after the mail route across the Kelly Stand Rd. to Arlington (a stage coach route) was eliminated and replaced by the West River Railroad. These buildings were gone a short while after this photo was taken. This photograph was not known to exist when the Town History was written.

The story behind the acquisition of these photographs, just last year, is somewhat interesting. They were part of a collection from Lunenburg, Vermont, given to the me by Stratton's Assessor, Gary Fournier, of Brett Purvis and Assoc.. Gary is a resident of Lunenburg, which is located up in the Northeast Kingdom. He is also a member of the Lunenburg Historical Society. Recently, a resident of Lunenburg had donated this collection of family photographs, writings and letters to that Historical Society. Mr. Fournier recognized another photograph in this collection, which was of the Abel Pike Farm (now Larry Bills's home) in Pike Hollow and informed me that he had come across some photos of various sites in Stratton. In researching how this collection ended up in Lunenburg, it was found that Abel Pike's wife, Isabel Allen, had a sister, Mariah who married a man from Lunenburg. He had been teaching in Wardsboro when he met Mariah. They settled in Lunenburg, but she and her family often stayed with her sister, Isabel, in Stratton, when they came south to visit family here. Most of the photos in the collection were taken by Mariah's granddaughter, who came to visit even after Mariah's death. Needless to say, I am very grateful to Gary Fournier for recognizing the photos and providing them to the Town.

Kent Young, Town Clerk

### 2016 Presidential Primary Election

The 2016 Presidential Primary Election will be held on the same day as Town Meeting – Tuesday, March 1, 2016. Due to this situation, the Polling place will be at the Stratton Town Hall, where we will set up on stage, so that it may coincide with Town Meeting and the School Meeting without disenfranchising poll workers from any votes taken at these meetings. The Polls will open at 10:00am and close at 7:00pm. There are separate ballots for the Republican Primary and the Democratic Primary – those who vote must request the ballot they want to vote and only that ballot will be given to them. For further information, please see the Presidential Primary Notice posted at the usual Town posting sites and on the Town's website <a href="https://www.townofstrattonvt.com">www.townofstrattonvt.com</a>. Absentee Ballots are also available by contacting the Town Office.

#### **In Memory**

### Roger Schultz 1943 – 2015

In a small town like Stratton, our hearts are especially touched each year by the loss of residents. This year we are deeply saddened by the death of a valued neighbor, Roger Schultz.

Roger was manager of our Transfer Station. As such, he was a member of our Town's official "family" but he was probably the best known of all of us. Everyone who visited the Transfer Station also visited with Roger and shared the local news.

A public-spirited citizen, Roger was always the first to offer support for any Town function. What may not be widely known was his culinary expertise. His chef skills related chiefly to Polish cuisine. Hidden in his shirt pocket was his own special blend of spices which he willingly shared. Roger is in our thoughts every day. Our sincere condolences go out to his wife, Arloa, and family.



### Kenneth Tuttle 1941 – 2015

As 2015 came to a close, Kenneth A. Tuttle passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Ken was a long-time resident of Stratton, except during a 20-year span when he served with the U.S. Navy during the Cuban missile crisis and Vietnam War.

Following his retirement from military service and return to Stratton, he was a security guard at Stratton Mountain, Mount Snow and Haystack ski areas.

The son of Elmer & Vivian Tuttle, he is survived by his wife, Elke, a son, Kenneth A. Tuttle II, stepdaughters Kelly Ameden and April Chase, and several grandchildren.

His mother was Stratton Town Clerk and also our State Representative for several years. Elke was a town auditor a few years ago. The family's contributions to Stratton have been many. We regret the loss of a good neighbor and friend.

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#### **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

We are happy to welcome Alyson Marcucci as our new Town Treasurer. Alyson was graduated with high honors from Castleton College this past year and has brought to the Town Office a delightful personality as well as the latest bookkeeping and computer techniques.

At the same time we bid farewell to Laura Nelson who has moved out-of-town. For many years Laura has audited the School Fund Statements. We thank Laura for her dedication to the Board of Auditors.

We have examined the records and accounts of the Town of Stratton for the year of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. The statements in this report correctly reflect the financial position of the Town of Stratton and Stratton School District to best of our knowledge.

Respectfully submitted, Helen Eddy Laura Nelson Joann Liller

<b>ELECTED POSITIONS</b>	NAME	TERM EXPIRES
Moderator:	Diana Stugger	2016
Town Clerk:	Kent Young	2017
Treasurer:	Alyson Marcucci	2017
Selectboard:	Al Dupell, Chair	2016
	Kevin Robinson	2016
	Chris Liller	2016
	Greg Marcucci	2017
	Larry Bills	2018
Planning Commission:	Kent Young, Chair	2016
3	Ray Hawksley	2016
	George Rigoulot	2017
	Rob Wadsworth	2017
	Chris Mann	2018
	Rodney Cooney	2019
	John Wadsworth	2019
Listers:	Candie Bernard	2016
	Allan Hicks	2017
	Kent Young, Chair	2018
Auditors:	Helen Eddy	2016
	Vacant*	2017
	Joann Liller	2018
School Directors:	Siobhan Eddy Young	2016
	Lorraine Weeks Newell	2017
	Tom Montemagni, Chair	2018
Cemetery Commission:	Larry Bills	2016
	Kent Young, Chair	2017
	Chris Liller	2018
Delinquent Tax Collector:	Candie Bernard	2016
Trustee of Public Funds:	Alyson Marcucci	2016
Constable:	George Rigoulot	2016
Grand Juror:	John Waite	2016
Town Agent:	John Waite	2016
Justices of the Peace:	Patricia Coolidge	2016
	Helen Eddy	2016
	Nancy Ferrucci	2016
	Lorraine Weeks-Newell	2016

### **APPOINTED/HIRED POSITIONS:**

Assistant Town Clerks: Patricia Coolidge
Candie Bernard

Assistant Town Treasurer: Candie Bernard

Book Keeper: Terri Garland

Zoning Administrator:	Allan Hicks	2017
Asst. Zoning Administrator	Ray Hawksley	2017
Health Officer	Ray Hawksley	2017
Zoning Board of Adjustment	Dennis Holton	2016
	Diana Stugger	2016
	Paul Bernard	2017
	Tom Montemagni	2018
	Greg Marcucci	2018
	Town Service Officer:	Helen Eddy
<b>Emergency Mgt Coordinator</b>	George Rigoulot	
Fire Warden:	Kevin Robinson	
Dog Warden:	Pat Salo	
Pound Keeper:	Pat Salo	
Fence Viewer:	Selectmen	
Weigher of Coal:	Selectmen	
Inspector of Lumber:	Selectmen	
Tree Warden:	Selectmen	
Board of Civil Authority:	Justices of the Peace, Town Clerk, Selectm	en
Board of Abatement:	Justices of the Peace, Town Clerk, Town Tr	easurer, Listers,
	Selectmen	
Road Foreman:	Ralph Staib	
Road Crew	Chris Liller	

Stuart Chapin

Jason Dupell

Transfer Station Attendant:

<sup>\*</sup>This vacancy was created when Laura Nelson moved out of town.

### WARNING TOWN OF STRATTON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 1, 2016

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 10:00AM to act upon the following matters of the Town.

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

ARTICLE 2: To act on the Town Report.

ARTICLE 3: To elect Town officers as required by law:

Selectmen: one three-year term, two one-year terms

Planning Commission: two four-year terms
Lister: one three-year term

Auditor: one three-year term and one one-year term

to complete a vacant three-year term.

Cemetery Commissioner:
Delinquent Tax Collector:
Trustee of Public Funds:
Constable:
Grand Juror:
one three-year term
one one-year term
one one-year term
one one-year term

Town Agent: one one-year term

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will furnish bonds where bonds are required.

**ARTICLE 5**: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to borrow money on notes of the Town or otherwise in anticipation of taxes and/or current expenses.

**ARTICLE 6**: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following appropriation requests:

American Red Cross	500.00
Betty Boop Bus	1,500.00
Community Food Pantry	500.00
Connecticut River Transit	250.00
Grace Cottage Foundation	7,000.00
Groundworks Collaborative	500.00
Health Care and Rehabilitation Services	500.00
Historical Society of Windham County	250.00
LaMarche Scholarship Fund	500.00
Londonderry Volunteer Rescue	1,000.00
Manchester and the Mountains	
Regional Chamber of Commerce	5,100.00
Senior Solutions	500.00
Valley Cares Inc.	335.00
VT Rural Fire Protection Task Force	100.00

VT Center for Independent Living	500.00
Visiting Nurse Association	600.00
Wardsboro Public Library	2,600.00
Wardsboro Volunteer Fire Association	5,000.00
Wardsboro Volunteer Rescue	3,000.00
Windham County Humane Society	500.00
Winhall Library	1,400.00
Women's Freedom Center	750.00
TOTAL	\$32,885.00

- ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of \$47,150.00 for the Stratton Mountain Volunteer Fire Company operating budget.
- ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to maintain reserve funds for the following items: 1) Outside-Audit, 2) Town Hall Maintenance, 3) Recreation Area Equipment, 4) Recreation Area Pavilion, 5) Reappraisal, 6) Listers' Education, 7) Computer / Office Equipment, 8) School House, and 9) Meetinghouse, in the General Fund and 10) Bridges, 11) Culverts 12) Equipment Replacement and 13) Paving in the Highway Fund. And, if so voted, then transfer existing funds in savings accounts with these names into said Reserve Funds, with the following additional transfers: Recreation Groomer Fund to Recreation Equipment Fund; and Penny Ave. Savings to the Culvert Fund.
- ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year.
- ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$946,490.11 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund for fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017).
- ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,048,500.00 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the Highway Fund for fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017).

ARTICLE 12: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Stratton Board of Selectmen Chris Liller Larry Bills

Greg Marducci

Kevin Robinson

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
CENEDAL ELIND	2013-2014	2013-2014	2014-2015	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
GENERAL FUND	2013-2014	2013-2014	2014-2013	2014-2010	2010-2010	2010 2011
- The second of	4.000.00	2 220 00	4,000.00	3,331.50	4,000.00	4,000.00
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	4,000.00	3,339.98		74,460.00		80,035.00
APPROPRIATIONS	111,500.00		114,460.00			0.00
AUDIT-OUTSIDE		3,401.72	7,000.00	7,595.00	15,000.00	
AUDIT: WAGES	3,500.00	3,503.01		5,393.24	3,500.00	5,000.00
AUDIT: TOWN REPORT	2,000.00	829.70		1,157.66	2,000.00	2,000.00
BCA WAGES	5,000.00			500.00		4,000.00
CEMETERIES	3,500.00			2,764.50		11,500.00
MEETING HOUSE	0.00	520.67	0.00	35,769.00		10,000.00
CLERK EXPENSES	3,000.00			1,890.59		3,000.00
COPIER EXPENSE	6,000.00	5,756.57	6,000.00	5,031.78		6,000.00
COUNTY ASSESSMENT	50,000.00	45,359.00	50,000.00	54,881.00		
DELINQUENT TAX EXPENSES	0.00	4,981.40	0.00	878.25	5,000.00	0.00
DOG LICENSES	0.00	279.03	0.00	316.68	300.00	0.00
DUES	1,300.00	1,354.00	1,450.00	2,273.00	1,500.00	1,188.00
ELECTION:WAGES/EXP	0.00			681.40	0.00	700.00
FICA-GF	16,000.00			14,427.68	16,000.00	16,000.00
FIRE TRUCK LEASE	87,647.00					
FIRE PUMPER TRUCK LEASE	07,01770	0.10	60,000.00			
GREEN UP DAY	0.00	0.00				50.00
HEALTH OFFICER-SALARY	2,000.00					
	100.00		<del></del>	70.26		100.00
HOUSE NUMBERING-911	42,000.00					
INSURANCE AND BONDS						
INS/HEALTH AND DENTAL	49,000.00					
INS/UNEMPLOYMENT	2,000.00					
LEGAL FEES, NOTICE, EDUC	5,000.00					0.00
LISTERS/APPR & EXPENSE	0.00					
LISTERS WAGES	22,000.00					
MARRIAGE/CIVIL LICENSE	0.00					0.00
MISC (INCLUDING BANK CHARGE)	100.00					
MUTUAL AID	36,800.00					
OFFICE/COMPUTER EQUIP	0.00				<del></del>	
OFFICE POSTAGE/SUPPLY	7,000.00					
PLANNING COM-EXPENSE	10,000.00					
PLANNING-SALARIES	4,200.00					4,200.00
PLANNING COM-WAGES	5,000.00	3,950.00	5,000.00			
PLANNING CLERK WAGES	500.00	290.39	500.00	77.00		
REC AREA OPERATING EXP	25,250.00	76,775.56	82,250.00	72,291.55	90,000.00	75,000.00
REC AREA GROOMER/EQUIP	10,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00	20,849.00	0.00	0.00
REC AREA PAVILLION FUND	5,000.00			5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
RESCUE SERVICES	4,000.00	<del></del>		5,771.52	5,900.00	6,004.80
RURAL PATROL	0.00					60,000.00
SALARIES-FIRE WARDEN	200.00					
SCHOOL LOAN	0.00					
	0.00	<del> </del>				
SCHOOL PILT	500.00					
SELECTMEN: EXPENSE					+	
SELECTMEN-SALARIES	5,000.00					<del></del>
SELECTMEN:WAGES	7,000.00					
SELECTMEN:CLERK	1,500.00		<del></del>			
TOWN FUNCTIONS	4,000.00					
STREET LIGHTS	1,800.00					
TOWN HALL-ELECTRIC	1,600.00					
TOWN HALL-HEAT	3,000.00	2,798.83				
TOWN HALL-MAINT	20,000.00	7,980.4	7 10,000.00	4,101.50	500.00	20,000.00

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
GENERAL FUND	2013-2014	2013-2014	2014-2015	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
TOWN OFFICE-ELECTRIC	2,500.00	1,909.18	2,500.00	2,286.87	2,500.00	2,500.00
TOWN OFFICE-HEAT	3,000.00	4,735.93	3,000.00	2,362.62	3,000.00	3,000.00
TOWN OFFICE-MAINT	8,500.00	10,468.43	9,000.00	8,126.29	1,000.00	9,000.00
TOWN OFFICE-PHONE	2,500.00	2,866.58	3,000.00	3,596.51	3,000.00	3,500.00
TRAINING-SEMINARS	300.00	0.00	300.00	117.72	1,000.00	500.00
TRANSFER STATION OPERATIONS	75,000.00	58,731.43	80,000.00	58,507.55	80,000.00	30,000.00
TREASURER'S EXPENSE	1,000.00	865.55	1,000.00	1,739.10	2,000.00	3,500.00
VERMONT RETIREMENT	16,000.00	15,107.98	16,000.00	14,653.74	16,000.00	16,000.00
WAGES: OFFICE	110,000.00	110,973.59	113,000.00	108,930.01	113,000.00	126,000.00
ZBA:SAL/WAGE	1,500.00	1,850.00	2,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
ZONING EXPENSES	1,000.00	1,236.53	1,000.00	1,858.35	1,000.00	1,000.00
ZONING ADM. SAL/WAGE	3,600.00	3,000.00	3,600.00	3,250.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
				•		
TOTAL	792,897.00	901,933.58	985,207.00	970,478.35	964,888.31	946,490.11

### GENERAL FUND STATEMENT July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Checkbook Balance 6/30/2015	395,044.41	395,044.41
Southern Rolance 6/20/2015	369,536.02	
Savings Balance 6/30/2015	<40,022.01>	
Savings Withdrawals	35,238.25	
Deposits/Transfers	247.73	264 000 00
Savings Interest	247.73	364,999.99
RECEIPTS:		
Current Taxes	13,169,221.51	
Current Use	5,116.00	
Delinquent Taxes	27,737.83	
Delinquent Tax Interest	17,031.93	
Delinquent Tax Penalty	16,105.34	
1% Sales/Meals Option Tax	453,989.89	
Payment Lien of Taxes (PILT)	33,720.00	
Local Share of State Education	27,077.13	
Transfer from Savings	40,022.01	
State Appraisal Revenue	14,839.00	
Listers Education funding	399.00	13,805,259.64
Licenses:		
Beverage	1,520.00	
Dog	676.00	
Marriage	315.00	2,511.00
Fees:		
Town Clerk	31,093.74	
Zoning Permits	6,122.00	
911 House Numbering	140.00	37,355.74
Traffic Fines:	2,512.04	2,512.04
Interest:		
Checking Account	455.12	455.12
Checking Account	433.12	433.12
Miscellaneous:		
Town History	440.00	
Postage Reimbursement	16.70	
Cemetery Plot	355.00	
Recycling Revenue	957.02	
Fire Alarm Fines	800.00	
Pay As You Throw Revenue	2,035.00	
School Loan Repayment	60,000.00	
Miscellaneous	444.05	65,047.77
		-,

Total Funds Available:

#### **DISBURSEMENTS: Animal Control:** Patrick Salo 3,331.50 3,331.50 Appraisal/Reappraisal: **Brett Purvis** 4,580.00 Vision Government Solutions 5,541.67 Transfer to Savings 14,839.00 24,960.67 Appropriations: 500.00 American Red Cross 1,500.00 Bette Boop Bus Community Food Pantry 500.00 Council on Aging 500.00 CT River Transit 250.00 Grace Cottage Foundation 7,000.00 Green-Up Vermont 50.00 Health Care Rehabilitation 500.00 **Historical Society** 250.00 500.00 LaMarche Scholarship Fund Londonderry Volunteer Rescue 1,000.00 Morningside Emergency Center 500.00 Stratton Mtn. Volunteer Fire Department 46,725.00 335.00 Valley Cares VNA & Hospice of VT & NH 600.00 VT Association Conservation District 100.00 VT Center for Independent Living 500.00 Wardsboro Library 2,500.00 Wardsboro Volunteer Fire Department 5,000.00 Wardsboro Volunteer Rescue 3,000.00 Windham Country Humane Society 500.00 Winhall Memorial Library 1,400.00 Women's Freedom Center 750.00 74,460.00 Audit - Town Report: 5,393.24 Wages Repro Digital 756.00 Postage 401.66 6,550.90 **Board of Civil Authority:** 10 meetings @ 50.00 500.00 500.00 Cemeteries: Mowing 2,764.50 2,764.50 Church/Meeting House:

Jancewicz & Son - Roof

35,769.00

35,769.00

Copier: Ricoh USA Inc. – Lease & Expenses	5,031.78	5,031.78
Dues:		
VLCT	2,273.00	
Windham Regional Commission	393.00	2,666.00
E-911:		
Wages	70.26	70.26
Elections:		
Wages	564.31	
Mileage	58.80	
Supplies	58.29	681.40
Зиррпез	30.23	081.40
Expenses:		
Town Clerk	1,890.59	
Town Treasurer	1,739.10	3,629.69
FICA:	14,427.68	14,427.68
Fire Warden:	200.00	200.00
Fire Truck Replacement:	141,212.31	141,212.31
Health Officer:	2,000.00	2,000.00
Insurance:		
Unemployment	470.00	
Insurance & Bonding	49,136.00	
Northeast Delta Dental	4,572.35	
Blue Cross/Blue Shield Vermont	18,976.44	
MVP Health Care	15,984.72	
Insurance Advisor (Francis Settani)	3,000.00	
HRA Claims payments	17,952.15	
HRA Administration Fees (Paul Doherty)	315.00	
Federal Excise Health Plan Tax	12.48	
Employee Co-Payments	<5,699.59>	104,719.55
Legal Fees:	1,798.75	1,798.75
Licenses:		
Marriage	175.00	
Dog	316.68	491.68
Listers:		
Wages	14,186.69	
6 meetings @ 50.00	300.00	

Prior year wage reimbursement	2.95	
CTI – Mapping	922.25	
Postage	50.92	
Staples Supplies	36.51	
Transfer to Savings	399.00	15,898.32
Miscellaneous Expenses:		
2010 Tax Deposit Correction	107.50	
Bank Charge	1.00	108.50
Office Expenses:	•	
Postage/Envelopes	3,931.97	
Supplies – Staples	1,488.18	
Planters	264.57	
Miscellaneous	218.03	5,902.75
Outside Audit:		
Pace & Hawley	7,595.00	7,595.00
race & Hawley	7,333.00	7,555.00
Pay As You Throw:		
Cash Register	119.99	
Punch Cards & Supplies	101.43	221.42
Planning Commission:		
Salaries	4,300.00	
83 Meetings @ 50.00	4,150.00	
Clerk	77.00	
WRC Representatives 6 Meetings @ 50.00	300.00	
WRC Zoning Revision Contract	8,285.40	
Mileage	100.80	
Public Notices	1,325.41	
Repro Digital	628.00	
Postage	74.32	19,240.93
Recreation Area:		
Rent to Stratton School District	60,000.00	
Labor	5,023.94	
Maintenance	3,839.03	
Security Systems	409.24	
Sanitary	1,025.00	
Electric	444.34	
Ballfield	1,550.00	
Polaris Ranger	15,849.00	
Transfer to Savings (Pavilion)	5,000.00	
Transfer to Savings (Groomer)	5,000.00	98,140.55
<b>5</b>	•	•

Refuse/Disposal:		
Wages	27,119.92	
Windham Solid Waste	3,494.66	
Casella Waste Management	27,671.55	58,286.13
Rescue/Emergency Services:		
Rescue Inc.	5,771.52	
Mutual Aid Dispatch	35,702.00	
Windham County Sheriff's Department	54,616.63	96,090.15
Selectmen:		
Salaries	5,000.00	
128 Meetings @ 50.00	6,400.00	•
Clerk	1,178.20	
Public Notices	1,014.65	
Employee Recognition	174.50	13,767.35
Street Lights:	1,969.98	1,969.98
Tax Collector:	878.25	878.25
Town Hall Maintenance:		
Payroll	194.18	
Supplies/Services	2,077.32	
Cleaning Services	1,130.00	
Pest Control	700.00	
Heat	2,013.26	
Electricity	1,439.71	7,554.47
Town Office Maintenance:		
N.E. Municipal Resource Center	3,196.93	
Computer - 2 Wired Guys	898.74	
Internet – Go Daddy	235.50	
Mowing – Ben Lowe	960.00	
Water/Water Services	456.00	
Cleaning Services	1,450.00	
Security – Countryside Lock & Alarm	310.00	
Heat	2,362.62	
Dover Fuel Club Dues	58.27	
Electricity	2,286.87	
Telephone	3,596.51	
VT Property Owners Report	144.00	
Electric Repair – Ward Electric	225.00	
Fire Extinguisher Maintenance	191.85	16,372.29
Town Office Wages:		
Town Clerk	46,141.60	
Assistant Town Clerk	24,837.00	

Town Treasurers	14,770.32		
Assistant Town Treasurers	21,150.46		
Bookkeeper	2,030.63	108,930.01	
Town Functions:	474 50		
Paper Products – Quill	474.58		
Holiday Party	406.00		
Food/Supplies	486.89		
Invitations/Postage	78.40		
Trees/Wreaths	317.92		
Payroll	388.36		
Town Meeting – Food/Supplies	101.63		
Green Up Day – Food/Supplies	24.34	1,872.12	
Training Seminars & Mileage:	117.72	117.72	
Vermont Retirement:	14,653.74	14,653.74	
Windham County Tax:	54,881.00	54,881.00	
Zoning:			
Administrator's Salary	3,000.00		
5 Meetings @ 50.00	250.00	3,250.00	
Zoning Board of Adjustment:			
Salary – Chairman	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Other:			
Transfer to School Fund	496,542.00		
Transfer to Highway Fund	837,000.00		
PILT – Payment to School Fund	33,720.00		
State of Vermont – Education Fund	11,477,312.30	12,844,574.30	
State of Vermont Education, and	, ,	,	
Check Book Balance:	547,241.50		
Liabilities	<35,664.93>		
Receivables	38.50	511,615.07	
Savings Balance:	364,999.99	364,999.99	

Total Expenses:

14,673,185.71

STATEMENT OF SAVINGS ACCOUNTS July 1, 2014 to June 30 2015

	Balance 7/1/2014	Interest	Transfers/ Deposits	Withdrawals	Balance 6/30/2015
Outside Audit	4,370.42	2.71	.25	<595.00>	3,778.38
Groomer/Maintenance Machine	31,499.38	19.86	5,000.00	<15,849.00>	20,670.24
Recreation Pavilion	50,052.91	34.82	5,000.00	0.00	55,087.73
State Reappraisal	52,798.65	43.72	14,839.00	0.00	67,681.37
Computer/Office Equipment	1,113.17	77:	0.00	0.00	1,113.94
Meeting House/Church	23,578.01	7.49	0.00	<23,578.01>	7.49
School House	16,294.24	10.76	0.00	0.00	16,305.00
Bridge Engineering	117,166.36	77.41	0.00	0.00	117,243.77
Lister Education	2,516.05	1.86	399.00	0.00	2,916.91
Penny Avenue	40,025.39	28.39	10,000.00	00.0	50,053.78
Town Hall/Maintenance	30,121.44	19.94	0.00	00.00	30,141.38
Totals	369,536.02	247.73	35,238.25	<40,022.01>	364,999.99

STATEMENT OF CEMETERY TRUST ACCOUNTS July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

	Balance 7/1/2014	Withdrawals	Balance 6/30/15
Willis	300.00	-0-	300.00
Andrew King	3,000.00	-0-	3,000.00
Chester Allen	75.00	-0-	75.00
Forrester	280.00	-0-	280.00
Ball Farm	200.00	-0-	200.00
Pike Hollow	1,000.00	-0-	1,000.00
*Warren Trust	1,000.00	-0-	1,000.00
	5,855.00	-0-	5,855.00

<sup>\*</sup>Warren Trust CD was renewed in February 2016.

### STATEMENT OF TAXES BILLED AND ACCOUNTED FOR

July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

	T	axable	parcels
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1,589

Taxable parcets 1,567				
APPRAISED VALUE OF REAL ESTA	TE			
EDUCATIONAL GRAND LIST				7,593,788.29
MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST				8,048,557.50
TAX RATES:				
·	Tax Rate		Grand List =	Total Raised
Non Residential Ed.		1.5396	7,593,788.29	11,691,396.47
Homestead Ed.		1.6765	232,863.21	390,395.17
Local Agreement		0.0009	8,048,557.50	7,243.49
Highway		0.1040	8,048,557.50	837,050.02
General Fund		0.0501	8,048,557.50	403,236.69
2014 Total Taxes Billed				13,329,321.84
Changes to GL				(200,00)
	nanges			(288.08)
	nanges			(11,023.37)
HS-122 CI	nanges			15,771.92
Late Homestead Penalty				112.49
Late notifiestead Penatty				112.47
2014 Final Taxes Billed				13,333,894.80
TAXES ACCOUNTED FOR:				
Taxes collected after transfers				358,367.21
Adninistrative fees retained by to	wn			27,077.13
State Payments				82,820.00
Current taxes transferred to Scho	ol			496,542.00
Current taxes transferred to High	way			837,000.00
State Education- sent to State			-	11,477,312.30
				13,279,118.64
				•
Due as of 06/30/2015(Delinquent	)			55,278.87
State Adjustment				(527.43)
Abate Small Amounts Due			•	(27.78)
Over payment of taxes				23.67
Under/Over				28.83
(D)((T)   (T)   (T	F			42 222 004 00
6/30/15-Final Taxes Accounted	ror			13,333,894.80

### DELINQUENT TAXES Year Ending June 30, 2015

Allen, Robert	2014	531.88
Billos, Livio & Rowena *	2014	207.60
Cheverez, Anthony & Rosina	2014	680.18
Compton, John Tim *	2014	1,319.00
DePruex, Michel & Bonnie *	2013	773.45
DePruex, Michel & Bonnie *	2014	1,967.75
Denis, Lisa *	2014	24.62
Devito, Victor *	2014	7.04
E & T Properties LLC *	2013	15,578.72
E & T Properties LLC *	2014	14,395.13
Elliott ETAL	2013	6,960.60
Elliot ETAL	2014	7,884.57
Elliott ETAL	2013	4,764.74
Elliott ETAL	2014	5,855.92
Knowles, Doris *	2014	10,802.30
O'Sullivan, Eileen *	2014	1,884.75
Pisano, Vincent *	2014	15,234.45
Sasco Farms Vermont LLC *	2014	21.91
Sieber, Edward and Patricia Estate of *	2014	264.45
Siladi, Stephen *	2013	18.55
Siladi, Stephen *	2014	2,498.44
Stevenson, Joseph & John	2014	292.49

91,968.54

\* Paid after June 30, 2015 Amount includes Penalty & Interest

### 2010 Pierce Arrow-XL Aerial Platform Fire Truck <u>Lease Repayment Schedule</u>

	Payment	Payment	Payment	Interest	Principal
	#	Date	Amount	Amount	Amount
PD	1	5/14/2015	84,398.38	10,418.04	73,980.34
	2	5/14/2016	84,398.38	8,442.77	75,955.61
	3	5/16/2017	84,398.38	6,414.75	77,983.63
	4	5/14/2018	84,398.38	4,332.59	80,065.79
	5	5/14/2019	84,398.38	2,194.84	82,203.54
	Totals		421,991.90	31,802.99	390,188.91

### 2014 Pierce Pumper Truck Lease Repayment Schedule

	Payment	Payment	Payment	Interest	Principal
	#	Date	Amount	Amount	Amount
PD	1	9/29/2014	56,813.93	3,687.91	53,126.02
	2	9/29/2015	56,813.93	9,205.43	47,608.50
	3	9/29/2016	56,813.93	7,781.93	49,032.00
	4	9/29/2017	56,813.93	6,315.88	50,498.05
	5	9/29/2018	56,813.93	4,805.99	52,007.94
	6	9/29/2019	56,813.93	3,250.95	53,562.98
	7	9/29/2020	56,813.93	1,649.42	55,164.51
	Totals		397,697.51	36,697.51	361,000.00

HIGHWAY	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET
	2012-2013	2012-2013	2013-2014	2013-2014	2014-2015	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
SUMMER ROADS CLASS 2	58,000.00	55,040.25	40,000.00	52,981.31	40,000.00	30,389.15	50,000.00	50,000.00
SUMMER ROADS CLASS 3	72,000.00	53,569.17	75,000.00	33,843.85	75,000.00	62,152.17	85,000.00	95,000.00
WINTER ROADS CLASS 2	60,000.00	52,104.43	60,000.00	77,838.27	60,000.00	118,300.75	95,000.00	100,000.00
WINTER ROADS CLASS 3	50,000.00	38,862.93	50,000.00	50,304.20	45,000.00	54,392.03	50,000.00	70,000.00
BRUSH & MOWING	18,000.00	7,138.38	18,000.00	7,605.76	18,000.00	9,949.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
TH-20 PENNY AVE	10,000.00	2,728.25	10,000.00	00.0	10,000.00	10,000.00	00.00	0.00
KIDDERBROOK CULVERT	00.0	0.00	00:00	42,559.07	50,000.00	164,954.30	00.00	0.00
EQUIP/TRUCK MAINT EXP	34,000.00	46,814.99	40,000.00	48,887.82	40,000.00	52,934.73	50,000.00	50,000.00
FIRE PONDS	0.00	0.00	00.00	0.00	0.00	207.92	00.00	0.00
FUEL/GREASE/OIL	28,000.00	25,206.52	28,000.00	26,327.84	28,000.00	26,320.40	28,000.00	28,000.00
GARAGE MAINT/SUPPLIES	30,000.00	29,208.42	30,000.00	41,680.69	30,000.00	29,465.04	30,000.00	30,000.00
GARAGE NEW BUILDING	0.00	8,553.00	00.00	0.00	0.00	8,757.14	70,000.00	0.00
GARAGE-SALT/SAND SHED	200,000.00	168,961.19	100,000.00	441,155.26	3,000.00	00.00	0.00	0.00
GARAGE UTILITIES	20,000.00	13,550.24	15,000.00	16,832.93	15,000.00	17,557.41	15,000.00	18,000.00
PAVING	285,000.00	134,495.39	300,000.00	329,932.71	310,000.00	234,381.96	367,000.00	367,000.00
CRACK SEALING	9,000.00	4,963.28	9,000.00	8,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	9,000.00	19,000.00
ROAD SIGNS	1,500.00	423.27	2,000.00	3,265.53	3,000.00	1,251.67	5,000.00	2,500.00
FICA	11,000.00	10,373.65	12,000.00	11,093.68	12,000.00	11,468.04	12,000.00	13,000.00
EMPL LEAVE(SP, VP, HP)	17,000.00	21,031.47	17,000.00	18,875.45	20,000.00	28,852.91	22,000.00	28,000.00
TOOLS	5,000.00	3,143.91	5,000.00	3,227.30	5,000.00	558.39	5,000.00	5,000.00
HIGHW-ADVERTISING BIDS	500.00	67.13	500.00	00.00	500.00	00.00	500.00	500.00
HIGHWAY CULVERTS	00.00	31,497.65	00.00	2,379.76	105,000.00	31,621.44	50,000.00	0.00
HIGHWAY UNIFORMS	1,500.00	1,365.66	1,500.00	1,116.65	1,500.00	1,492.71	1,500.00	3,500.00
SEMINARS	2,000.00	821.58	3,000.00	1,084.32	1,000.00	311.08	1,000.00	1,000.00
BRIDGES	50,000.00	2,475.51	0.00	00.0	00.00	0.00	0.00	00.0
MISCELLANEOUS	500.00	113.17	500.00	00.00	500.00	00.00	200.00	200.00
HEALTH & DENTAL INS	35,000.00	36,205.19	37,000.00	34,092.18	39,500.00	37,795.67	39,500.00	42,500.00
NEW EQUIP PURCHASE	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.0	00.00	62,000.00	100,000.00
TRANSF TO CLOSE EMF	0.00	00.00	00.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	998,000.00	748,714.63	853,500.00	1,253,084.58	921,000.00	933,113.91	1,076,000.00	1,048,500.00

### HIGHWAY STATEMENT July 1, 2014 to June 30 2015

Checkbook Balance – 6/40/2015	688,180.55		
RECEIPTS:			
State Aid	86,351.70		
Current Taxes	837,000.00		
Overpaid Prescott Invoice:	22.52	923,374.22	
Total Funds Available:			1,611,554.77
DISBURSEMENTS:			
Summer Roads - Class 2:			
Labor	22,067.55		
Materials	6,451.60		
Hired Equipment	1,870.00	30,389.15	
Summer Roads – Class 3:			
Labor	26,056.57		
Materials	29,279.40		
Hired Equipment	6,805.00		
Mileage	11.20	62,152.17	
Winter Roads – Class 2:			
Labor	25,572.90		
Materials .	92,727.85	118,300.75	
Winter Roads – Class 3:			
Labor	22,164.11		
Materials	32,227.92	54,392.03	
Paving/Retreatment:			
Materials	3,412.63		
Hired Equipment	224,726.45	228,139.08	
Brush & Mowing:			
Labor	4,705.00		
Hired Equipment	5,244.00	9,949.00	
Road Signs:			
Materials	1,251.67	1,251.67	
Kidder Brook Culvert:			
Engineering	2,710.50		
Materials	162,243.80	164,954.30	
Highway Culverts:			
Materials	3,057.24		

### Highway Statement – Page 2

Hired Equipment	28,564.20	31,621.44
Guardrails:		
Materials	6,242.88	6,242.88
Garage Building:		
Labor	68.50	
Materials	296.03	0.757.44
Hired Equipment	8,392.61	8,757.14
Seminars:		244.00
Labor	311.08	311.08
Garage Maintenance:		
Labor	8,378.38	
Materials	327.77	
Supplies	20,758.89	47.022.45
Utilities	17,557.41	47,022.45
Tools:	558.39	558.39
Uniforms:	1,492.71	1,492.71
Fuel/Oil/Grease:	26,320.40	26,320.40
Fire Ponds:		
Labor	207.92	207.92
Equipment & Truck Maintenance:		
T-1 International (2014)		
Labor	3,456.69	
Materials	6,774.50	
Mileage	31.22	10,262.41
Pickup		
Labor	2,545.71	
Materials	3,704.39	
Hired Equipment	690.00	
Mileage	190.40	7,130.50
Backhoe:		
Labor	1,307.90	
Material	1,135.47	
Hired Equipment	840.00	3,283.37
Grader:		
Labor	1,019.97	
Materials	6,130.33	7,150.30
Chipper:		
Labor	107.14	107.14

### Highway Statement – Page 3

Rake:			
Material 113.58	113.58		
John Deere Loader:			
Labor 739.90			
Materials 6,707.53			
Mileage 47.60	7,495.03		
Trimmer:			
Materials 44.99	44.99		
T-3 International (2010)			
Labor 317.92			
Materials 692.70			
Hired Equipment 65.00	1,075.62		
T-5 Western Star (2014)			
Labor 2,898.90			
Materials 19,525.33			
Mileage 171.22			
Insurance Reimbursement <6,323.66>	16,271.79		
Miscellaneous Expense:			
Labor (Fringe) 28,852.91	28,852.91		
Penny Avenue Savings			
Transfer 10,000.00	10,000.00		
Health Insurance			
Blue Cross/Blue Shield 15,054.95			
MVP 8,967.04			
Northeast Delta 2,228.68			
HRA Claim Payments 11,230.00			
HRA Administration Fees 315.00	37,795.67		
FICA: 11,468.04	11,468.04		
Total Expenses:		933,113.91	
Checkbook Balance		678,440.86	
			1,611,554.77

### EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Beginning Balance:

<81,788.81>

<81,788.81>

RECEIPTS:

Trade in for 2010 International (T3)

57,000.00

57,000.00

**Available Funds:** 

24,788.81

**DISBURSEMENTS:** 

Viking - Cives

2015 Western Star Body (T5)

66,240.00 503.60

66,743.60

Travel Expenses

1,743.00

Ending Balance:

<91,532.41>

#### **CURRENT INVENTORY**

#### **TRUCK**

	PURCHASE \$	LIFE SPAN
2014 T1 International	100,460.00	5 years
2015 T5 Western Star	104,288.00	5 years
2016 Ford F550 & Plow	64,638.00*	5 years

<sup>\*</sup>Includes \$24,000 trade-in for 2011 Ford Pickup

#### **EQUIPMENT**

	PURCHASE \$	LIFE SPAN
1994 Plate Compactor	1,738.25	
1994 Welder	1,131.70	
1995 Sweepster Road Broom	7,928.50	
1996 Morbark Chipper	11,500.00	
1999 Calcium Chloride Sprayer	2,203.25	
2004 Crack Sealing Machine	1,855.00	
2007 JD 627D Grader	139,000.00	20 years
2007 Cat Backhoe Loader 420 E	59,000.00	10 years
2008 Echo Pole Saw	599.99	
2009 Husquavarna Chainsaw	430.20	
2010 Echo Leaf Blower	529.28	
2010 Grader Plow – Craig 12'	15,900.00	
2011 Husquavarna Chainsaw 372	647.96	
2011 Husquavarna Chainsaw 357	567.96	
2011 Husquavarna Chainsaw 346	399.96	
2011 Base Radios	5,127.67	
2011 John Deer Loader	114,100.00	20 years
2011 Echo Trimmer	340.98	
2011 Echo Trimmer/Brush Cutter	419.99	
2011 Asphalt Cutting Saw	2,341.61	

### WAGES AND SALARIES July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

Town Clerk:		
Kent Young		
1,562.50 hours @ 27.40	42,812.50	
121.50 hours @ 27.40	3,329.10	46,141.60
Town Treasurer:		
Laura Hawksley		
71 hours @ 27.40 (retroactive fringe)	1,945.40	1,945.40
Candie Bernard		·
377.75 hours @ 23.42 (pro tem)	8,846.92	8,846.92
Alyson Marcucci		•
213 hours @ 18.00	3,834.00	
8 hours @ 18.00 (fringe)	144.00	3,978.00
Assistant Town Clerk:		•
Patricia Coolidge		
864.50 hours @ 23.42	20,246.68	
196 hours @23.42	4,590.32	24,837.00
Assistant Town Treasurer:	ŕ	,
Candie Bernard		
852.75 hours @23.42	19,971.46	
Alyson Maracucci	·	
, 65.50 hours @ 18.00	1,179.00	21,150.46
Bookkeeper:	•	,
Terri Garland		
90.25 hours @ 22.50	2,030.63	2,030.63
Selectmen:	·	,
Al Dupell (Chair)		
Salary	3,000.00	
26 meetings @ 50.00	1,300.00	
Larry Bills		
Salary	500.00	
20 meetings @ 50.00	1,000.00	
Christopher Liller	·	
Salary	500.00	
27 meetings @ 50.00	1,350.00	
Gregory Marcucci		
Salary	500.00	
28 meetings @ 50.00	1,400.00	
Kevin Robinson		
Salary	500.00	
26 meetings @ 50.00	1,300.00	
Kent Young		
1 meeting @ 50.00	50.00	11,400.00
Selectmen's Clerk:		
Kent Young		
43 hours @ 27.40	1,178.20	1,178.20
Board of Civil Authority:		
Helen Eddy		
3 meetings @ 50.00	150.00	
	າາ	

### Wages and Salaries – Page 2

Rona Hicks		
2 meetings @ 50.00	100.00	
Paul Schwippert		
1 meeting @ 50.00	50.00	
Lorraine Weeks-Newell		
3 meetings @ 50.00	150.00	
Kent Young		
1 meeting @ 50.00	50.00	500.00
Listers:		
Candie Bernard		
1 (BCA) meeting @ 50.00	50.00	
495.75 hours @ 23.42	11,610.49	
110 hours @ 23.42 (fringe)	2,576.20	
Allan Hicks		
1 (BCA) meeting @ 50.00	50.00	
3 meetings @ 50.00	150.00	
Prior year wage correction	2.95	
Kent Young		
1 (BCA) meeting @ 50.00	50.00	14,489.64
Auditors:		•
Joann Liller (Chair)		
110 hours @ 21.37	2,350.71	
Helen Eddy	,	
121.25 hours @ 18.81	2,280.72	
Laura Nelson	,	
40.50 hours @ 18.81	761.81	5,393.24
Planning Commission:		
Paul Schwippert (Chair)		
Salary	1,500.00	
1 meeting @ 50.00	50.00	
Kent Young (Chair)		
Salary	1,600.00	
Salary reimbursement for 2014	100.00	
14 meetings @ 50.00	700.00	
Rodney Cooney		
Salary	200.00	
, 14 meetings @ 50.00	700.00	
Ray Hawksley		
Salary	200.00	
9 meetings @ 50.00	450.00	
Christopher Mann		
Salary	200.00	
13 meetings @ 50.00	650.00	
John Wadsworth		
Salary	200.00	
, 14 meetings @ 50.00	700.00	
Robert Wadsworth		
Salary	200.00	
13 meetings @ 50.00	650.00	
=		

George Rigoulot		
Salary	100.00	
5 meetings @ 50.00	250.00	8,450.00
Planning Clerk:		
Jenna Pugliese		
4.50 hours @ 17.11	77.00	77.00
Planning Expenses:		
Jenna Pugliese – WRC Representative		
6 meetings @ 50.00	300.00	300.00
Zoning:		
Allan Hicks		
Administrator's Salary	3,000.00	
5 meetings @ 50.00	250.00	3,250.00
Health Officer:		
Ray Hawksley		
Salary	2,000.00	2,000.00
Zoning Board of Adjustment:		
Thomas Montemagni (Chair)		
Salary	1,000.00	1,000.00
Tax Collector:		
Candie Bernard		
37.50 hours @ 23.42	878.25	878.25
E911 – House Numbering:		
Candie Bernard		
3 hours @ 23.42	70.26	70.26
Elections:		
Helen Eddy		
10.50 hours @ 18.81	197.51	
Rona Hicks		
8.50 hours @ 18.81	159.89	
Paul Schwippert		
6 hours @ 18.81	112.86	
Lorraine Weeks-Newell		
5 hours @ 18.81	94.05	564.31
Fire Warden:		
Roger Schultz		
Salary	200.00	200.00
Refuse & Recyling:		
Roger Schultz		
1,125 hours @ 17.46	19,642.50	
275 hours @ 17.46 (fringe)	4,801.50	
Jason Dupell		
120 hours @ 15.96	1,915.20	26,359.20
Highway Department:		
Stuart Chapin		
Highway Hours:		
1,466.50 hours @ 20.10	29,476.65	
275 hours @ 20.10 (fringe)	5,527.50	
O.T. 42.50 hours @ 30.15	1,281.39	
•		

### Wages and Salaries – Page 4

General Fund Hours:		
181.50 hours @ 20.10	3,648.15	
Equipment Hours:		
157 hours @ 20.10	3,155.70	43,089.39
Christopher Liller		
Highway Hours:		
1,558 hours @ 23.42	36,488.36	
235.50 hours @ 23.42 (fringe)	5,515.41	
O.T. 117.50 hours @ 35.13	4,127.83	
General Fund Hours:		·
90 hours @ 23.42	2,107.80	
Equipment Hours:		
195.50 @ 23.42	4,578.61	52,818.01
Ralph Staib		
Highway Hours:		
1,179 hours @ 27.40	32,304.60	
650 hours @ 27.40 (fringe)	17,810.00	
O.T. 121 hours @ 41.10	4,973.10	
General Fund Hours:		
20 hours @ 27.40	548.00	
Equipment Hours:		
183.50 hours @ 27.40	5,027.90	60,663.60

Total Wages and Salaries: 341,611.11

## WARNING TOWN OF STRATTON ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING March 1, 2016

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton, Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Town Hall in said town on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 11:00 A.M.to consider and act upon the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year, as required by law.

ARTICLE 2: To elect all Stratton School District Officers, as required by law.

School District Director

One three-year term

ARTICLE 3: To set the Annual 2016-2017 tuition rate to The Mountain School at Winhall up to the amount of \$15,000.00 per pupil for students in grades K-8, who are residents of the school district pursuant to VSA T.16 sections 823 & 828.

**ARTICLE 4:** To set the Annual 2016-2017 K-6 tuition rate to all other private or approved independent schools up to the annual Vermont Union Elementary School tuition rate for students in grades K-6, excluding those students covered in Article 3, who are residents of the school district.

ARTICLE 5: To set the Annual 2016-2017 tuition rate to Burr & Burton Academy up to the amount of \$16,250.00 per pupil for students in grades 9-12, who are residents of the school district.

**ARTICLE 6:** To set the Annual 2016-2017 tuition rate to all other private or approved independent schools up to the annual Vermont Union High School tuition rate for students in grades 7–12, excluding those students covered in Article 3 and Article 5, who are residents of the school district.

ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters of the School District approve the School Board to expend \$570,759.00, which is the amount the School Board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$14,342.00 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.3% lower than spending for the current year.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will authorize the School Directors to borrow money for the school district in anticipation of taxes and state money allocated to the district.

ARTICLE 9: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Approved by the Stratton School Directors:

Thomas Montemagni

Siobhan Eddy Young

Torraine Weeks Newel

Stratton School District	- Student Enr	ollment		
	2012- 2013	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2015- 2016
Elementary				
Pre-K	2			4
Kindergarten	3	3	1	3
1st Grade	1	2	0	0
2nd Grade	2	1	3	2
3rd Grade	2	2	2	3
4th Grade	2	2	2	2
5th Grade	0	3	2	3
6th Grade	3	1	2	2
Secondary				
7th Grade	3	3	4	4
8th Grade	2	4	2	2
9th Grade	3	2	3	3
10th Grade	6	3	4	4
11th Grade	3	4	1	1
12th Grade	4	3	3	3
Total	36	33	29	36
Schools Attended				
Mountain School at Winhall	15	14	10	. 15
Dover Elementary	. 0	0	0	1
Twin Valley Elementary School	0	1	2	2
Manchester Elementary/Middle School	1	4	5	4
Leland & Gray Union Middle & High School	0	0	0	0
Twin Valley Middle High School	1	0	0	0
The Long Trail School	. 1	1	2	1
Stratton Mountain School	6	6	3	3
Burr & Burton Academy	11	6	7	8
Deerfield Academy	1	1	0	0
West River Montessori School	0	0	0	1
Kids in the Country Child Care & Preschool, Inc.	0	. 0	0	1
Total	36	33	29	36

		Stratton School District	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Proposed		
		FY 2017 Budget Proposal	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget		۸, ۱
ınc Progr: Function (	Object		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	\$ change	% change
Revenue			0.500						
		Transfer from Reserve	9,500	-		100	400		
		Earned Interest & Misc	100	100	100 60,000	100 60,000	100 60,000		
1 110 1730	0	Lease Revenue	6.025		5,087		2,077	757	57%
1 110 2000	000	WCSU Subgrant Medicaid	6,025 15,625	5,142 5,242	65,187	1,320 61,420	62,177	757	1%
		Total Local Revenue	15,625	5,242	05,107	01,420	62,177	131	1 /6
		State Aid							
1 110 3110	000	Education Spending Revenue	477,809	496,113	482,632	444,477	419,071	(25,407)	-6%
1 110 3114	000	State Career Center Aid	531	1,115	1,131				
110 3150	000	General State Aid-Transportation	16,121	15,728	13,944	14,013	7,832	(6,181)	44%
210 3201	000	Spec Ed-State Block Grant	11,615	12,422	11,829	12,602	11,147	(1,455)	-129
210 3202	000	State Aid-Special Ed Intensive Aid	52,922	45,526	54,798	31,673	23,145	(8,528)	-279
210 3203	000	State Aid-Special Ed Extraordinary Aid	-	14,400	-				
210 3204	000	Special EdState EEE Aid	1,293	2,329	1,710	1,718	1,387	(331)	-199
		Total State Aid	560,291	587,633	566,044	504,483	462,582	(41,902)	-89
		5	9 226	20.000					
		Federal Aid (ARRA / PILT)	8,226	20,000	20.000	20.000	20.000		0%
		PILT Revenue	10.000	10 000	30,000	30,000 16,000	30,000 16,000	-	09
110 4792	000	Green Mtn. National Forest	18,000 26,226	18,000	16,000	46,000	46,000		09
			20,220	38,000	46,000	40,000	46,000	•	0,
		Total Revenue	602,142	630,875	677,231	611,903	570,759	(41,145)	-79
		Total Revenue	002,142	000,070	077,201	011,505	57 0,7 00	(41,140)	. ,
pense		Elementary Exp Direct Instruction							
•	560	Elem. Early Education			3,000	3,000	15,380	12,380	4139
	561	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	25,800	13,000	38,000	42,620	15,300	(27,320)	-649
	564		11,000	-	00,000	-	,	(=:,===,	
		WCSU Explorers camp	6,025	5,142	5,087	_			
	566	Elem. Tuition Private School in State	118,440	162,600	142,500	147,420	195,000	47,580	329
	320	Elem. Special Education Contracted Services	-	-	, ,	,	,	,	
		SPED -WCSU Assesment	5,069	6,223	6,699	5,679	6,543	864	159
	561		-	-					
211 1200	564	SPED Tuition Out of State	-	-					
1 211 1200	565	SPED Tuition State Placed	-	-					
1 211 1200	566	SPED Tuition Private School in State	-	-					
211 1200	594	SPED Tuition Sp. Ed. Excess Cost Public	-	-					
211 1200	595	SPED Tuition Sp. Ed. Excess Cost Private	-	-					
212 1204	331	Essential early Ed-WCSU Assessment	2,996	3,274	5,241	3,288	1,122	(2,166)	-66
211 2160	332	WCSU Special Ed Services	-	-	. <b>-</b>		54,054	54,054	
1 211 2190	320	Elem. Special Ed PT/Case management	3,163	-	-			-	
211 2140	320	Elem. Special Ed Psychological Services	-	-	-			-	
211 2150	320	Elem. Special Ed Speech Services	-	-	-			-	
		TOTAL Elem. DIRECT INSTRUCTION	172,493	190,239	200,527	202,007	287,399	85,392	429
								-	
		Support Services	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2 000	-	00
		School Board Salaries	3,300		3,000	3,000	3,000	- (2)	0'
		School Board FICA	250	230	230	233	230	(3)	-1
		Short Term Interest Expense	-	-	-	500	400	(100)	201
		2300 Insurance and Bonds & Dues	900	900	500	500	400	(100)	-20
		Legal Fees	4.000	9 000	9 000	0 000	10.000		0,
		Audit Services	1,000		8,000	8,000	10,000 10,923	(99)	
110 2320	331	WCSU Adm Assesment	8,465	8,323	10,897	11,022	10,523	(99)	- (
		Transportation Services							
1 110 2711	511	Transp Services from VT Districts-Bus	11,725	14,375	14,025	8,500	8,500	-	0,
		Transp Services from Contracted Serv-parent	2,250		-1,525	5,500	5,500		O
1 110 2711		SPED Transp Services from VT Districts-bus	2,230		_				
		SPED Transp Contracted Serv-Parent	-						
211 2711	510	J. L. Harris Communica Cort i diciti							
211 2711	519	•							
1 211 2711 1 211 2711		Transfer to Reserve Funds/Retire Deficit	-	_	71.695				
211 2711 211 2711		Transfer to Reserve Funds/Retire Deficit TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES	27,890		71,695 108,347	31,255	33,053	1,798	69
211 2711 211 2711		Transfer to Reserve Funds/Retire Deficit TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICES	27,890			31,255	33,053	1,798	69

				SECONDARY EXPENSES							
01	130	1100	560	Secondary Public School Tution Prior Year		-					
01	130	1100	561	Secondary Tuition Instate public	41,550	15,963	13,500	42,120	45,600	3,480	8%
01	130	1100	564	Secondary Tuition Out of State	12,275	13,085	-			-	
01	130	1100	565	Secondary Tuition State Placed	-	-				-	
01	130	1100	566	Secondary Tuition Private School in State	225,755	252,510	233,686	243,572	235,857	(7,715)	-3%
01	130	1300	568	Secondary Vocational Tuition pd by State	531	1,115	1,131			-	
01	130	1300	569	Secondary Vocational Tuition pd by Stratton	449	1,157	1,287	1,209		(1,209)	-100%
01	130	2711	511	Secondary Reg Ed Tranps-School Districts	17,475	15,075	13,125	14,450	14,450	-	0%
01	130	2711	519	Secondary Reg Ed Tranps-Contracted	2,850	-					
01	230	1200	561	Secondary Sp Ed. Public School Tution in VT	-	-					
01	230	1200	564	Secondary Tuition Out of State-sped	-	-					
01	230	1200	565	Secondary Tuition State Placed	-	-					
01	230	1200	566	Secondary Tuition Private School in State-sped		-					
01	230	1200	594	Secondary Tuition Sp. Ed. Excess Cost Public	-	-					
01	230	1200	595	Secondary Tuition Sp. Ed. Excess Cost Private	70,403	78,303	94,300	77,291		(77,291)	-100%
01	230	2160	320	Secondary Special Ed. OT	-	-					
01	230	2190	320	Secondary Special Ed. PT	-	-					
		2141	321	Secondary Special Ed. Prof Services	28,871	28,600	10,128				
01	230	2711	511	Secondary Special Ed. TranspSchool Distr.	-	-					
01	230	2711	519	Secondary Special Ed. TranspContracted	1,600		1,200				
				TOTAL SECONDARY EXPENSES	401,759	405,808	368,357	378,642	250,307	(128,335)	-34%
				TOTAL EXPENDITURES	602,142	630,875	677,231	611,903	570,759	(41,145)	-7%
				Suplus/(Deficit)		-					

1 Voter Approved/Proposed Budget	60	2,142	6	30,875	6	77,231	6	11,903	5	70,759	(41,145)	-7%
2 Act 68 Budgeted Revenues	12	3,802	1	33,647	1	93,468	1	67,426	1	51,688	(15,738)	-9%
3 Local Education Spending	47	8,340	4	97,228	4	83,763	4	44,477	. 4	19,071	(25,407)	-6%
4 Equalized Pupil Count		32.31		31.42		30.95		30.28		29.22	(1)	-4%
5 Career Center Equalized Pupil		0.07		0.14		0.14		0.07			(0)	-100%
6 State Excess Sp. Threshold/equ. Pupil		14,841		15,456		16,166		17,103		14,928	(2,175)	-13%
7 Stratton Ed. Spend/equalized pupil		14,805		15,825		15,630		14,679		14,342	(337)	-2.30%
8 Stratton spend over/(under) threshold		-36		369		-536		-2,424		-586	1,838	-76%
9 Base Education Spending Index		8,723		9,151		9,285		9,459		9,870	411	4%
10 State-wide School Property Tax Rate	\$	0.89	\$	0.94	\$	0.98	\$	1.00	\$	1.00	-	0%
<b>`11</b>												
12 School Tax Impact Estimates:												
13 Home Stead Equalized School Tax Rate	\$	1.510	\$	1.663	\$	1.650	\$	1.552	\$	1.453		
14 Common Level of Appraisal	9	9.45%		94.18%		98.40%		98.62%		98.01%		
15 Estimated Actual School Tax Rate	\$	1.519	\$	1.766	\$	1.677	\$	1.574	\$	1.483		
16											-	
17 Income Sensitivity Base Index		1.8%		1.8%		1.8%		1.9%		NA		0%
18 Income Sensitivity Percent for Residents*		3.1%		3.2%		3.03%		3.01%		2.58%	(0.004)	-14%
Estimated School Tax impact \$200,000 home & 2 acres-no inco	\$	3,038	\$	3,533	\$	3,353	\$	3,147	\$	2,965	(206)	-6%
		2,444		2,548		2,424		2,408		2,064	(16)	-1%
	rac	cap on e	du	cation pro	pe	rty tax liat	oility	, individu	uals	pay		-
Estimated School Tax impact \$200,000 home & 2 acres-no incomaximum School Tax amount @ \$80,000 household incoviduals with less than \$90,000 of household income qualify for lower amount between property tax bill or income cap. Subjectives	rac	2,444 cap on e	du	2,548 cation pro	pe	2,424 rty tax liat	oility	2,408 , individu	,	2,064	, ,	-

	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Block Grant Revenue from State	12,422	11,829	12,602	11,147
Extraordinary Special Ed Aid	14,400	0	0	0
Intensive Aid	45,526	54,798	31,673	23,145
Act 68 Revenues				
Local Funds [includes Transfers from Reserve]	5,242	65,187	61,420	62,177
State [excluding Educ Spending & Career Center aid]	90,405	82,281	60,006	43,511
Federal Aid	38,000	46,000	46,000	46,000
Total Act 68 Revenues	133,647	193,468	167,426	151,688

#### Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

77 Barre Street P.O. Box 947 Montpelier, VT 05601 802/223-2352 www.sullivanpowers.com Fred Duplessis, CPA Richard J. Brigham, CPA Chad A. Hewitt, CPA Wendy C. Gilwee, CPA VT Lic. #92-000180

#### Independent Auditors' Report

Board of Directors Town of Stratton School District 9 West Jamaica Road Stratton, Vermont 05360

#### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Town of Stratton School District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Town of Stratton School District's basic financial statements as listed in the Table of Contents.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in "Government Auditing Standards", issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Town of Stratton School District's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Town of Stratton School District's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

#### **Opinions**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to previously present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Town of Stratton School District as of June 30, 2015 and the respective changes in financial position and the respective budgetary comparison for the General Fund, thereof, for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### Other Matters

#### Required Supplementary Information

Management has omitted Management's Discussion and Analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with "Government Auditing Standards", we have also issued our report dated December 2, 2015, on our consideration of the Town of Stratton School District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with "Government Auditing Standards" in considering the Town of Stratton School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Sullivan, Powers & Company

December 2, 2015 Montpelier, Vermont VT Lic. #92-000180

#### SCHOOL FUND STATEMENT

#### July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015

R	E	C	E	IP	TS:

Earned Interest	16.33
Town Lease Revenue	60,000.00
Education Block Grant	482,621.00
Transportation Aid	13,921.00
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)	33,720.00
National Forest (PILT)	13,218.87
Special Education Block Grant	11,829.00
Special Education Intensive Aid	40,241.00
Special Ed Early Evaluation (EEE) Aid	1,710.00
Special Education Extraordinary Aid	5,094.00
Medicaid Sub Grant	2,197.00

Total Receipts: 664,568.20

#### **DISBURSEMENTS:**

_	• • •	_	
1	ition	_ 0	ro K :
ı u		— г	re K:

1 @ Twin Valley	250.00	
1 @ Mountain School at Winhall	1,425.00	1,675.00

#### **Tuition – Elementary:**

Long Trail Schoo	١
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1 @ 11,936	11,936.00
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Manchester School

3 @ 13,500	40,500.00

Mountain School at Winhall

2 @ 8,387.29	16,774.58
8 @ 14,250	114,000.00

Twin Valley

1	@ 250.00	250.00	183,460.58
-	( Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z	230.00	100,700.00

#### Tuition - High School:

Burr & Burton	
8 @ 15.400	123,200,00

Long Trail School

1 @ 13 752	13 752 00

Manchester School

1 @ 13,500	13,500.00

Mountain School at Winhall

2 @ 14,500	29,000.00
1 @ 8,534.58	8,534.58

Stratton Mountain School

4 @ 13,752	55,008.00	242,994.58
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Transportation:		
Elementary (paid to Winhall School Board)	8,575.00	
High School (paid to Winhall School Board)	8,575.00	17,150.00
Special Education:		
All Contracted Services	74,738.80	74,738.80
Supervisory Union Expenses:		
Essential Early Education Assessment	5,241.25	
School Age Assessment	6,698.75	
WCSU Administration Assessment	10,897.00	22,837.00
School Board Administration:		
Candie Bernard - Treasurer	500.00	
Tom Montemagni – Chair		
Salary	150.00	
11 Meetings @ 50.00	550.00	
Lorraine Weeks-Newell – Secretary		
Salary	150.00	
12 Meetings @ 50.00	600.00	
Secretarial	342.20	
Siobhan Eddy Young		
Salary	100.00	
9 Meetings @ 50	450.00	
Secretarial	68.44	2,910.64
Miscellaneous:		
FICA	222.67	
Sullivan & Powers Outside Audit	7,055.00	
Bonds/Insurance	445.22	
Bank Deposit Slips	48.92	
Town Loan Reimbursement	60,000.00	67,771.81

Total Expenses: 613,538.41

					Property dollar	Homestead tax rate per \$9,670 of
	District:	Stratton	T200		equivalent yield	spending per equalized pupil
		Windham	Windham Central		9,870	1.00
					11,065	Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0% of household income
	Expendit	ures	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
1.		Budget (local budget, including special programs, full technical center expenditures, and any Act 144 expenditures)	\$630,875	\$677,231	\$611,903	\$570,759 1.
2.	pius	Sum of separately warned articles passed at town meeting	+			2.
3.	minus	Act 144 Expenditures, to be excluded from Education Spending (Manchester & West Windsor only)	\$630,875	\$677,231	\$611,903	\$570,759 4.
4.		Locally adopted or warned budget	\$630,673	4011,231	4011,500	40,100
5.	plus	Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	+			5.
6.	plus	Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	+	-	-	6.
7.		Total Budget	\$630,875	\$677,231	\$611,903	\$570,759 7.
8. 9.		S.U. assessment (included in local budget) - informational data Prior year deficit reduction (included in expenditure budget) - informational data	-		-	\$10;923 8. - 9.
	Revenue					
10.		Offsetting revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, etc., including local Act 144 tax revenues)	\$133,647	\$193,468	\$167,426	\$151,655 10.
11.	plus	Capital debt aid for eligible projects pre-existing Act 60	+		-	11.
12. 13.	minus	All Act 144 revenues, including local Act 144 tax revenues (Manchester & West Wildser only)  Offsetting revenues	\$133,647	\$193,468	\$167,426	\$151,655 13.
14.		- Education Spending	\$497,228	\$483,763	\$444,477	<b>\$419,104</b> 14.
15.		Equalized Pupils	31.42	30.95	30.28	29.49 15.
16. 17.	minus	Education Spending per Equalized Pupil Less ALL net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	\$15,825.21	\$15,630.47	\$14,678.90	\$14,211.73 16. NA 17.
18.	minus	Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$50,000 for an individual (per eqpup)	-	\$10.86	\$18.69	*** NA **** 18.
19.	minus	Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the	-		]	NA 19.
20.	minus	district after the budget was passed (per eqpup)  Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per eqpup)	-	-	-	→ NA 20.
21.	minus	Estimated costs of new students after census period (per eqpup)	-		-	NA 22 21.
22.	minus	Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per eqpup)			Exempt	NA 22.
23. 24.	minus	Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per eqpup)  Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers'	- autochen Autobiosis	-		NA 23.
24.		Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per eqpup)	- NA	NA NA		NA 24.
25.		Allowable growth per pupil spending threshold (secs. 37 & 38, Act 46, 2015)	##eshold = \$15,456	tiveshald = \$16,166	threshold = \$17,103	\$14,928.12 25.
26.	plus	Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	+ \$369		\$14,679	- 26. \$14,211.73 27.
27.		Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	\$16,194	\$15,630		NA 28.
28.		District spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	176.969% based on \$9,151	168.341% based on \$9,285	155.184% based on \$9,459	20.
29.		ng the local tax rate  Anticipated district equalized homestead tax rate (to be prorated by line 30)	\$1,6635 ;	\$1.6497	\$1.5363	<b>\$1.4399</b> 29.
20.		[\$14,211.73 + (\$9,670.00 / \$1.000)]	based on \$0.94	based on \$0.98	based on \$0.99	based on \$1.00
30.		Percent of Stratton equalized pupils not in a union school district	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00% 30.
31.		Portion of district eq homestead rate to be assessed by town (100.00% x \$1.44)	\$1.6635	\$1.6497	\$1,5363	\$1.4399 31.
32.		Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	94.18%	98.40%	98,62%	98:01% 32.
33.		Portion of actual district homestead rate to be assessed by town (\$1.4399 / 98.01%)	\$1.7663 based on \$0.94	\$1.6765 based on \$0.98	\$1,5578 based on \$0,99	\$1.4691 33. based on \$1.00
			If the district belongs to a The tax rate shown represending for students wi	esents the estimated p	ortion of the final hon	nestead tax rate due to
			the income cap percenta		arrioti acricoi district.	The same noise the for
34.		Anticipated income cap percent (to be prorated by line 30) [(\$14,211.73 + \$11,065) x 2.00%]	3.19% based on 1.80%	3.03% based on 1.80%	2.79% based on 1.80%	2.57% 34
35.		Portion of district income cap percent applied by State (100.00% x 2.57%)	3.19% based on 1.80%	3.03% based on 1.94%	2.79% based on 1.94%	2.57% 35 based on 2.00%
36.		Percent of equalized pupils at union 1				- 36
		i distriction addressed public at anion i				37
37.	_	ollowing current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$9,95		omestead tax per \$1	00 of equalized prop	· -

<sup>-</sup> Following current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$9,955 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property Tax Commissioner also recommended an income yield of \$11,157 for a base income percent of 2.0% and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.538. New and upda have changed the proposed property yield to \$9,870 and the income yield to \$11,065.

- Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.

- The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.

#### Vermont Department of Taxes

#### NOTICE of **EDUCATION TAX RATES for FISCAL YEAR 2016**

#### TOWN OF STRATTON

Prepared: June 29, 2015

#### NON-RESIDENTIAL TAX RATE

Non-Residential Tax Rate to be Assessed:

\$ 1.5565

#### HOMESTEAD TAX RATE

Homestead Tax Rate to be Assessed:

\$ 1.5578

The Homestead Education Tax Rate is based in part on the education spending per equalized pupil of all the pupils residing in your town. Many town districts are also members of union school districts. Each town and union school district will have a tax rate based on its spending per pupil. For towns with multiple school districts, the tax rate is a combination of those rates.

Town-specific information on education tax rate calculations is available on the Department of Taxes website at:

http://www.tax.vermont.gov/pvredtaxrates.shtml

By law, the legislative body in each municipality shall bill each property taxpayer at the homestead or non-residential rate as determined by the Commissioner for their municipality.

32 V.S.A. Sec. 5402(b)(1)

If you have questions about your education tax rates, please call the Vermont Department of Taxes at (802) 828-5860.

ORIGINAL:

Chair Selectboard / City Council

COPY:

Town / City Treasurer

#### Town of Stratton

#### Homestead Education Tax Rate Calculation

Fiscal Year 2016

Date Prepared: 6/29/2015

The Homestead Education Tax Rate is based in part on the education spending per equalized pupil of all the pupils residing in your town. Many town districts are also members of union school districts. Each town and union school district will have a tax rate based on its spending per pupil. For towns with multiple school districts, the tax rate is a combination of those rates as shown below.

Base homestead tax rate	\$0.99		
Base spending amount	\$9,459		
Excess spending threshold	\$17,103		Actual
Average statewide education spending per equalized pupil	\$14,412		Homestead
Common level of appraisal for Stratton	98.62%		Tax Rate
Equalized homestead tax rate for Stratton from town	school district		IJ.
1. Education spending per equalized pupil	\$14,678.90		
2. Net offsets for excess spending calculation	\$18.69		
3. Amount over excess spending threshold if any	\$0		
4. Education spending per equalized pupil plus any excess for tax r	ate	\$14,678.90	
5. District spending as a percent of base spending amount	155.18%		
6. District equalized tax rate equals line 5 times base rate		\$1.5363	
7. Percent of equalized pupils at town school district	100.00%		
8. Equalized tax rate from school district		\$1.5363	
9. Actual tax rate attributable to district	(\$1.5363 / CLA: 98.629	%)	\$1.5578

You should see this rate on your tax bill.

Homestead Tax Rate

You should see this rate on your tax bill.

\$1.5578

#### Non-Residential Education Tax Rate Calculation

Base Non-Residential Tax Rate / CLA

CLA: Base NR Rate:

/ 98.62% \$1.535

Non-Residential Tax Rate

\$1.5565

NON-TAX

(Taxable properties only - State and Non-tax status properties are not listed below) Parcel Municipal Homestead Ed Non-Resi Ed. Total Education Count Listed Value Listed Value Listed Value Listed Value Category/Code \_\_\_\_\_ -----Residential I R1 213 148,531,100
Residential II R2 104 54,456,000 12,549,900 135,981,200 · 9,228,508 45,227,492 148,531,100 9,228,508 54,456,000 0 210,500 815,700 737,800 0 0 0 Mobile Homes-U MHU 0 0 210,500 210,500 Mobile Homes-L MHL 0 2 815,700 815,700 Seasonal I S1 Seasonal II S2 9 5 0 737,800 737,800 Seasonal II 56 59,730,300 59,730,300 0 59,730,300 Commercial C 3,345,600 Commercial Apts CA 1 3,345,600 3,345,600 0 Industrial I Utilities-E UE I ٥ 0 3,501,000 3.501.000 3,501,000 0 0 1,622,213 516,457,887 518,080,100 Woodland W 64 17,437,900
Miscellaneous M 40 2,346,700 17,437,900 17,437,900 0 Miscellaneous M 0 2,346,700 2,346,700 \_\_\_\_\_ 23,400,621 785,792,079 809,192,700 TOTAL LISTED REAL 1,585 809,192,700 500,300 500,300 500.300 P.P. Cable 1 P.P. Equipment P.P. Inventory 0 0 500,300 500,300 500,300 TOTAL LISTED P.P. 809,693,000 23,400,621 786,292,379 TOTAL LISTED VALUE 809,693,000 EXEMPTIONS 30,000 0 Veterans 10K 3/3 . 30,000 30,000 90,000 Veterans >10K 120,000 30,000 30,000 Total Veterans 1 500,300 P.P. Contracts 0 Contract Apprv VEPC 0/0 0 374,100 1/1 374.100 0 Grandfathered Non-Apprv (voted) 0/0 Owner Pays Ed Tax 0/0 n 374,100 374,100 2/1 874,400 Total Contracts FarmStab Apprv VEPC 0/0 0 0/0 0 ٥ Farm Grandfathered Non-Apprv (voted) 0/0 Owner Pays Ed Tax 0/0 0 0/0 Total FarmStabContr 3,888,950 334,800 3,554,150 18/18 3,888,950 Current Use 22,696,000 0 22,696,000 Special Exemptions 0 Partial Statutory 26,989,050 364.B00 26.624.250 4,883,350 Sub-total Exemptions 364.800 26,624,250 4,883,350 Total Exemptions TOTAL MUNICIPAL GRAND LIST 8,048,096.50
TOTAL EDUCATION GRAND LIST 230,358.21 7,596,681.29 7,827,039.50 16 NON-TAX PARCELS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE 411

Town of Stratton Grand List Form 411 - (Town code: 627) Main District

(Taxable properties only - State and Non-tax status properties are not listed below) Parcel Municipal Homestead Ed Non-Resi Ed. Total Education REAL ESTATE Listed Value Listed Value Listed Value Category/Code Count Listed Value | Status on Personal Property | 1) Has inventory been exempted by vote of town/city? Yes\_XX\_ No\_ | 2) Has machinery and equipment been exempted by vote of your town/city? Yes\_XX\_ No\_\_\_ | 3) If yes for #2, what portion is now exempt? 100.00 (include percentage) | 4) If no for #2, please indicate below how your town/city is assessing business personal property (Place "X" by option used) a) at fair market value \_\_\_\_\_ b) at depreciated value \_\_\_\_ Summary of Adjustments to Taxable Values (Local Agreements Etc.) | Approved (VEPC) Contracts/Exemptions 374,100] Grandfathered Contracts/Exemptions | Non-Approved (Voted) Contracts/Exemptions 01 | Homestead Non-Approved (Voted) Contracts/Exemptions 0 | Non-Resi Non-Approved (Voted) Contracts/Exemptions 01 01 | Municipal Contracts (Owner Pays Ed Tax) 22,696,000| | Special Exemptions 3,888,950 | Current Use (Use Value Appraisal Program) 30,000| | Veteran Exemptions 90,0001 Homestead Veteran Exemptions beyond 10K | Non-Resi Veteran Exemptions beyond 10K 0 ] | Partial Statutory Exemptions \_\_\_\_\_



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

Phone:

(802) 828-5860

Fax:

(802) 828-2824

December 15, 2015

Town Clerk Town of Stratton 9 West Jamaica Rd Stratton, VT 05360

## Division of Property Valuation and Review Certified Equalized Education Property Value (Effective 1/1/2016)

This letter serves to notify you of the results of the Division's 2015 equalization study. We are required to annually certify the equalized education property value (EEPV) and coefficient of dispersion (COD) for each Vermont school district. 32 V.S.A. §5406. For your municipality these values are:

**Equalized Education Property Value:** Coefficient of Dispersion:

\$798,442,000

9.33 %

The equalized education property value is the sum of:

- 1) the aggregate fair market value of all non-residential and homestead property required to be listed at fair market value;
- 2) the aggregate use value of all property enrolled in use value appraisal;
- 3) the aggregate value of property established under a local agreement in accord with 32 V.S.A. §5404a.

The coefficient of dispersion (COD) is a measure of uniformity of appraisal for all properties in the grand list. It measures the average deviation from market value of sold properties from the average townwide level of appraisal. A coefficient of dispersion of 0.00% is perfect as it indicates absolute fairness insofar as every taxpayer is appraised at exactly the same percentage of fair market value. Such perfection is impossible to achieve and COD's close to zero usually indicate sales chasing.

The higher the COD, the greater the disparity in how properties are assessed in that town. A COD of 10% or lower is considered to reflect a relatively high level of equity across taxpayers' assessments.

Included with the listers' copy of this notice is a report showing the sales and, where necessary, appraisals used in the study. A town or city may petition the director of Property Valuation and Review for a redetermination of the EEPV and/or COD. 32 V.S.A. §5408. All petitions must be in writing and signed by the chair of the legislative body of your town or city. Petitions should contain a plain statement of the matters being appealed and a statement of the remedy the



municipality is seeking. Petitions must be received in my office by the close of business on the 30th day following receipt of this notice by the clerk. Additional instructions on appeals can be found in the booklet described below.

Additional study results include:

Education Grand List (from 411):	\$7,825,208	
Equalized Education Grand List:	\$7,984,420	
Common Level of Appraisal:	98.01	%

The education grand list is one percent of the total assessed value of taxable property (including cable, if applicable) as reported on form 411. The equalized education grand list is one percent of the equalized education property value. The education grand list is divided by the equalized education grand list to determine the common level of appraisal (CLA). As such, the CLA provides a town or citywide comparison of your total listed value to our estimate of total fair market value.

There is a brief explanation of the reported values and how they were determined in our publication entitled "Introduction to Vermont's Equalization Study." (This booket can be found on the Tax Department's website. Go to: http://tax.vermont.gov/content/introductionequalization-study.)

If you have any questions, please contact your district advisor or call 828-5860.

Sincerely,

Douglas R. Farnham, Director

Property Valuation and Review

cc: Chair, Board of Listers

Dough d. Zelm

Chair, School Board

Chair, Select Board

Superintendent of Schools

#### TOWN CLERK 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Assistant Town Clerks: Patricia Coolidge and Candie Bernard.

The following is a list of Stratton's yearly statistics:

Land Records: In 2015, eight new mylars were recorded for \$120.00, and 2211 pages were recorded (Book 164 page 283 through Book 167 page 357). Recording fees at \$10.00/page brought in revenues of \$22,110.00.

Property Transfers: 121 Property Transfers occurred in the calendar year of 2015 (a decrease of about 10% from last year). An amount of \$1210.00 was collected to process the associated Property Transfer Tax Returns. Property-Transfer Taxes collected by the State for these sales amounted to \$502,818.96 (a decrease of about 10% from last year).

#### 2015 Vital Statistics:

Births - Two children were born to Stratton families this year. Both were born out of town (no births occurred within Stratton).

Marriages - Five marriages were registered in Stratton - all were non-resident couples. Deaths - Two deaths - Roger Schultz and Kathleen Telscher, occurred within Stratton and one resident, Kenneth Tuttle, died in another town.

#### Appointments by Town Clerk:

Deputy Registrars – Mark F. Shea and Thomas R. Lloyd of Shea Family Funeral Homes and Tom Robinson of Eternal Blessings Cremation Service

Liquor Licenses – The following licenses and permits were approved by the Town and State:

1<sup>St</sup> Class Licenses:

10 (\$115.00 fee to the Town and \$115.00 fee to the State)

2<sup>nd</sup> Class Licenses:

2 (\$70.00 fee to the Town and \$70.00 fee to the State)

Outside Consumption Permits: 10 (\$20.00 fee to the State)

Catering Permits:

10 (\$20.00 fee to the State)

Special Events Permits:

5 (\$35.00 fee to the State) Total fees collected by the Town: \$1290.00

Total fees collected by the State: \$1865.00

Solid Waste Disposal: A total of 213.42 tons of solid waste were hauled away from the Stratton Transfer Station in 2015. Of this, 44.26 tons (20.7%) were recycled. Pay-As-You-Throw: Since the program started in July, and to the end of the year, Stratton has collected \$12,168.00 in revenues and paid out \$6,130.11 to Casella in solid waste removal expenses. Note that at this point, a direct revenue to expense comparison is not a true measure of the program. Much of the revenues were for punch tickets - many of which still have value for future use. Additionally, some expenses for removal after July 1 went toward removal of solid waste collected prior to July 1. We will need to collect data from a long period of time to determine the true balance between revenues and expenses for this program.

Voter Statistics: As of December 31, 2015, Stratton had 167 voters on the Voter Checklist. 11 new voters applied to the checklist and were added this year, while 25 voters were removed from the checklist for various reasons. 14 voters remain as inactive / challenged and are subject to be removed per the statutory procedures. 41 voters attended the Town Meeting of March 3, 2015 and 35 voters were present for the subsequent Annual School Meeting. No State of Federal Elections were held in 2015.

#### Voter Registration – new website:

Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos has announced the roll-out of the new Elections Management Platform. This platform has three main parts:

- Elections Management System (EMS) includes a new statewide voter checklist and other resources and tools to be used by town and city clerks across Vermont to conduct all of their election related business from registering voters, to processing absentee ballot requests, to entering election results;
- New Online Voter Registration Tool allows all eligible Vermonters to submit their voter registration application online anytime and anywhere they can access the internet; and
- New "My Voter Page" online resource that allows every registered voter to login and have access to a unique, voter-specific web page where they can request an absentee ballot, track its status, update their voter registration record, find their polling place, view a sample ballot, and much more.

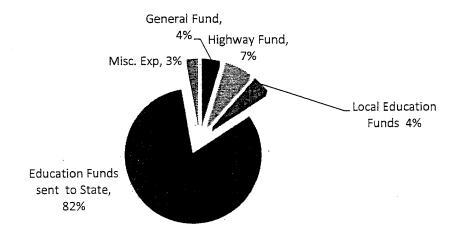
Secretary Condos states, "I am very excited to announce the roll-out of Vermont's first online voter registration system. One of my primary goals as Vermont's chief election officer is to increase voter participation. I am confident that our new online voter registration system and the 'My Voter Page' tool will increase engagement with the electoral process across the state and make it easier than ever for all eligible Vermonters to participate in our elections."

The online voter registration page can be found at <a href="http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us">http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us</a> and the My Voter Page login can be found at <a href="http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us">http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us</a>.

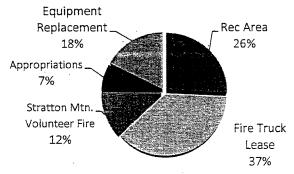
I have included these sites on the Town's Website at www.townofstrattonvt.com.

David Kent Young Town Clerk

#### Distribution of Tax Dollars and Town Revenues July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015



#### Breakdown of Miscellaneous Expenses shown in the Previous Chart



### Board of Selectmen 2015 Annual Report

2015 was another sad year for the Town with the accidental death of Roger Schultz, the Town's Transfer Station Attendant and Fire Warden. He was a valued long-time employee, well-liked by all. Our condolences go out to his widow, Arloa.

The major projects over the past year included: 1) Installation of a membrane on the garage roof. This project should alleviate the moisture problems that existed with this structure, especially while snow remained on the roof. 2) Paving of the north half of Mountain Rd., where previously the Kidder Brook bridge and many culverts had been replaced. 3) The Old Stratton Meetinghouse exterior was repainted.

In July, Pay-As-You-Throw was implemented at the Stratton Transfer Station, as mandated by State Statute to promote recycling. Jason Dupell was hired as the Transfer Station Attendant to replace Roger Schultz.

During the Town Meeting of 2015, all incumbent members of the Select Board were re-elected to their positions. At the subsequent organizational meeting, Albert Dupell was reappointed Chairman and Larry Bills was reappointed Vice-Chairman. Kent Young was reappointed Secretary.

Additional appointments of Town Officials: Helen Fuller Eddy was re-appointed as Town Service Officer, while Tom Montemagni and Greg Marcucci were reappointed to the ZBA.

The Board also wishes to thank the many volunteers who have helped with Town events and projects this year. Thanks to Lorraine Weeks-Newell and Helen Eddy for coordinating Green-Up Day. Thanks to the Town Office employees, the Road Crew, Helen Eddy, Lorraine Weeks-Newell and Nancy Ferrucci for organizing and decorating for this year's Holiday Party. We also wish to thank all those who donated goods for the Jamaica-Wardsboro Community Food Pantry.

Al Dupell, Chairman of the Selectmen

## Stratton Planning Commission 2015 Annual Report

This year we welcomed George Rigoulot to the Planning Commission, as he was newly elected at March Meeting. After Town Meeting, we appointed Kent Young as Chairman, Ray Hawksley as Vice-Chairman, and John Wadsworth as Secretary. Kent Young agreed to take meeting minutes.

Over the course of the last year, the Windham Regional Commission approved Stratton's Town Plan of 2014 and their planner, John Bennett, continued to work with the Commission to revise the Zoning Regulations. A proposed Zoning Regulation was completed at the end of the year and public hearings for its consideration will begin in January 2016.

During the past year, the Planning Commission held public hearings for and considered the following projects:

- 1) Tamarack Heights Lot #12 approved.
- 2) Tamarack Heights Lot #1 approved

All Planning Commission Meetings are open to the public. We meet regularly on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Stratton Town Office. Meeting minutes can be found posted at the Town Office, Town Garage and Stratton Mountain Post Office, as well as on the Planning Commission page of the Town of Stratton's website: <a href="https://www.townofstrattonvt.com">www.townofstrattonvt.com</a>.

Kent Young Planning Commission Chairman

#### ZONING REPORT July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Name	Permit Type	Date Issued	Permit Fee
Mann	Pool	07/02/2014	25.00
Catamount Trail Assoc.	Sign	07/15/2014	20.00
Cole	Shed	07/28/2014	20.00
Powers	Subdivision Road	08/11/2014	40.00
Windolf	Renovation	09/03/2014	40.00
Lerner	New House	09/19/2014	1,119.00
Stratton Corporation	Base Lodge Addition	10/01/2014	2,775.00
Mountain Reach COA	Gate	10/15/2014	25.00
Poole	Renovation	10/21/2014	40.00
Steiner	Addition	10/25/2014	65.00
Mattos	Deck	10/28/2014	20.00
Marullo	Boundary Line Adj.	12/23/2014	50.00
Montemagni, Gary	Gas Tank	01/08/2015	20.00
Sise	Subdivision	03/10/2015	100.00
Boatright	Storage Building	03/12/2015	120.00
Kosann	Hot Tub Extension	04/09/2015	95.00
Young	Garage Addition	05/19/2015	20.00
Goldfarb	Pole Barn	06/02/2015	20.00
Stratton Mtn. School	Paddle Court	06/11/2015	20.00
Gibbons	New House	06/16/2015	465.00
Jepson	Addition/Renovation	06/26/2015	265.00
Sires	New House	06/30/2015	758.00
Total Permit Fees Collecte	ed		6,122.00

#### Listers' Report 2015

The Board of Listers consists of Kent Young, Candie Bernard and Allan Hicks. The Listers heard 27 Grievances this year. One aggrieved homeowners appealed to the Board of Civil Authority and was heard. The BCA considered and denied the appeal. The owner did not appeal this decision.

The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) used to determine the 2015 Education Property Tax Rates was 98.62%. The State Non-Residential Education Tax Rate for 2015 was \$1.5565. The Residential Education Tax Rate was additionally adjusted per the Statutes by penalizing the Town Residents for exceeding the average tuition cost per student, resulting in a rate of \$1.5578. The Municipal Tax Rate was set at \$0.1405; therefore, Stratton's total property tax rates were \$1.6983 for homestead properties and \$1.6970 for non-residential properties. Please see the "Grand List" pages within the Town Report for property assessment details and visit the Assessors' Page at the Town of Stratton website - <a href="https://www.townofstrattonvt.com">www.townofstrattonvt.com</a> for more information on property values.

The Listers intend to perform a statistical reappraisal in the coming year.

Currently, Stratton contracts with:

- 1) Purvis and Associates for professional appraising.
- 2) Visions Inc. for appraisal software and support.
- 3) Cartographics Technologies, Inc. for tax mapping and software support.

All appraisals of Stratton properties can be viewed on the internet via our website or at the Vision site: http://data.visionappraisal.com/strattonvt/DEFAULT.asp.

Kent Young, Listers' Chairman

#### 2015 DOG REPORT

#### LICENSES ISSUED:

55 dog licenses were sold in the Town of Stratton in 2015 Licenses issued were for:

55 spayed female or neutered male dogs

2 unneutered male or un-spayed female dogs

Fees collected for 2015: \$496.00 (of which \$244.00 was sent to the VT State Treasurer).

#### SCHEDULE OF FEES:

If you own or keep a dog or wolf-hybrid that is six months or older on or before April 1, the license fee is:

Neutered male or spayed female – \$9.00 Un-neutered male or un-spayed female – \$13.00

After April 1st an additional 50% is added to the fee:

Neutered male or spayed female - \$11.00

Un-neutered male or un-spayed female - \$17.00

To register a dog or wolf-hybrid, as a neutered male or spayed female, a certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian stating that the animal has been sterilized must be given to the Town Clerk.

To license a dog or wolf-hybrid, the owner/keeper shall give the Town Clerk a certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian stating that the dog or wolf-hybrid has a current approved vaccination against rabies.

#### A current vaccination means:

All dogs or wolf-hybrids over three months of age shall be vaccinated against rabies. The initial vaccination shall be valid for 12 months. Within 9 to 12 months of the initial vaccination, the animal must receive a booster vaccination. All vaccinations following the initial vaccination will be valid for 36 months.

#### **Town of Stratton**

#### **Cemetery Commission**

We continue to place flags on all veterans' graves before Memorial Day, and we ensure that all cemeteries are mowed at least once each month during the summer, immediately prior to the major holidays of Memorial Day, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day. We wish to thank Ben Lowe for doing an excellent job of mowing and trimming our cemeteries at those times. Two single gravesites were deeded in Ball Cemetery this year. One burial occurred in Ball Cemetery.

Kent Young, Cemetery Commission Chair

#### Stratton Mountain Volunteer Fire Co., Inc

	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Operations Income	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	to date	2016-2017
Beginning Balance						<u> </u>	
Town of Stratton	\$46,775.00	\$46,775.00	\$46,725.00	\$46,725.00			\$47,150.00
Post Office Rental	\$11,050.00	\$9,024.96	\$11,050.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$2,916.65	\$7,000.00
VTA Lease			\$250.00			:	
Stratton corp	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00		\$11,000.00	<b>!</b>	\$11,000.00
Grants				\$0.00	1	*** 075 00	
Fund Raising/Donation		\$18,560.00	\$12,190.00	\$17,600.00		\$6,975.00	
Total Funds	\$68,825.00	\$85,359.96	\$81,215.00	\$82,325.00	\$65,660.00	\$57,551.65	\$65,150.00
Evnandituras						!	
Expenditures	\$1,280.00	\$873.61	\$1,280.00	\$1,393.75	\$1,280.00	\$431.99	\$1,500.00
Electricity	\$1,200.00		\$1,280.00			1	\$700.00
Telephone Heat	\$8,000.00			\$4,743.60		1 :	
Insurance	\$3,000.00			\$1,060.00		11	\$2,000.00
Building Improvement Fund	ψ5,000.00	Ψ1,000.00	φο,σοσ.σσ	ψ1,000.00	\$5,000.00	P ·	\$5,000.00
Building Maintenance & Suppli	\$2,000.00	\$587.60	\$2,000.00	\$116.45			\$2,000.00
Postage	Ψ2,000.00	\$95.00		\$44.00	1	\$46.00	,_,.
Cleaning/Building Supplies		1		\$45.19			
Grounds Maintenance		\$582.10		\$252.00			
Tools		,		,	-		
Vehicle Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$786.62	\$2,000.00	\$14.44	\$2,500.00		\$2,000.00
Radio Repair	1	\$1,136.62		\$838.42		\$134.00	
Equipment Maintenance	\$1,500.00		\$1,500.00	\$1,529.64	\$2,000.00	\$95.00	\$1,500.00
SCBA	1		1				
Extinguishers	1	\$135.80		\$1,389.86		\$317.75	
New Equipment	\$5,500.00		\$5,500.00			)	\$5,500.00
New Pierce 2015				\$196,997.62	1		
Turnout Gear				\$934.20			
Training	\$500.00	1	\$500.00	1			\$500.00
Dues & Ass. Fees	\$300.00	1	1 '	1	1		\$400.00
Reimbursement Per Point	\$23,000.00	\$23,000.00	\$23,000.00	\$23,000.00	\$23,000.00	)	\$23,000.00
Officer Points @ 11.65							1
Call Points @ 11.65		İ			ļ.		
Meeting Points @ 11.65					1	1	1
Training Points @ 11.65		24 400 50			1	1	! !
Fund Raising Expense	<b>6</b> 405.00	\$1,193.53	1	me10.00	6450.00		\$500.00
CPA	\$425.00				\$450.00	7	\$500.00
Post Office Construction Loan				1	\$2,600.00		\$2,600.00
Secretary Position	\$2,600.00				1 ' '	1	\$600.00
Software	\$200.00	\$839.85	\$400.00	\$899.88		\$723.64	
X-Mas Party .				\$1,380.53		Ψ/20.04	
Office Supplies Hosting Fee	\$500.00	\$908.45	\$500.00	1	\$350.00	\$119.97	\$350,00
ACS Fire Companies.com	\$500.00	φ906,43	φ500.00		φ550.00		φ330,00
Total Expenditures	\$57,825.00	\$42,814.43	\$58,025.00	\$244,216.34	\$54,660.00	\$3,187.44	\$54,150.00
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## Stratton Mountain Volunteer Fire Company Inc.

5 Brazers Way Stratton Mtn., VT 05155

John Waite – President

Mathew Underwood – Chief

The Stratton Mountain Volunteer Fire Company responded to 67 calls in 2015.

- 9 Fires (structure, vehicle, and forest)
- 36 False Alarms
- 7 Motor Vehicle Accidents
- 7 Gas Alarms, Smoke Conditions, and Fuel Spills
- 1 Other (Assist Rescue, Landing Zones, Power lines down)

The Fire Company continued raising funds independently in 2015 through a mailing, T-shirt sales, Post office rental, and making use of local and state grants that were available.

The new truck was delivered in April and is proving to be a valuable asset.

We currently have fifteen member, but as always the Fire Company is in need of more volunteers. The need for non-firefighting individuals is as important as for firefighters. Any interested parties should contact Matt Underwood or attend a meeting, which are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at the Station at 6:30pm.

# TOWN OF STRATTON Minutes of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MARCH 3, 2015

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton met as warned at the Town Hall in said Town on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 10:00am. Selectman Chair, Al Dupell, led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Town Clerk read the opening statement of the Warning and took the roll. Diana Stugger arrived and assumed the duties of Moderator. Initially, 37 voters were present; therefore, a majority required 19 votes. Later in the meeting a total of 41 voters were present, which required a majority of 21 votes.

The Moderator read the Articles and conducted the meeting as follows:

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

Kent Young nominated Diana Stugger. DR Holton seconded. Al Dupell moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Larry Bills seconded. All concurred. Diana Stugger was elected Moderator for the ensuing year.

#### ARTICLE 2: To act on the Town Report.

Kent Young so moved. Al Dupell seconded. Discussion: Kent Young stated that copies of the Errata – a list of minor errors – are available in front of all voters for review. These corrections should be incorporated into the Town Report. Kent Young moved to amend the Town Report to include this page. Joann Liller seconded. All were in favor of the amendment. Larry Bills moved to approve the Town Report as amended. Al Dupell seconded. All concurred and the Town Report was approved.

#### ARTICLE 3: To elect Town officers as required by law:

Treasurer (one two-year term to complete a three-year term previously held by Candie Bernard, appointed following the resignation of Laura Hawksley): Candie Bernard nominated Alyson Marcucci. Joann Liller seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Chris Liller seconded. All concurred. Alyson Marcucci was elected Treasurer for the remaining two years of the three-year term.

**Selectman** (one three-year term): Kent Young nominated Larry Bills. Greg Marcucci seconded. Chris Liller moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Allan Hicks seconded. All concurred. Larry Bills was elected Selectman for a three-year term.

Selectman (one one-year term): Kent Young nominated Al Dupell. DR Holton seconded. Kent Young moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Allan Hicks seconded. All concurred. Al Dupell was elected Selectman for a one-year term.

Selectman (one one-year term): Larry Bills nominated Kevin Robinson. Al Dupell seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. DR Holton seconded. All concurred. Kevin Robinson was elected Selectman for a one-year term.

**Planning Commissioner (one four-year term):** Kent Young nominated John Wadsworth. Allan Hicks seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Al Dupell seconded. All concurred. John Wadsworth was elected Planning Commissioner for a four-year term.

**Planning Commissioner (one four-year term):** John Wadsworth nominated Rodney Cooney. Kent Young seconded. Al Dupell moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. DR Holton seconded. All concurred. Rodney Cooney was elected Planning Commissioner for a four-year term.

Planning Commissioner (one two-year term to complete a four year term previously held by Paul Schwippert, deceased): John Wadsworth nominated George Rigoulot. Kent Young seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. DR Holton seconded. All concurred. George Rigoulot was elected Planning Commissioner for the remaining two years of a four-year term.

**Lister (one three-year term)**: Al Dupell nominated Kent Young. Larry Bills seconded. Al Dupell moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. DR Holton seconded. All concurred. Kent Young was elected Lister for a three-year term.

Auditor (one three-year term): Laura Nelson nominated Joann Liller. Al Dupell seconded. Al Dupell moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Larry Bills seconded. All concurred. Joann Liller was elected Auditor for a three-year term.

Cemetery Commissioner (one three-year term): Larry Bills nominated Chris Liller. Al Dupell seconded. Al Dupell moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Larry Bills seconded. All concurred. Chris Liller was elected Cemetery Commissioner for a three-year term.

**Delinquent Tax Collector (one one-year term)**: Kent Young nominated Candie Bernard. Al Dupell seconded. Al Dupell moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Larry Bills seconded. All concurred. Candie Bernard was elected Delinquent Tax Collector for a one-year term.

Trustee of Public Funds (one one-year term): Kent Young nominated Alyson Marcucci. Al Dupell seconded. Al Dupell moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Larry Bills seconded. All concurred. Alyson Marcucci was elected Trustee of Public Funds for a one-year term.

Constable (one one-year term): Kent Young nominated George Rigoulot. Al Dupell seconded. Larry Bills moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kevin Robinson seconded. All concurred. George Rigoulot was elected Constable for a one-year term.

Grand Juror (one one-year term): Kent Young nominated John Waite. Al Dupell seconded. Al Dupell moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. DR Holton seconded. All concurred. John Waite was elected Grand Juror for a one-year term.

**Town Agent (one one-year term)**: Joann Liller nominated John Waite. Al Dupell seconded. Al Dupell moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. DR Holton seconded. All concurred. John Waite was elected Town Agent for a one-year term.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will furnish bonds where bonds are required. Kent Young so moved. Joann Liller seconded. No discussion. All concurred and the article passed.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to borrow money on notes of the Town or otherwise in anticipation of taxes and/or current expenses. Joann Liller so moved. Al Dupell seconded. No discussion and the article passed.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following appropriation requests:

American Red Cross	500.00
Betty Boop Bus	1,500.00
Community Food Pantry	500.00
Connecticut River Transit	250.00
Grace Cottage Foundation	7,000.00
Green Up Vermont	50.00
Health Care and Rehabilitation Services	s 500.00
Historical Society of Windham County	250.00
LaMarche Scholarship Fund	500.00
Londonderry Volunteer Rescue	1,000.00
Morningside Shelter	500.00
Vermont Assoc. of Conservation Distric	ts 100.00
Senior Solutions	500.00
Valley Cares Inc.	335.00
VT Center for Independent Living	500.00
Visiting Nurse Association	600.00
Wardsboro Public Library	2,600.00
Wardsboro Volunteer Fire Association	5,000.00
Wardsboro Volunteer Rescue	3,000.00
Windham County Humane Society	500.00
Winhall Library	1,400.00
Women's Freedom Center	750.00
TOTAL	\$27,835.00

Kent Young so moved. Boomer Walker seconded. Discussion: Rona Hicks stated that the Town should increase the LaMarche Scholarship Fund, but was not sure what amount would be appropriate. She also wanted to know more about this fund. Chris Liller explained that the fund was established in memory of Mat LaMarche after he was killed. Candie Bernard said that the fund accumulates year to year and occasionally it is awarded as a scholarship to a Stratton student attending Vermont Technical College. Rona Hicks said she believes it should be open to other schools. Kent Young stated that the Town cannot change the rules of any charity, but can only respond to their request or amend the amount requested. He moved to amend the LaMarche Scholarship Fund to \$1000.00. Rona Hicks seconded. No further discussion. All concurred. The Article was amended as such, with the Appropriations Total adjusted to \$28,335.00. The Moderator asked for a motion to pass the article as amended. Georgene Matthews so moved. Boomer Walker seconded. All concurred.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of \$47,660.00 for the Stratton Mountain Volunteer Fire Company operating budget. Kent Young so moved. Larry Bills seconded. Discussion: Rona Hicks asked for an explanation of the Fire Dept. budget. Al Dupell and Ray Hawksley detailed the company's expenditures as given on pages 51 and 52 of the Town Report. No further discussion. All voted in favor of passing the article. Article 7 passed.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to approve the sum of \$40,000.00 for the Stratton Mountain Volunteer Fire Company Fire Truck Fund. Larry Bills so moved. Greg Marcucci seconded. Discussion: Kent Young stated that he recommended the Town vote down the article, since the Town approved a loan for a new fire truck last year, and so currently the Town is paying approx. \$150,000.00 per year total for two trucks, as shown on page 19 of the Town Report. He believes that the Town should wait until at least one of the new Trucks has been paid off before adding to a Fire Truck replacement fund. Ray Hawksley said that the Fire Dept. would like to start saving for the future, as well as have monies available to repair or refurbish the Trucks. Kent Young said that this was presented as a replacement fund – he thought that maintenance and repairs were part of the Fire Dept. budget. No further discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote. The Nays outnumbered the Ayes and so Article 8 was defeated.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to apply any surplus from the current fiscal year to reduce taxes in the next fiscal year. Kent Young so moved. Al Dupell seconded – all concurred and Article 9 passed.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$999,507.31.00 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the General Fund for fiscal year 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016). Larry Bills so moved. Al Dupell seconded. Discussion: Candie Bernard stated that the article needed to be amended to account for the changes to appropriations and to adjust the County Tax, which was recently set. The appropriations should be changed to \$75,995.00 due to the changes approved for Articles 6 and 8. The County Tax should be changed from \$50,000.00 to \$54,881.00 for a total General Fund amount of \$964,888.30. Al Dupell moved to so amend. Allan Hicks seconded. All concurred. The Moderator asked for a motion to approve the article as amended. Al Dupell so moved. Allan Hicks seconded and Article 10, as amended, was approved.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,076,000.00 to care for the expenses and liabilities of the Highway Fund for fiscal year 2016 (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016). Al Dupell so moved. Allan Hicks seconded. Discussion: Ray Hawksley asked what paving entailed for the coming year. Al Dupell said that Mountain Rd. from Brazers Way to Forrester Rd., as well as additional paving around the Town garage are the proposed paving projects for the coming year. DR Holton asked about the additional funds for the new Town Garage. Kent Young stated that the roof has significant leaks and the recommended repair to prevent leakage is to install a membrane across the entire surface. The estimated cost of this project is \$70,000.00, which is the amount budgeted; however, the Selectmen are also pursuing a resolution with the building manufacturer, which may alleviate some or all of the town's expense. DR Holton asked if we had overspent budgeted funds on the new garage. Greg

Marcucci answered that there had been additional unforeseen expenses, such as an issue with the heating system, which the Selectmen agreed to have reworked. That has been accomplished. With no further discussion, the Moderator asked for a voice vote on the article. The vote was for approval; therefore, Article 11 was approved.

ARTICLE 12: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. Kent Young said that he had passed around to all present an informational sheet on the requirement for Towns to charge for collecting refuse at the Transfer Station, beginning July 1, 2015. He said that the Town will likely require cash only to be accepted at the Transfer Station at the time of use. Charges will probably be by volume, with a set rate for bags or other acceptable volumes. Michael Gillott recommended that we use punch cards purchased at the Town Office, similar to the method used by Dover. Ray Hawksley questioned how this would affect the Resort. Kent Young said that the Resort is considering collecting their own refuse, as the law allows for businesses and haulers, such as the Property Managers, to hire their own dumpsters as long as they provide for collection of recyclables. Mr. Hawksley argued that the Resort, as demonstrated in past years, would not meet the intent of the law. Kent Young stated that the Resort has the choice to manage it themselves and will likely do so, as it likely will be cheaper for the Resort and / or Property Managers to dispose of their refuse in this manner rather than carrying it over the mountain and paying the Town's rates. They are still considering how to deal with the new law, as are the Selectmen, who will set a policy before the law is implemented. The Selectmen are open to suggestions regarding this issue. With no further discussion, the Moderator stated that the School Meeting needs to convene at 11:00am, and therefore, she asked for a motion to adjourn the Town Meeting.

Adjourn: Al Dupell moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:55am. Larry Bills seconded. All concurred and the meeting adjourned.

Minutes by:		Approved:
David Feet My		Lesna Sengan
Town Clerk - David Kent Young		Moderator – Diana Stugger
Approved by the Selectmen:	$\nearrow$ 1	
and I Typell	Cf in	
Albert Dupell	Chris Liller	\$
ALR-	Huythun	<u></u>
Larry Bills	Greg Marcucci	
The Both	J	
Kevin Robinson		

# TOWN OF STRATTON Minutes of the ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING March 3, 2015

The legal voters of the Town of Stratton, Vermont met as warned at the Town Hall in said town on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 11:00am. Diana Stugger called the meeting to order. The Clerk took the roll. Initially, 33 voters were present, requiring a 17-vote majority. Later, two additional voters arrived, increasing those present to 35 and the majority of votes required to 18.

The Moderator read the opening statement of the Warning to act on the following Articles:

- ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year, as required by law. Siobhan Eddy Young nominated Diana Stugger. Al Dupell seconded. Al Dupell moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Larry Bills seconded. All concurred and Diana Stugger was elected Moderator.
- ARTICLE 2: To elect all Stratton School District Officers, as required by law School District Director (One three-year term): Siobhan Eddy Young nominated Tom Montemagni. Al Dupell seconded. Al Dupell moved to close nominations and have the Clerk cast one ballot. Kent Young seconded. All concurred and Tom Montemagni was elected School Director for a three-year term.
- ARTICLE 3: To set the Annual 2015-2016 tuition rate to The Mountain School at Winhall up to the amount of \$14,950 per pupil for students in grades K-8, who are residents of the school district pursuant to VSA T.16 sections 823 & 828. Kent Young so moved. Al Dupell seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote to approve the Article. All were in favor and so Article 3 passed.
- ARTICLE 4: To set the Annual 2015-2016 K-6 tuition rate to all other private or approved independent schools up to the announced Vermont Union Elementary School tuition rate for students in grades K-6, excluding those students covered in Article 3, who are residents of the school district. Kent Young so moved. Al Dupell seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote to approve the Article. All were in favor and so Article 4 passed.
- ARTICLE 5: To set the Annual 2015-2016 tuition rate to Burr & Burton Academy up to the amount of \$15,950.00 per pupil for students in grades 9-12, who are residents of the school district. Sally Wadsworth so moved. Larry Bills seconded. No discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote to approve the Article. All were in favor and so Article 5 passed.
- ARTICLE 6: To set the Annual 2015-2016 tuition rate to all other private or approved independent schools up to the annuanced Vermont Union High School tuition rate for students in grades 7–12, excluding those students covered in Article 3 and Article 5, who are residents of the school district. Al Dupell so moved. Kent Young seconded. Discussion: Siobhan Eddy Young explained that the State average was not yet available, so the School Board used a recommended 4% increase to determine the budget amount. No further discussion. The Moderator asked for a voice vote to approve the Article. All were in favor and so Article 6 passed.

ARTICLE 7: To authorize the School Board to expend \$611,903.00 to defray expenses and liabilities for the 2015-2016 school year. Kent Young so moved. DR Holton seconded. The Moderator asked for a voice vote to approve the Article. All were in favor and so Article 7 passed.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will authorize the School Directors to borrow money for the school district in anticipation of taxes and state money allocated to the district. Al Dupell so moved. Larry Bills seconded. The Moderator asked for a voice vote to approve the Article. All were in favor and so Article 8 passed.

ARTICLE 9: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. Kent Young said that the Homestead Education Tax Rate calculation, using the approved budget has dropped considerably – it appears it will be 10 cents lower than last year due to a combination of factors, including the student average, the use of PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) from the Federal government for the vast amount of National Forest within the Town of Stratton (these funds are now applied directly to the school budget), as well as revenue from leasing school district property. It appears, therefore, that the rate will be only two cents higher than the non-resident rate of the coming fiscal year. Income sensitive households will also get the benefit of having their reductions calculated using the higher previous year's rate.

On a somber note, Diana Stugger expressed her condolences to the families of three of our deceased residents, whom had passed away in the last year. She directed the assembly to the inside cover page in the Town Report and thanked Joann Liller for her-eloquent Memorial of those deceased residents written there. Kent Young added that if anyone was willing to give up their copy of the Town Report, Diane Schwippert would like extra copies for the Memorial, to distribute to friends and family of her late husband, Paul Schwippert.

Adjourn: With no further business, the Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn. Al Dupell so moved. Larry Bills seconded. All concurred and the meeting adjourned at 11:20am.

Town Clerk - David Kent Young

Approved by the Stratton School Directors:

Thomas Montenagni

Siobhan Eddy Young

Minutes by:

Approved

Janua Stugger

Moderator – Diana Stugger

## IMPACT SHEET: WINDHAM COUNTY



#### **American Red Cross**

New Hampshire and Vermont Region

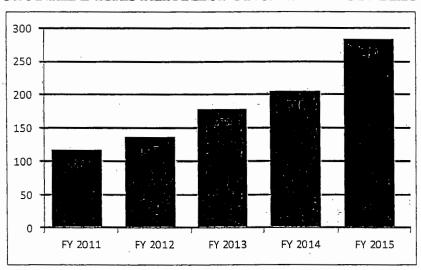
#### MISSION:

The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

#### DISASTER SERVICES:

The Red Cross provides planning, preparedness, and relief from disasters in the Vermont and New Hampshire Region. These services are coordinated by a network of trained and dedicated volunteers who address issues as divergent as fires, floods and storms. From individuals needing clothing, food, and overnight shelter to first responders needing on-scene support, to whole communities needing shelters and bulk food distribution, the Red Cross is there to help.

#### REGIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE RATE ON THE RISE:



#### DID YOU KNOW:

- Every 32 hours Red Cross staff and volunteers are in the field assisting a Vermont family who've been displaced by disaster, most commonly home fires.
- Assistance for the average family of 4 with food, clothing, lodging, transportation and referral services **costs between \$600—\$800**.
- In addition to family assistance, the American Red Cross reports to disaster sites to support **Vermont First Responders** with food, hydration and hot beverages.
- The American Red Cross receives no Federal funding. The ability to support Vermonters during disasters is made possible only through the generosity of donors and the time and talent of our volunteers.









#### **OUR FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES:**

Humanity | Impartiality | Neutrality | Independence | Voluntary Service | Unity | Universality

#### Animal Control 200 Vermont Route 30 Bondville VT 05340

Cell: 802-688-4020

#### Annual Report for the Town of Stratton

Animal Control Officer: Patrick Salo

The Animal Control Officer is responsible for the enforcement of the Vermont State Laws pertaining to animals. The officer responds to complaints of violations of Animal Control laws by telephone or police dispatch. The officer also investigates complaints of vicious, diseased, neglected or abused animals. Impounded animals are cared for at the officer's kennel. Unclaimed animals are carefully evaluated before being placed for adoption.

The Animal Control Department makes every effort to insure that all functions of the department are carried out in the most economical manner with cost savings in mind, while providing the highest degree of professional service to the townspeople. The Animal Control Officer provides assistance to the community so that animals and people can co-exist safely and peacefully.

Reminder: All dogs six months and older must be licensed. Dog Licenses are issued in the Town Clerk's Office. Proof of current rabies vaccination must be shown and if the dog is spayed or neutered a veterinarian certificate must be shown.

Unlicensed dogs: The animal control officer is responsible for the enforcement of the dog licensing laws. A dog without tags will be considered unlicensed and unvaccinated and fines may be issued.

### BURR AND BURTON ACADEMY



OFFICE OF THE HEADMASTER

January 6, 2016

Dear Sending Town Communities:

We are pleased to submit our tuition for the 2016-2017 school year. With the pressures of the allowable growth rates under Act 46 and the challenges faced by our sending schools and communities, we have set our tuition at \$16,250, an increase of 1.88%, despite contracted faculty salary increases of 2.8% and benefits increasing roughly 8%. We recognize that our sending schools face the same difficult economics that we face, and we are seeking to alleviate some of their financial pressures.

In considering our tuition, we call your attention to a few points:

- We are most proud of the quality of our faculty and their dedication to students. Meaningful
  teacher-student relationships are one of the hallmarks of this school, and we are able to attract
  and retain unusually skilled teachers in no small part thanks to the support of our sending
  communities.
- We remain fully committed to superb programming in academics, athletics and the creative arts, ensuring that BBA students benefit from tremendous learning experiences and opportunities inside and outside the classroom.
- We continue to raise significant capital dollars to support infrastructure growth. In the past five years, thanks to private donations, we have installed a world-class turf field, launched the Mountain Campus program in environmental studies, launched the Student Success Program to support the aspirations of first-generation college bound students, and put iPads in the hands of every student and teacher. Just this past year, we invested in the Target program, created a STEAM lab maker space, and, in partnership with Hildene, are launching a program in food systems and agricultural studies housed in their newly constructed, state-of-the-art greenhouse.
- Along with infrastructure investment, our team of educators constantly thinks about ways to
  improve our curriculum and teaching. This year, along with a variety of other steps forward, we
  have instituted Flex Block, which give students the responsibility and flexibility to maximize
  their use of time, seek extra help, and find enrichment opportunities.
- We augment our tuition with \$700,000 in endowment draw, \$2 million in international student revenues, and \$1 million in annual fundraising. These added sources of revenue ensure that we are able to provide programs and services that far exceed what would be possible on tuition dollars alone.

BBA cherishes its relationship with our sending communities. We seek to be an important resource, a reason that people want to live in our communities, and a source of strength and pride for all. Thank you very much for your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark H. Tashjia

admaster

Seth B. Bongartz
Chair. Board of Trustees

#### COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Providing supplemental food to households in need

Annual Report to the Town of Stratton · 2015

On behalf of the board and volunteers of the Community Food Pantry, as well as the many citizens of our communities who benefit directly from your generosity, I wish to thank the Town of Stratton for its continued support of our service. Hunger exists in every community and in every corner of Vermont. Hunger affects our children and our senior citizens. It affects those who by illness or circumstance find themselves in crisis. It can affect you; your mother or your sister; your child's best friend. It affects your neighbors. It is the continuing mission of the Community Food Pantry "to provide supplemental food to households in need". Our service provides assistance to anyone who asks — no requirements, no questions asked. We are confidential, supportive and non-judgmental. Hunger has no place in our community.

In 2015 we have continued to see many young adults seeking our service. Many of these have low-paying and/or seasonal employment. Most live in households where two or three are living together in an effort to share rent and expenses. We continue to see families, the elderly and disabled among our regular visitors. On average, we are serving approximately 80 households per month, representing about 200 individuals (based on two distributions per month). Our 2015 Thanksgiving holiday was at par with last year, serving 56 households (170 individuals). For the 2015 Christmas holiday we served 47 households (100 individuals). Our Christmas distribution was down significantly from 2015, in part indicating a lack of participation on the part of both young adults and seniors living alone.

The generosity of our communities, the good people of Jamaica, Wardsboro, Stratton and beyond helps keep us going. In 2015 additional assistance was received from the Stratton Foundation's Vermont Challenge and the Stratton Resort. We are truly blessed to live in a place where neighbors truly help neighbors.

Looking ahead, we are proud to announce that we have received a grant from the Vermont Foodbank to assist us in an effort to promote and increase the availability of fresh produce for our clients. Recipes and cooking demonstrations will become part of our offerings during 2016.

The Community Food Pantry is open on the second and last Wednesday of every month from 6:30 until 8 PM and is located in the Vestry of the Wardsboro Yoked Parish. Special distributions are scheduled for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Our volunteers respond to food emergencies and give consideration to special dietary requirements.

Thank you for supporting your Community Food Pantry.

Elaine Beckwith Coordinator

The Community Food Pantry is a 501(c)3 organization and a network partner of the Vermont Foodbank.

www.communityfoodpantryvt.org



#### Town Report for Stratton FY17

Connecticut River Transit (CRT/The Current) has been southern Windsor and Windham County's public transit provider since 2003. Our mission is to provide a safe, reliable and efficient transportation system that supports economic opportunity and quality of life for the communities we serve. In 2015 CRT consolidated with Deerfield Valley Transit Association (DVTA), The MOOver, based in Wilmington and became Southeast Vermont Transit, Inc. (SEVT) and is now comprised of two divisions, The Current and The MOOver. The consolidation has strengthened both companies and built a stronger foundation to improve transit service in southeastern Vermont. The consolidation has leveraged the strengths of each organization to improve service delivery and customer service; reduced duplicate tasks; and produce a stronger, more financially sustainable regional system.

The Current operates fixed route, Elderly and Disabled, and non-emergency medical transportation services through its fleet of 35 buses and network of over 70 volunteer drivers. Last year The Current provided 161,539 rides, over the course of 45,475 hours and 3,736,428 miles.

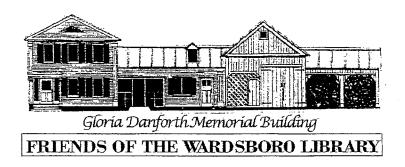
**Stratton** is served by a Dial-A-Ride service which includes medical rides for the elderly, disabled and for children and families who receive Medicaid.

We operate on a blend of federal, state, and local funding. *Stratton's* \$250 contribution in 2015 was critical to providing the town our services because local funding allows us to draw down federal funds. We are asking *Stratton* to please consider a \$250 contribution for 2016.

All existing Current services and routes will operate as they are now. There will be no change to *Stratton's* service levels or the variety of transportation options The Current provides. *Stratton's* contribution will stay local to support its residents and visitors. Guaranteed.

We thank the town for their previous support, and hope that you will support our 2016 funding request. Please contact us by email (<u>rgagnon@crtransit.org</u>); phone (802) 460-7433 x 201; or visit us at <u>www.crtransit.org</u> to let us know how The Current may improve service in your community. "





The Friends of the Wardsboro Library (Friends) organized a full schedule of fundraising events in 2015. These included the Annual Plant Sale, a booth at the July 4th Parade, an Art, Antiques and Collectables Show and Sale, the Best Ever Raffle, a House and Garden Tour and the famous Gilfeather Turnip Festival. which ended our successful season. In addition, thanks to generous donors, our Annual Appeal exceeded our budgeted goal. Other initiatives involved an Art Committee, a collaboration of members of the Friends and The Library Trustees, which promoted local artists by coordinating monthly art exhibits in the library. With the help of students from the Wardsboro Elementary School, the Friends endorsed Wardsboro's own Gilfeather turnip to become the state vegetable. We are hopeful that bill H.65 is recommended by the Vermont House Agriculture and Forest Committee for a vote by the Vermont legislature to become law.

2015 was an expensive year for building repairs and improvements. A roof ice dam and water leakage from the harsh winter resulted in a major repair to the ceiling. A new section of the existing roof on the backside of the farmhouse was installed. Additional lighting was added to a poorly lit section of the library barn.

All of the fundraising events, building maintenance and improvements are made possible with the support of eager volunteers, generous donors, charitable business sponsors and supportive townsfolk. The efforts of many volunteers have created an outstanding cultural facility open to all in Wardsboro and our neighboring communities. In appreciation of our many donors and supporters, the Friends of the Wardsboro Library will, in 2016, remain committed to our mission to support and maintain the Wardsboro Public Library.

The Friends of the Wardsboro Library is a 501(c) 3 corporation registered with the IRS and the state of Vermont. The all volunteer, nonprofit organization is dedicated to supporting and advocating for the library, fundraising to pay for the maintenance and rehabilitation of the library building and sponsoring activities that contribute to the cultural life of the town and surrounding communities.

The Board of Directors for 2015 seated: Chairperson Kathleen Meeks; Vice Chairperson Cris Tarnay; Secretary Alison Williams; Treasurer Carol Fay; Directors Michael Cooney, Nancy Ferrucci, Linda Gifkins, Christel Holden, Sally Wadsworth.

Minutes and financials may be reviewed by request

Respectfully Submitted by the Officers and Board of Directors of the Friends of the Wardsboro Library



"Grace Cottage saved my life after I had a massive heart attack, and then they taught me how to walk again after I lost a leg to deep vein thrombosis. Their professionalism and friendliness is outstanding."
-- John Allen, Wardsboro

Since 1949, Grace Cottage has existed for one purpose: to serve the health care needs of our rural community with competence and compassion. At Grace Cottage, our mission is to relieve suffering, restore health, and promote wellness.

Grace Cottage Hospital is comprised of a 19-bed inpatient facility for acute and rehabilitative care, a 24-hour emergency department, a palliative care suite, and laboratory and diagnostic imaging departments. In 2015, through donations, we constructed a new hospital entrance and a new reception area to improve accessibility and comfort.

Grace Cottage Family Health offers chronic disease management, pediatrics, podiatry, urology, and mental health services, along with general family medicine. In 2015, we welcomed five new providers including a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine and a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. We also expanded our hours for the convenience of our patients.

Two years ago, through the Vermont Blueprint for Health Initiative, we created a **Community Health Team** at Grace Cottage Family Health. In 2015, we secured private funding to greatly expand this department which offers valuable, free services to area residents such as nutrition and lifestyle education, short-term mental health/substance abuse assessment, assistance with applying for health insurance, help in connecting to community resources, and more.

Our **Rehabilitation Department** continues to offer exceptional care to both hospital patients and outpatients with sixteen physical, occupational and speech therapists.

Grace Cottage is committed to promoting wellness in the region and encourages residents to take advantage of our subsidized classes and events. Weekly classes such as yoga and Strong Bones are held in the beautiful and serene **Community Wellness Center**. Programs such as Driver Safety and Smoking Cessation are held on a regular basis. A schedule can be found on our new and improved website.

Messenger Valley Pharmacy, owned by Grace Cottage, continues to provide convenient prescription fulfillment with expert advice. Many over-the-counter items, gifts and cards are also available.

Private donations and town appropriations enable us to provide the best possible care for our region. On behalf of the 168 full and part-time employees that make Grace Cottage what it is, **thank you for your support.** 

Grace Cottage is a non-profit 501(C)3 organization. 185 Grafton Road, Townshend, VT 05353. 802-365-7357 www.gracecottage.org

#### FY 2015, by the numbers:

**22,091:** Patient visits to Grace Cottage Family Health

3,872: Patient days in hospital

**2,992:** Emergency room visits

5,304: Out-patient rehab visits

1,591: Diagnostic imaging visits

1,362: Community Health Team visits

56,190: Prescriptions filled

**3,246:** Visits to Wellness classes and events

**2,060:** Individual donations to Grace Cottage



#### Groundworks Collaborative

Groundworks Collaborative was established in 2015 as a result of the merger of two well-established organizations: the Brattleboro Area Drop In Center and Morningside Shelter (having been in existence for 27 and 36 years respectively). Groundworks Collaborative provides ongoing support to families and individuals facing a full continuum of housing and food insecurities in the greater Brattleboro area. In addition to our Changeworks advocacy work, the following are our direct service programs:

- Groundworks Food Shelf is the second largest in the state of Vermont. Open Mondays,
   Wednesdays, and Fridays, the food shelf serves an average of 90 households each day.
- Groundworks Shelter is a year-round 30-bed shelter for families and individuals. The Shelter
  offers an extended stay and offers all residents intensive case management, working
  collaboratively with area non-profit and public agencies to help people connect to a wide
  range of services including: job training and placement, medical and mental health treatment,
  family and substance abuse counseling, budget management, nutrition, health education,
  parenting and child care services, and assistance in identifying and applying for subsidized
  housing opportunities. Groundworks Shelter operates at capacity throughout the year and
  maintains a waiting list for entry.
- Groundworks Seasonal Overflow Shelter Open from November through the end of April, the Groundworks Seasonal Overflow Shelter provides a warm place to sleep and a hot meal each night for those experiencing homelessness in our community.
- Groundworks Day Shelter Groundworks provides a safe place where our neighbors
  experiencing homelessness can come in out of the weather and access services such as email,
  telephones, laundry, showers, coffee and snacks, as well as a kitchen to prepare a meal,
  donated clothing, books, toys and other household items.
- The Youth Shelter Collaborative is an innovative response to youth homelessness; providing a cost-effective, supervised, three-bedroom shelter space in Bellows Falls, VT for which Groundworks holds the lease and case management is provided by Youth Services.
- Intensive Case Management Our team of case managers work with people who are
  currently and formerly experiencing homelessness to help them find and/or maintain stable
  housing. For many of the families and individuals with whom we work, our case management
  model includes weekly home visits to ensure that clients are setting and meeting goals to
  address the challenges that may have led to their homelessness.
- Crisis Case Management Our case management team work together to ensure that even
  those with short-term needs can utilize supports through Groundworks. Case managers
  rotate at the South Main Street location, to ensure that no one in need will be turned away
  from accessing supports for immediate needs.
- The Representative Payee Program provides financial management by serving as an intermediary between those receiving Social Security disability payments and their benefits. The program ensures that rent and basic living expenses are paid before spending money is disbursed to clients, which keeps participants in good financial standing, thereby preventing future threat of homelessness.

#### Health Care & Rehabilitation Services Narrative Report for FY15 for Town of Stratton

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

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

## Request for Support from the Town of Stratton

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont (HCRS) requests an appropriation of \$500.00 from the Town of Stratton at the 2016 Town Meeting to help defray the cost of services to its residents for the Mental Health Walk-In Clinic. In the year ending June 30, 2015, our agency provided a comprehensive range of community based services to 4,351 residents of Windsor and Windham counties. The services that are available to the residents of your community are:

Adult Mental Health and Addiction Services: HCRS offers comprehensive services for adults who are experiencing mental health and/or substance abuse difficulties. Adult services include assessment, treatment including individual, group, couples, and family counseling, referral services, and limited psychiatric services. It is the philosophy of HCRS that people are resilient and therefore capable of overcoming difficult experiences and recovering from mental illness and substance abuse. HCRS is committed to building on the strengths of the individuals and families of whom we serve. Our goal is to help clients and their families achieve improved wellness, health, and quality of life while addressing their mental health and substance abuse needs.

Children, Youth, and Families Program: The Children's Division provides a comprehensive system of care for youth experiencing emotional, behavioral, developmental, or substance use difficulties in their life, as well as education and support for family members. We offer many services for youth and their families including psychiatry, counseling, case management, respite and case aid services, school-based services, behavioral consultation services, summer therapeutic programs, crisis response and emergency respite services, a mental health program specifically for young children up to six years old, and an employment assistance program for youth in transition who have significant emotional disturbances.

**Developmental Services (DS):** The DS program provides services to people with developmental disabilities and their families. Services are available to people of all ages who have been found eligible, and each person being served receives an individually written program to meet his or her needs. Children with a developmental disability are served through a collaboration with the Children's Division.

**Residential Services:** Residential Services offers residential care from short term crisis stabilization, to intensive residential care, to therapeutic community residential services. Each program is specifically designed to offer individuals the appropriate level of care to support their personal recovery and wellness needs. The Residential continuum of care is comprised of a total of 38 beds spanning five individual programs.

*Emergency Services:* The Emergency Services Team has a very specific mission to act quickly in critical situations. Specially trained mental health professionals are available 24 hours a day for emergencies. Anyone may use this service when an emergency arises including individuals of any age, family or friends of an individual in crisis, hospitals and nursing homes, police, schools, clergy, businesses, and other community agencies.

We thank the Board and the citizens of Stratton for your past support and for your continued interest in Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont.

## For inclusion in 2015 Town Report:

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WINDHAM COUNTY

The Historical Society of Windham County was founded in 1926 to preserve our County's history for present and future generations.

In 1936, the Museum was built in Newfane to house the extensive collection that came from all the towns in the County. This now contains over 7,000 artifacts which are displayed in changing interpretative exhibits. The Museum's archives of manuscripts and documents are also available for research or special interests. School visits are encouraged.

In 2014, the Historical Society purchased the 1880 Railroad Station in Newfane — one of ten depots along the West River Railroad which ran from Brattleboro to South Londonderry. The Historical Society plans to create a Museum of the West River Railroad and annex of the current Museum. Restoration of the Railroad Depot began in 2015.

We hope you share our belief that all our towns would be poorer if our rich local history was ever lost. Your support will help us to maintain the collection and continue our policy of free admission. We are open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from Noon to 5:00, from Memorial Day weekend until mid-October. Please visit our website for more information: <a href="https://www.historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org">www.historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org</a>.

Thank you.

## ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

The Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad responded to 443 calls in 2015. This is down from a record high of 501 calls last year. The location of these calls are as follows: 5 in Andover, 23 in Jamaica, 12 in Landgrove, 102 in Londonderry, 55 in South Londonderry, 36 in Peru, 13 in Stratton, 84 in Weston, 16 in Windham, 49 in Winhall, 1 in Ludlow, 2 in Townshend, 1 in Manchester and 1 in Chester. There were 56 calls at the following ski areas: 21 at Bromley, 17 at Stratton, and 5 at Magic Mountain.

Of these calls: 216 were illnesses, 114 injuries, 47 motor vehicle accidents, 15 stand-by calls, and 51 public assists. We responded to 19 mutual aid calls, while 32 calls resulted in other services coming to our aid. Our members initiated Advanced Life Support measures and interventions on over 140 calls. These interventions includes: starting 122 pre-hospital IV's, cardiac defibrillations, and administration of albuterol, epinephrine, narcan, aspirin, nitroglycerin, morphine, fentanyl, and dextrose (D50). We used a Paramedic Intercept service 3 times and called in the DHART helicopter 5 times. Sixty-six percent of our calls were daytime calls between the hours of 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Of the patients we transported, 34 were younger than 18 years of age while 197 patients were over 65.

We have purchased two (2) Zoll X series heart monitors for a cost of \$51,698.75. These monitors not only do 4 and 12 lead EKG's, but gives us the patient's heart rate, blood pressure, SAO2 reading (amount of oxygen in the blood), respirations, capnography (carbon dioxide levels), tells us if we are doing effective CPR, and more. We saved a life by shocking a patient this past year using one of the monitors.

Our Squad membership is down to thirty-seven members, from a high of 47 members. Eight of these members are ambulance drivers with CPR training, two Emergency Medical Responders, ten Emergency Medical Technicians, eleven Advance Emergency Medical Technicians, and six Paramedics. The great news is that we have just completed an Emergency Medical Responder course with sixteen people at our building. We are expecting at least eight members from this course joining our Squad.

Within our squad we have our Londonderry Technical Rescue which does all of the vehicle extrications, back country rescues, cold water rescues, low angle rescues, etc. in our coverage area. This department is also growing, with 31 members, up from twenty-nine members last year.

Please go to our completely new and updated website at (londonderryrescuevt.org) to check us out. You can find our contact information, a list of officers and members, the history of LVRS, you can down load our joining applications and even give donations online.

LVRS often encounters two problems that you can help us out with. Our GPS's are helping with this, but one of our greatest concerns is finding the location of calls. Often valuable time is lost having to go house-to-house looking for the right location because of the lack of numbers, or numbers on houses that we cannot see. We urge everyone to post their 911 numbers on mail boxes or sign posts next to the road, we can't see them posted on houses in the middle of the night, or those covered with snow in winter. The other problem that we often encounter is the lack of information we receive from patients. Often patients in distress can't remember what medications they are on, or what they are being treated for. Each of you can help us out by just creating a simple list that includes such things as your name, mailing address, date of birth, past and current medical treatments and/or conditions, and a list of your current medications. Please have this list available so that it's handy when we arrive on scene. It's your life that we can save with this knowledge.

The Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad is a licensed Paramedic Service. We are a highly trained, professional Squad that is run completely by volunteers. I want to thank our members and their families for the time, commitment, and sacrifices that they have made in taking our Squad to the level that it has achieved. LVRS is the only transporting ambulance service in the State of Vermont that does not bill for any of our transports or services. This is only made possible by the continued generosity and support of the communities and the residents that we serve.

Thank You,

William "Pete" Cobb Jr. President, LVRS

## TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year 2015, the Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad had expenses totaling \$116,617.64. There were 443 calls at an average expense of \$263.25 per call.

Vicky Collingwood Treasurer, LVRS



Rescue Inc is excited to provide emergency medical response and transportation in your community. As a local non-profit we have been providing high quality, cost effective care to this region for fifty years. As a recognized leader in the field, Rescue has always strived to provide risk appropriate response at the highest levels possible. This dedication to excellence is shared by the men and women who work twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to ensure an ambulance shows up at your door in your moment of need. Annually our staff of forty-six licensed EMT, AEMT and Paramedics respond to more than 5200 calls that range from car accidents to critical care transports from one hospital to another. Today we provide this service with a fleet of seven ambulances hased in Townshend and Brattleboro.

Our mission and commitment have remained constant over the years, although medicine and our health care system have changed drastically. In recent years, national scope of practice has improved patient treatment from basic first aid and CPR to complex medical procedures that now require us to carry dozens of medications, medication pumps and sophisticated monitors that evaluate breathing, blood pressure, heart rate and other factors important to treatment during emergencies. Our advanced medical treatment is most dependent upon highly trained EMT's and Paramedics. Our regional American Heart Association training center uses advanced patient simulators to train local nurses, doctors and paramedics in the up-to-date assessment and treatment of critical cardiac and stroke patients. We also provide CPR / first aid classes to thousands of local community members.

We thank our member towns for their continued support. Annual contributions from each of the towns we serve help offset the growing number of patients that are uninsured or insured through state and federal programs that do not reimburse enough to cover the cost of the treatment provided. This is a growing problem that we are working on with local legislators to prevent more cost shifting onto local tax payers.

This year Rescue will again raise the bar for delivery of EMS with the expansion of our critical care treatment protocols and introduction of new equipment. These changes are needed to meet the needs of complex medical patients in our region and ensure the highest level of prehospital treatment is there when you need it. We are in the process of a capital building campaign that will allow us to modernize our Brattleboro facility to provide more training space and construct a new station to serve the West River Valley.

We are celebrating 50 years! Watch for our open house announcement in the spring; we would love to show you around.



Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont

## ANNUAL REPORT

Senior Solutions-- Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont offers support services to elders and their families. Our mission is to promote successful aging. This is a summary of services provided to **Stratton** in the last year (2014-2015).

<u>Information and Assistance</u>: Our toll-free Senior Helpline at 1-800-642-5119 answered <u>27</u> calls from your town. The HelpLine offers assistance with applying for benefits, solving health insurance problems, accessing resources related to housing needs, fuel assistance, mental health, legal aid and many other services. Extensive resources are also detailed at www.SeniorSolutionsVT.org

<u>Health Insurance</u>: We helped <u>5</u> residents with Medicare Part D or Advantage Plan enrollment or other Medicare related questions.

<u>Senior Nutrition</u>: We offer congregate community meals in Jamaica, Townshend and Londonderry (May through October) through partnerships with community members. A Registered Dietician is available to offer nutritional counseling when appropriate.

<u>Transportation</u>: Special arrangements are made for non-Medicaid seniors who require medical transportation.

Case Management & Advocacy: We provided  $\underline{1}$  elder resident with in-home case management to enable them to remain living safely in the setting they prefer. Often a few well-chosen support services can prevent premature institutionalization.

<u>Caregiver Respite</u>: Through grants we provide respite assistance for caregivers of those diagnosed with dementia or other chronic diseases.

Your contribution generates Federal matching funds to support our services. We do not charge for any of our services. Your town's support is greatly appreciated.

Submitted by Carol Stamatakis, Executive Director





Developing the Economic Landscape

November 9, 2015

Town Administrator, Town of Stratton 9 West Jamaica Road Stratton, Vermont 05360

#### Stratton Selectboard Members:

Starting in 2007 as a grassroots effort looking to expand broadband in Southeastern Vermont, SeVEDS mission is to reverse the economic decline of the Windham Region. Many of Windham County's economic indicators have been stagnant or declining for 20 years including population, GDP, and educational attainment while average annual wages have not kept pace with our neighboring counties or the State of Vermont.

In 2012, SeVEDS board and staff members have been invited to attend meetings with selectboards and town officials in towns throughout southern Vermont. This has been a tremendous experience for us, and a great opportunity for towns to learn more about the progress of regional economic development efforts underway. Those efforts include: the growing success of our regional paid college internship program, our expanding work with the regional middle and high schools on increasing students awareness of the existing job opportunities in the region, the kick off of our fully funded Green Building & Services Cluster Analysis and Southern Vermont business Accelerator programs which will support the start-up of new businesses and business ideas. All of these efforts are focused on helping employers find qualified workers and on supporting the creation of new jobs throughout the region.

We have found enthusiasm for these efforts in almost every selectboard and town meeting we have been to. The voters in the region's municipalities have financially supported our workforce development efforts including the Internship program, the Southern Vermont Young Professionals program, the Employer workforce committee, the development of the Six Colleges website, and a five year hiring projection conducted in 2014. The support of our regional municipalities — our single stumbling block was the petitioning process required to get on some Town Meeting warnings. Since 2013, we have raised just under one hundred fifty thousand dollars in municipal funds from the following towns: Brattleboro, Dover, Londonderry, Marlboro Newfane, Putney, Rockingham, Vernon, Weston, and Wilmington.

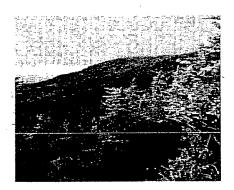
We are again asking all towns to contribute towards this regional economic development effort at the rate of \$3.00 per person, based on town population. We are asking the Town of Stratton to include an article on its 2016 Town Meeting Warning to: appropriate \$648.00 (based on population of 216) to support continued implementation of the Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies Effort.

SeVEDS is affiliated with the Windham Region's Development Corporation; BDCC, and receives funding from both the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development and BDCC. We are proud to say our board of directors is diverse in age and geography within the Windham Region, and represent majority private sector.

BDCC recently sent your town information on accessing the Windham County Economic Development Program which has been funded by the state of Vermont entergy nuclear power plant settlement. In addition to the SeVEDS regional economy update, we would like to present how businesses and non-profits in your community can access this program and funding.







## **Green Mountain National Forest**

2015 - 2016 Town Meeting Report

The employees of the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) depend heavily on support from the many municipalities, volunteers, partners and contractors that help us accomplish our robust program of work every year. We would like to take this time to thank you and your community for your support and the interest that you have shown in helping us manage the more than 400,000 acre GMNF which several million outdoor recreation enthusiasts enjoy and is critical our local economy. We are proud that the GMNF is part of Vermont and part of your town. It is truly one of Vermont's treasures and the largest contiguous public land area in the state. Our staff works hard to achieve quality public land management under a sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of the people -- people in your town as well as all of the visitors who come to Vermont every year. Below is a brief summary of what happened in your National Forest throughout the past year:

## Land Acquisition

The Forest grew by 144 acres through the acquisition and donation of lands in the Towns of <u>Bristol</u>, Manchester, and <u>Dorset</u>.

## Heritage Program

In partnership with the Vermont Archaeological Society (VAS), the Forest Heritage Program was able to complete a number of important stabilization projects at various historic cemeteries in and adjacent to the Forest. These "Remember Me As You Pass By" projects consist of vegetation management as well as stabilization and repair.

Other partner projects included artifact analysis conducted by University of Vermont (UVM) Consulting Archaeology Program, VAS, and the Forest. This collaboration involved analyzing thousands of artifacts collected at the multi-year Homerstone Quartzite Quarry Project near Little Rock Pond. Other highlights include:

• The Forest Archaeologist gave presentations in the Towns of <u>Chittenden</u> and <u>Charlotte</u> as part of Vermont Archaeology Month (September).

- The Forest Archaeologist assisted the faculty of Barstow Memorial School in <u>Chittenden</u> to teach students about the history of Lefferts Pond.
- The Forest Archaeologist participated in an interpretive hike to the "Old Job" historical site in the vicinity of Mount Tabor as part of Vermont Archaeology Month.
- The Forest Archaeologist collaborated with Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) to rehabilitate the historic <u>Somerset</u> Schoolhouse, a one room building constructed in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Road, Dam, & Facility Construction & Maintenance

In cooperation with local Towns, Regional Planning Commissions, Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), and local contractors the GMNF Engineering staff repaired and maintained many roads, bridges, trails, and other facilities. Some highlights are as follows:

Forest Road Transportation Planning: Completed a travel analysis for the entire Forest road system.

Forest Facility Improvements & Maintenance: Completed on-going routine maintenance and repairs of Forest buildings and other infrastructure as well as out-year planning, design, and preparation for facility improvements. We worked to complete an energy retrofit for a portion of the Manchester Ranger District Office and decommissioned out dated facilities that are no longer in use at recreation sites including pit toilets and a recreation cabin.

Forest Road Cooperative Aid to Towns: Completed important road improvement and maintenance projects in the Towns of Goshen, Granville, Hancock, Rochester, and Mount Tabor. This included the replacement of bridge 1 in the Town of Mount Tabor through an agreement with the Town, Forest Service, VTrans and Federal Highway Administration.

<u>Forest Road Improvement Projects</u>: Improved 0.3 miles of National Forest System roads in the Towns of <u>Chittenden</u>, <u>Goshen</u>, <u>Hancock</u>, <u>Peru</u>, <u>Ripton</u>, <u>Rochester</u>, <u>Stamford</u>, <u>Stratton</u> and <u>Woodford</u>. This work included the replacement of culverts, stabilization of embankments and resurfacing of roads.

Forest Road Maintenance: Maintained 76.93 miles of National Forest System roads in the Towns of Ripton, Rochester, Chittenden, Goshen, Lincoln, Hancock, Mount Tabor, Peru, Somerset, Sunderland, Woodford, Winhall, Stamford, Wallingford, and Readsboro. This work included grading, ditching, culvert cleaning, and brushing.

Road-Stream Crossing Improvements: Completed an Aquatic Organism Passage project in the Town of Peru.

<u>Road Decommissioning</u>: Decommissioned 2.6 miles of heavily storm damaged road, Forest Road 49, in Hancock.

## Recreation Programs

The following accomplishments highlight 2015 Recreation and Trail Program successes in acknowledgement of the outstanding collaborative effort exhibited between Forest Service employees, partner organizations, volunteers, State and local government representatives, and local businesses. The Forest Service relies on a community of collaboration and wishes to thank all of our partners, such as: Vermont Backcountry Alliance (VTBC), Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST), VYCC, Rochester Area Sports Trail Alliance (RASTA), Vermont Mountain Bike Association (VMBA), Green Mountain Club (GMC), Catamount Trail Association (CTA), Counseling Service of Addison County, Middlebury High School Diversified

Occupations Program, Moosalamoo Association, Manchester and the Mountains Bike Club (MMBC), Vermont Trail Trotters (VTT), and many more.

With the help of the many hard-working volunteers and organizations we are able to provide a quality recreation experience in alignment with a strong environmental stewardship ethic. The following highlights capture large program accomplishments but represent only a portion of the annual work that is completed to develop, improve and maintain recreational opportunities on the GMNF:

## Forest-wide:

- Local business owners, community members, and partners participated in a service-learning trip for ten students from the Lexington School for the Deaf in Queens, New York. While residing at a local dairy farm, the students were exposed to rural life as well as management of public lands.
- Analysis was completed to designate multiple trails for fat bike use in the Towns of <u>Chittenden</u>, <u>Pittsfield</u>, <u>Rochester</u>, <u>Goshen</u>, <u>Ripton</u>, and <u>Warren</u>.
- Signage improvements were completed across the National Forest. Popular destinations, such as
  Warren Falls and Blueberry Lake in <u>Warren</u> or Peavine Day Use Area in <u>Stockbridge</u>, received new
  signs to improve public awareness of recreation opportunities. Additionally, VAST clubs worked to
  improve and standardize signs at trail intersections elsewhere on the Forest.

## Local Efforts:

<u>Chittenden</u>: In cooperation with the Barstow Elementary School, Forest Service staff participated in a field day at Lefferts Pond Day Use Area, highlighting the historical importance of this site and the challenges managing a popular recreation area.

<u>Hancock</u>: Repairs to the Tunnel Brook Trail were made in 2015 with final connections expected to be completed to the VAST trail network in 2016.

<u>Middlebury</u>: Students and youth from the Counseling Service of Addison County and Middlebury High School Diversified Occupations Program continued to make tread improvements to multiple trail networks, including trails in the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area.

<u>Pittsfield</u>: Working with Tweed Valley Travelers VAST Club and local contractors, multiple projects were completed on the VAST trail network; including bridge repairs and trail tread and gate improvements on trails such as Caryl Brook, Bloodroot Gap and California Lot.

Rochester, Chittenden and Goshen: The Brandon Gap Backcountry Recreation Area was approved and is currently being implemented to provide winter backcountry opportunities. This Recreation Area was created to address the lack of managed opportunities for alpine-oriented backcountry skiing and riding while aiding in the restoration of natural forest conditions and attempting to reduce incidents of unregulated cutting. The project design resulted from a two year collaborative effort among National Forest employees, Dartmouth College staff and students, State of Vermont representatives, New York public land managers, and the backcountry ski community, including partners: RASTA, CTA, and VTBC.

<u>Rochester</u>: Analysis was completed to designate a multiple loop network of trails for foot and mountain bike access. The trail network is directly connected to the Rochester Ranger District Office.

Salisbury: In partnership with VYCC, improvements were made to the Silver Lake / Falls of Lana Trail.

<u>Warren</u>: Kicking off the summer season, Blueberry Lake was host to a National Trails Day event with support of the Mad River Riders and local businesses. Improvements to the Blueberry Lake Recreation Area included the construction of a new trailhead parking lot as well as an additional mountain bike trail loop. A

partnership with UVM is providing an opportunity to look at long-term site plans for Blueberry Lake. A volunteer agreement with the Warren Conservation Commission will help to improve the berry picking experience in 2016.

<u>Bennington</u>, <u>Woodford</u>, and <u>Stamford</u>: Collaborated with the Vermont All-terrain Vehicle Sportsman's Association (VASA), GMC, VAST, and the Bennington Area Trail System bike club to finalize multi-user trail proposals as part of the South of Route 9 Integrated Resource Project.

<u>Dorset</u>: Collaborated with MMBC to lay out the future Dorset Hollow mountain bike trail which will lead to Little Dorset Peak replacing the very steep and eroded trail at the end of Tower Road. The GMC completed extensive erosion control work on the Appalachian Trail / Long Trail. GMC trail crews also began the reconstruction of the East Dorset Trail which was approved as part of the Dorset Peru Integrated Resource Project. The reconstruction of the trail has much community support and will high light existing historic features. Portions of the trail are being relocated in order to remove a number of stream crossings and create new trail tread in areas that have been eroded.

<u>Glastenbury</u>: The Shaftsbury Snow Pilots VAST club repaired curbing and decking on a snowmobile bridge on the Glastenbury Snowmobile Trail. The VTT horse club repaired a washed out culvert on Castle Brook Road.

Manchester: The Green Mountain Trail Blazers VAST club continued maintaining the Route 11 & 30 Trailhead and parking lot serving both the Corridor 7 snowmobile trail and the Appalachian Trail / Long Trail. Club members mowed, removed trash, and maintained the information kiosk and bulletin board.

<u>Peru</u>: The Green Mountain Trail Blazers VAST club repaired a bridge abutment on the Mad Tom Snowmobile Trail. VYCC re-routed two sections of trail, constructed a new bridge, and removed three unsound bridges on the Hapgood Nature Trail. The GMC reconstructed the East Dorset Trail. And we collaborated with MMBC to review trail conditions for future mountain bike trails.

<u>Readsboro</u>: Collaborated with a local group of residents to develop a backcountry skiing proposal at the former Dutch Hill Ski Area as part of the South of Route 9 Integrated Resource Project. The Woodford Snobusters VAST club restored the trail tread on Corridor 9 east of Vermont Route 8.

Somerset: The Woodford Snobusters VAST club held a Hotdog Roast at the Somerset Airfield to benefit the Make a Wish Foundation. The Winter Sports Cabin on the Sports Cabin Snowmobile Trail was also decommissioned.

Stratton: Worked with the CTA to complete erosion control work on 0.7 miles of the Catamount Trail, Section 5 from the Kelly Stand Road to Forest Road 320, Kendall Farm Road. Improvements included installation or maintenance of 11 water bars, boulder placement to deter unauthorized off highway vehicles on the trail, box culvert installation, and 1,400 feet of major trail tread and drainage ditch restoration. Project planning trips with the GMC were coordinated for future site management at Stratton Pond.

Sunderland: Coordinated project planning trips with the GMC for future relocation of the Branch Pond trail.

Wallingford: For the twenty-fourth year, General Electric Aviation Volunteers opened White Rocks Picnic Area for the season. Blowdowns, tree branches and trash were cleaned up in the picnic area, parking lot and the Appalachian Trail / Long Trail parking area on Vermont Route 140. Volunteers also raked the site, repaired picnic tables, and replaced or maintained trail and sign markers. An erosion control project on the Wallingford Pond Spur Snowmobile Trail was completed by restoring trail tread and constructing a boulder barrier to deter unauthorized off highway vehicle use on the trail. The Green Mountain Climbers VAST Club repaired the bridge decking and railings on a snowmobile bridge on the Homerstone Meadow Snowmobile Trail.

<u>Wardsboro</u>: Wardsboro Pathfinders VAST club repaired handrails on a snowmobile bridge on the Wardsboro Link Snowmobile Trail.

<u>Woodford</u>: Woodford Snobusters VAST club removed trash at the Pine Valley trailhead parking lot, replaced the Redfield Brook Bridge on the Corridor 7 snowmobile trail and maintained three additional miles of trail tread. The VTT horse club completed erosion control and improved the trail tread on Corridor 7 snowmobile trail. Project planning trips were coordinated with the GMC for the Bolles Brook watershed restoration project. In addition, Red Mill Campground was decommissioned.

## Agreements:

In 2015, new agreements were established with the CTA, GMC (2), Lexington (NY) School for the Deaf, Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District, UVM, VAST, VYCC (2), and West Virginia University. The VMBA built a new bike trail in the Blueberry Lake area of Warren. Other projects included re-constructing and building new hiking and biking trails in Dorset, and maintenance of hiking, biking and skiing trails across the National Forest. National Visitor Use Monitoring was conducted across the Forest this year, acquiring valuable information on recreation trends, the economic impact of recreation, and the satisfaction of visitors to the GMNF. Agreements carried forward from previous years allowed work to continue, including replacement and repair of bridges on snowmobile trails by VAST in Woodford, Wardsboro, Wallingford, Peru and Glastenbury as well as grooming and clearing trails across the National Forest.

## Wilderness:

The new Forest Service national wilderness program is entitled Wilderness Stewardship Performance (WSP). It builds upon the success of the 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge. It closely ties to wilderness character monitoring. Nost of the work accomplished in wilderness was related to learning about the new program and planning future work. However, a few projects were completed in certain wilderness areas. They include: assessment of an illegal trail in the Glastenbury Wilderness area as part of the Bolles Brook Watershed partnership restoration project by UVM; GMC Volunteer Long Trail Patrol helped to make tread improvements on the Appalachian Trail / Long Trail between Styles Peak and Peru Peak (Peru Peak wilderness area); GMC construction crew's re-construction of one solid stair case and construction of the Emily Proctor Shelter latrine (Breadloaf wilderness area); Sierra Club Long Trail tread improvement between VT Route 125 and Burnt Hill Trail; and continued water sampling to gather baseline information for the wilderness Air Quality Value Plan for Bristol Cliffs, Breadloaf, Joseph Battell, Big Branch and George D. Aiken wilderness areas.

## Special Uses:

63 Land Special Use Permits were administered along with 20 proposals and applications processed to a decision. The Permit authorizing construction of the Deerfield Wind Project in <u>Searsburg</u> and <u>Readsboro</u> was issued. 33 Recreation Special Use Permits were administered.

## Botany Program

Staff and volunteers monitored over 79 populations of 47 species of rare plants Forest-wide, including some populations just off National Forest lands.

As part of the Robinson Integrated Resource Project, staff inventoried over 1,000 acres in the towns of Rochester, Hancock, Chittenden, and Pittsfield. Three new rare plant populations were found in these inventories.

One plant walk was held for the public near Texas Falls in <u>Hancock</u>. Another was held at Hapgood Pond in <u>Peru</u>. Talks on native plants and rare plants were provided for the public at the town library in <u>Rochester</u>. An article on native plant gardening was written for the Herald of Randolph.

As a result of grant funds received by the Upper White River Cooperative Weed Management Association (a collaborative group, of which the GMNF is a founding member):

- A coordinator was hired, who surveyed for non-native invasive plants (NNIP) along approximately 20 miles of state and town roads in the following locations:
  - o Sections of Route 100 in Granville, Hancock, and Rochester;
  - o Kennedy Road in Granville;
  - o Liberty Hill Road in Rochester.
- The coordinator revisited all sites of previous "Early Detection Rapid Response" for NNIP in these same towns:
- One garlic mustard pulling event was held with middle school students in Rochester.

Receipts retained from Stewardship Contracting, supplemented with other funds, were used to hire the VYCC to pull wild chervil on:

- More than 50 acres along Forest Roads 50, 55, 101, and 207 in Granville;
- Close to two acres along Sucker Brook, the Robert Frost Trail, Steam Mill Clearing, and Forest Road 54 in Ripton and Lincoln; and
- Over one acre near the District Ranger Station in Rochester.

In addition, contractors treated the following NNIP:

- Woody NNIP in six maintained openings in the towns of <u>Bridgewater</u>, <u>Hartford</u>, and <u>Pomfret</u> along the Appalachian Trail, east of Route 100
- Japanese knotweed at the Pine Valley parking lot in Woodford; and
- Morrow honeysuckle at Hapgood Pond in Peru.

In preparation for potential future activities in the South of Route 9 Integrated Resource Project area, staff and VYCC controlled 194 acres of woody NNIP in the town of <u>Pownal</u>.

## Forest Vegetation Management

Below is a list of accomplishments for calendar year 2015:

- The Forest awarded two large Integrated Resource Timber Contracts in <u>Peru</u> to improve forest health and wildlife habitat. The Pumphouse Stewardship Contract and the Mad Tom Stewardship Contract include restoration-focused service work as well as forest product removal. The Tucker Brook Timber Sale was awarded in <u>Hancock</u>.
- Interpretive signage was prepared and installed on the Old Cemetery Stewardship Contract in Winhall.
- Timber sales and stewardship contracts were prepared in <u>Dorset</u> and <u>Peru</u> as part of the implementation of the Dorset-Peru Integrated Resource Project. Retained receipts (timber revenue) from stewardship contracts funded non-native invasive plant control, wildlife habitat enhancement and erosion control in <u>Granville</u>, <u>Dorset</u>, and <u>Peru</u>.
- Approximately 11,000 CCF of saw timber and pulpwood volume were sold in support of Vermont's
  forest products industry and associated employment. This volume was sold in contracts and permits,
  roughly equal to about 6.5 million board feet.
- The Forest awarded and administered contracts to prepare sites for reforestation on 748 acres and for timber stand improvement on 97 acres of young forest.
- Our staff cooperated with Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (VT FPR) and Middlebury College in the maintenance of Butternut Seed Orchards in <u>Brandon</u> and <u>Middlebury</u>.

- Seedlings were cultured from disease resistant trees found on State, private, and National Forest locations and were cross pollinated to further research and efforts to develop disease resistance.
- The Forest provided maple tapping opportunities to six permit holders for over 7,000 taps in the towns of <u>Lincoln</u>, <u>Stockbridge</u>, <u>Pomfret</u>, <u>Wilmington</u> and <u>Mount Tabor</u>.
- Proposal development continued for commercial timber harvest and restoration activities on over 6,000 acres within the South of Route 9 Integrated Resource Project in <u>Woodford</u>, <u>Stamford</u>, <u>Readsboro</u>, and <u>Pownal</u>.
- Staff initiated forest inventory and data collection in support of proposed activities for the Robinson Integrated Resource Project. This Integrated Resource Project will include restoration activities and timber harvest on thousands of acres in Rochester, Hancock, Goshen, Pittsfield and Chittenden.
- Permits were sold for approximately 549 cords of firewood, 450 Christmas trees, 1 ton of conifer boughs, 840 lbs. of wild apples and 200 lbs. of mushrooms for public consumption.
- Staff continued work in restoring native trees (including butternut, American chestnut and beech) with research partners. GMNF employees located "challenged" beech trees that appeared to be resistant to beech scale insect in order to test their resistance.
- Staff partnered with the State of Vermont's County Foresters on a variety of natural resource management activities.
- Staff coordinated invasive insect surveys and control efforts through a "Don't Move" firewood program in cooperation with the forest health experts from the State and Private Forestry Branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service and with VT FPR.
- Staff partnered with UVM Extension, VT FPR and others in the planning and implementation of Firewood Awareness Week. Events were planned around the state to highlight what citizens can do to slow the spread of invasive pests and raise awareness about invasive insects and forest health.

## Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) and Reforestation Program

Site preparation for natural tree regeneration was contracted for 748 acres for reforestation after harvest:

Town	Acres
Ripton	21
<u>Lincoln</u>	216
<u>Peru</u>	26
Winhall	167
Granville	290
Hancock	28

Timber Stand Improvement for timber and wildlife was contracted for 97 acres:

Town	Acres
Granville	90
<u>Chittenden</u>	7

## **Environmental Planning**

In calendar year 2015, Forest staff completed 17 site-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) decisions and analysis documents for multiple resource projects designed to implement the GMNF Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). Highlights to note include the decisions to authorize the decommission of the Boyden Brook Road (Forest Road 49) and restoration of the Boyden Brook watershed in the town of Hancock; creation of early successional aspen habitat in the towns of Bristol and Lincoln, providing backcountry skiing opportunities near Brandon Gap in the towns of Rochester, Chittenden and Goshen; the improvement of hiking trails near Hapgood Pond in the town of Peru; and the salvage of wind damaged timber in the towns of Mount Holly and Weston.

We continued work on the South of Route 9 Integrated Resource Project environmental analysis located in the towns of <u>Bennington</u>, <u>Pownal</u>, <u>Readsboro</u>, <u>Stamford</u>, <u>Whitingham</u>, and <u>Woodford</u>. Integrated Resource Projects include various land management activities to improve multiple resources across large areas of the forest landscape. Implementation of the South of Route 9 Integrated Resource Project can begin after its scheduled completion in late 2016. We started the Robinson Integrated Resource Project in 2015 by collecting resource inventory and information primarily in the towns of <u>Hancock</u>, <u>Rochester</u>, <u>Stockbridge</u>, <u>Pittsfield</u>, and <u>Chittenden</u>. This Integrated Resource Project is scheduled for analysis in 2016 and anticipated for completion by late 2017 or early 2018.

We also worked on the transition of the Forest Plan monitoring program to focus on items such as climate change, threatened and endangered species, soil productivity, and the quality of recreation opportunities. Changes to the monitoring program will be completed by May 2016.

## **Watershed Improvement**

Forest Service staff working in Fisheries, Engineering, Recreation, Wilderness management, non-native invasive species, and Soil and Water resources implemented projects that improved the condition of water, soil, and / or aquatic resources. These projects were located in several towns across the Forest. These projects are listed below, and many are discussed in more detail in other parts of this report:

- Partnered with Friends of Mad River, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Town of <u>Warren</u> to replace a culvert on Bradley Brook to improve aquatic organism passage and flood resiliency. The purpose of these culverts is also to provide for transport of flood flows, woody debris, and sediment.
- Replaced an undersized culvert on Mad Tom Brook in the Town of <u>Peru</u> with an open bottom structure to improve aquatic organism passage and flood, sediment and debris transport.
- Treatments to reduce the incidence of NNIP species at numerous locations were implemented. NNIP often result in changes to soil structure, chemistry or biology that are not within the natural range of soil variability.
- Restored approximately one mile of Tropical Storm Irene-damaged stream habitat in the West Branch of the White River in Town of <u>Rochester</u> using large wood / trees to stabilize banks and form deep pools. VYCC planted over 4,000 willow trees along the banks of the river.
- Approximately 1.5 miles of actively eroding old skid roads were stabilized using water bars and similar water control structures in <u>Dorset</u>.
- Vehicle access to Wallingford Pond was restricted using boulders and soil mounds near the edge of the pond, to preserve forest and aquatic habitat, and to protect water quality from increased sediment from excessive rutting.

## Wildlife Habitat Improvement

Wildlife habitat was improved and maintained through the creation and maintenance of early successional habitat important to many species. More than 500 acres of permanent upland openings were maintained by prescribed fire, mowing or mastication in the towns of Pittsfield, Hancock, Rochester, Warren, Pomfret, Goshen, Granville, Mount Tabor, Manchester, East Dorset, Winhall, Peru, and South Wardsboro. New upland openings were created as part of timber harvest in Winhall, Peru, Hancock and Granville. In addition, apple trees, which are a high-value wildlife food, were "released" by cutting competing vegetation from around old orchards in Manchester, Weston, Woodford, Readsboro, Granville, Hancock, Goshen and Lincoln.

In <u>Winhall</u>, at the "Old Cemetery Stewardship Project" an interpretive sign was placed to inform National Forest visitors about heritage, timber and wildlife habitat resources associated with the project.

Wildlife Biologists and Technicians continued to monitor for bats in many towns to evaluate population recovery from White Nose Syndrome. Also, four timber sale units were monitored in <u>Granville</u> to determine if bats were present before harvesting trees.

Although Peregrine falcons were removed from the Endangered Species list a few years ago, nest sites on the GMNF in <u>Wallingford</u>, <u>Goshen</u>, and <u>Salisbury</u> were monitored. Unfortunately, all three nest sites failed in 2015.

The GMNF staff continued a cooperative effort with the Forest Service's Northern Research Station to monitor pollinators (bees, beetles, butterflies) in upland openings to collect baseline data. In a similar partnership with Forest Service State & Private Forestry, pollinators were collected in <u>Dorset</u> and <u>Peru</u>. Our objective is to begin to understand how pollinators use National Forest habitats and which management activities are most beneficial to sustaining populations within and near the Forest.

## Soil Monitoring

Soil samples were collected in 2012, and the vegetation inventoried at the two Vermont Monitoring Cooperative 200-year Soil Monitoring Project sites in Lye Brook Wilderness, in the Town of <u>Sunderland</u>. This is a joint effort between the Vermont Monitoring Cooperative, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, VT FPR, UVM, the Forest Service-Northern Research Station, and the GMNF. The VYCC also played a key role in the project by digging soil pits, assisting with vegetation data collection, and re-marking plot corners. The project objective is to measure change in key ecosystem parameters such as, soil chemistry and vegetative community composition. This monitoring will provide insight into the long-term changes occurring in relatively undisturbed forest ecosystems in response to things such as, atmospheric deposition and climate change. The project will also provide insight into the storage of carbon in soil on the GMNF. The next scheduled round of soil sampling for the project is in 2017.

Forest Soil Disturbance Monitoring was conducted on eight timber sale areas throughout the Forest to estimate forest management effects on the soil resource.

## Forest Ecosystem Monitoring

The following is a list research conducted on the Forest in addition to Vermont Monitoring Cooperative 200-year Soil Monitoring Project:

- Forest Service Northern Research Station -- Long-term Ecosystem Monitoring in the Towns of Glastenbury, Peru, Wallingford, and Woodford;
- Alexandra Kosiba, M.S. Candidate, UVM -- Quantifying the Influence of Winter Injury on Carbon Sequestration for Red Spruce Trees within the Northern Forest: Assessing Forest Health to Inform Policy and Economics in the Towns of <u>Bristol</u>, <u>Hancock</u>, <u>Warren</u> and <u>Woodford</u>
- Professor Sharon Cram, Addison Central School -- Natural Variables that Impact the Seed Set of the Pink Lady's Slipper (Cypripedium acaule) in the towns of Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Leicester and Goshen;
- Aiko Weverka, Masters Student, University of Vermont -- Forest Condition Change in Northern Vermont: Potential Causes and Implications for Landscape-scale Analysis in the Towns of <u>Warren</u>, Lincoln, <u>Granville</u>, <u>Ripton</u> and <u>Hancock</u>;
- Middlebury College -- A Dendrochronological Assessment of Red Spruce Growth in the Breadloaf Wilderness;
- UVM -- Forest Condition Change in Northern Vermont: Potential Causes and Implications for Landscape-scale Analysis;
- College of Environmental Science & Forestry -- Impact of Acidic Deposition and Soil Calcium Depletion on Terrestrial Biodiversity and Food Webs in Northern Hardwood Forest Ecosystems.

## Wildfire & Prescribed Fire Activities

Fire management personnel on the GMNF were very active this past season accomplishing nine prescribed fires while suppressing or assisting in the suppression of three GMNF wildfires. Prescribed fire objectives were focused on reducing forest fuels, improving wildlife habitat and reinvigorating native blueberry patches. The following are the prescribed burns that were carried out and the wildfires that were responded to this past year:

Town	Activity	Name	Acres
Manchester	Prescribed Fire	Richville Road	10
East Dorset	Prescribed Fire	Bowen Hill	3
Mt. Tabor	Prescribed Fire	Pete Parent Peak	50
Danby	Prescribed Fire	Ten Kiln Meadows	50
Middlebury	Prescribed Fire	Robert Frost	15
Rochester	Prescribed Fire	Тиррег Теттасе	60
Peru	Prescribed Fire	Old Cemetery Piles	5
Stratton	Prescribed Fire	Cabin	1
Woodstock	Prescribed Fire	AT Opening Piles	2
Hancock	Wildfire	Hancock	.25
Peru	Wildfire	Hapgood Pond	.5
Wilmington and	Wildfire	French Knob	.5
Readsboro			
		Total Acres	197.25

In addition to the work that was done here in Vermont, 15 individuals directly provided support for the wildfire season in the west. This support was in the form of assisting in the mobilization of resources or by going west and helping to suppress the wildfires. These 15 individuals collectively spent approximately 330 days in this effort.

The fire management staff would also like to thank the dedicated firemen and women from the Volunteer and Municipal fire departments that responded to and assisted in the suppression of the wildfires that occurred this past year on the GMNF.

## Conservation Education

The GMNF is one of many key sponsors of the Vermont Envirothon. This state-wide program's target audience is high-school-aged students and helps to encourage them to learn more intentionally about the natural world. A total of ten Vermont high schools were exposed to the Envirothon curriculum this year, and eighty-four students were able to participate in the culminating event in April 2015 at the Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Historic Park and Billings Farm and Museum in Woodstock. Bellows Falls High School Team A won the Vermont Envirothon and represented Vermont at the North American Envirothon held at Missouri State University.

The Vermont Envirothon is supported by a federal, state, local agencies and groups working in natural resource conservation. For many years, the Forest Service has worked with the Natural Resource Conservation Districts, Natural Resource Conservation Service, VT FPR, and Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife to support the Vermont Envirothon. A full list of sponsors / partners and additional information can be found on the Envirothon web site here: <a href="https://www.vacd.org">www.vacd.org</a>.

The Forest For Every Classroom Program (FFEC) is a successful model for place-based learning in classrooms and communities across Vermont and several other states in the United States. It has been adapted in to programs such as, A Trail to Every Classroom, A Park for Every Classroom and a

Watershed for Every Classroom. Educators who have participated in FFEC currently serve as teacher leaders promoting best instructional practices, partnering with local resource experts, and incorporating place-based and service-learning throughout their curriculum.

In 2015 the FFEC facilitated the first two sessions for teachers and educators of Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts with support from the Urban Connections Program. Urban Connections helps to promote awareness and exploration of healthy forests in our urban communities. Educators focused on climate change and forest health through hands-on learning and exploring service learning opportunities. VT FPR instructors lead the conferences which were highly successful and inspiring for educators. FFEC is a partnership between the GMNF, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, and Shelburne Farms. Additional information on FFEC may be found at this web site: <a href="http://www.shelburnefarms.org/our-work/for-educators-schools/forest-for-every-classroom-learning-to-make-choices-for-the-future.">http://www.shelburnefarms.org/our-work/for-educators-schools/forest-for-every-classroom-learning-to-make-choices-for-the-future.</a>

Again, thank you for your support of your National Forest. Together, we will continue to maintain and improve this valuable treasure.

Forest Service Offices in Vermont: Offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 4:30 PM.

Rutland Supervisor's Office	Middlebury Ranger Station			
Phone: 802-747-6700	Phone: 802-388-4362			
David Francomb, District Ranger, South Half -	Chris Mattrick, District Ranger, North Half -			
Manchester Ranger District 802-362-2307	Rochester & Middlebury Ranger Districts 802-767-			
	4261			
JOHN SINCLAIR				
Forest Supervisor				
802-747-6700				

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and fender.

## VALLEY CARES, INC.

P.O. Box 341 • Townshend, VT 05353 www.valleycares.org • 802-365-4115

December 15, 2015

Dear Selectboard,

Valley Cares respectfully requests \$335 in continued support from the Town of Stratton at Town Meeting in 2016.

Although we were faced with a flood and a fire in the past year, we continue to provide vital services for your community. Our West River Valley Senior Housing community provides affordable housing and options for supportive services for up to 72 seniors. While we charge for housing, meals, and care programming, we must subsidize a portion of all of our services to make them affordable to low-to moderate-income elders. Half of our independent living units receive rental subsidies so that the resident only pays 30% of their income in rent. Likewise, 2 out of 3 of the assisted living residents receive either public or private support to help make the cost of care more affordable. Because we realize seniors are on fixed budgets, we charge less than the government specified "fair market rent" for ALL of our apartments.

Our other services include:

- SASH (Support and Services at Home) our newest program which provides personalized service coordination and support to seniors living independently in the greater community. This service is free to anyone receiving Medicare benefits.
- Meals on Wheels at no expected charge to residents of area communities. Use of this service increased steadily this past year.
- Free loan of medical equipment, such as walkers, commodes, and wheelchairs to all local residents in need of such assistance.

We enjoy serving your community and are grateful for your financial assistance. You help enable us to continue providing these services to residents of your community.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely, Suraum Maple

Susanne Shapiro Executive Director

# THE VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING TOWN OF STRATTON SUMMARY REPORT

Since 1979, The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) has been teaching people with significant 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 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'15 (10/2014-9/2015) VCIL responded to over **3,265** 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 **346** individuals to help increase their independent living skills and **18** peers were served by the AgrAbility program. VCIL's Home Access Program (HAP) assisted **238** households with information on technical assistance and/or alternative funding for modifications; 68 of these received financial assistance to make their bathrooms and/or entrances accessible. Our Sue Williams Freedom Fund (SWFF) provided **100** individuals with information on assistive technology; 42 of these individuals received funding to obtain adaptive equipment. **500** individuals had meals delivered through our Meals on Wheels (MOW) program for individuals with disabilities under the age of 60.

VCIL's central office is located in downtown Montpelier and we have five branch offices in Bennington, Chittenden, Lamoille, Rutland and Windham Counties. Our Peer Advocate Counselors and services are available to people with disabilities throughout Vermont.

During FY '15, 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)

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**.





State of Vermont
Department of Health
Brattleboro District Office
232 Main Street;
Suite 3
Brattleboro, VT 05301,
HealthVermont.gov

[phone] 802-257-2880 [fax] 802-254-6360 [toll free] 888-253-8805 Agency of Human Services

## Vermont Department of Health Report for Stratton

Your local health district office is in Brattleboro at the address and phone number above. Come visit or give us a call! At the Vermont Department of Health, we are working every day for your health. With twelve district offices around the state, and state office and laboratory in Chittenden County, we deliver a wide range of public health services and support to your community. For example, in 2015 the Health Department:

Supported healthy communities: The Collaborative was awarded \$142,500 for Alcohol and Drug Abuse prevention, tobacco control, and to increase access to healthy food. Five Prevention Coalitions in Windham County together received a third year \$130,000 Partnership for Success grant to reduce underage and binge drinking and reduce prescription drug misuse and abuse through a targeted regional approach.

Provided WIC nutrition services and healthy foods to families: WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children) served half of all Vermont families with pregnant women and children to age five. WIC provides individualized nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support and healthy foods. In Windham County 1,463 women, infants and children were enrolled. The average value of foods provided is \$50 per person per month. Families served by WIC are now able to shop for WIC foods themselves, increasing choice (a change from home delivery).

Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease: In 2014 we responded to 223 cases of infectious disease in Windham County. In 2014, \$13,916,297 of vaccine for vaccine-preventable diseases was distributed to healthcare providers statewide, \$802,526 of which was in our district.

Aided communities in emergency preparedness: In 2014/15, \$10,000 was contributed to fund training for Windham County's Emergency Medical Services and Medical Reserve Corps. In addition, since July 2013, funding of \$158,724 supported emergency preparedness capabilities at Brattleboro Memorial Hospital, Grace Cottage, and Brattleboro Retreat. Breastfeeding Friendly Employer Project: Breastfeeding, a key to good health of mothers & babies, also significantly benefits families, employers, and society. With close to 70 % of new mothers returning to work after the birth of babies, the Breastfeeding Friendly Employer Project helps Vermont employers adopt breastfeeding friendly policies in the workplace. The Brattleboro District Office has 45 local employers who are part of the Breastfeeding Friendly Employer Project. See the website for more info or call our local office for assistance.

Fit & Heathy Kids Coalition: The District Office coordinates the coalition,

Fit & Heathy Kids Coalition: The District Office coordinates the coalition, bringing professionals from diverse organizations together to support the community in increasing physical activity and healthy food opportunities for kids and families. A Toolkit was developed offering teachers ideas and resources for physical activity breaks and healthy food education for K-8.

## Vermont League of Cities and Towns 2015 Overview Serving and Strengthening Vermont Local Government

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that is owned by its member municipalities and directed by a 13-member Board of Directors comprising municipal officials from across the state, elected by the membership.

VLCT's mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, along with 136 other municipal entities, including villages, solid waste districts, regional planning commissions, and fire districts.

Vermonters use local government services – including highways, police, fire, recreation, libraries, sewer, and water – on a daily basis. In large part, volunteer elected and appointed municipal officials lead these local governments.

VLCT provides the following services to its member cities and towns to help them provide their citizens with quality services at affordable costs:

- Legal, consulting, and education services. VLCT's Municipal Assistance Center (MAC) provides training, information, and assistance to municipal officials to help them carry out their roles and responsibilities. In 2015, attorneys and staff responded to nearly 3,500 inquiries from municipal officials about their statutory duties and about best practices in municipal governance. More than 1,300 people attended 16 workshops on topics ranging from municipal budgeting to solid waste management, and training for selectboard members, auditors, and land use officials. Additionally, MAC conducted 10 on-site workshops at municipal offices covering Open Meeting Law compliance, financial fraud prevention, effective property tax appeal hearings, as well as other topics. Attorneys provided 28 municipalities with legal review of ordinances and policies, financial assistance, and other specialized consulting services. Many municipalities have received technical assistance on water quality and stormwater management related to the recent passage of Vermont's Clean Water Act. All handbooks, technical papers, model documents, and past newsletter articles more than 1,000 documents are available on VLCT's website.
- Advocacy representation at the state and federal levels to ensure that municipalities have the resources and authority needed to serve their citizens. VLCT is a leader in the education property tax debate, enhancing local voter authority in governance decisions, municipal efforts to clean up Vermont's lakes and rivers, and securing revenues for town highway and bridge maintenance programs. Municipalities will face significant challenges in the 2016 legislature as limited financial resources at the national and state level continue to force more demand for services at the local level. VLCT also publishes a Weekly Legislative Report that details legislative issues affecting municipal government. It is available free of charge on the VLCT website.
- Opportunities to provide purchasing of needed services at the lowest cost. Members may purchase municipal unemployment, property, and casualty and workers' compensation insurance coverage for town operations. The VLCT Employee Resource and Benefit (VERB) Trust continued to assist towns navigate their way to Vermont Health Connect and, where appropriate, to secure health insurance through the marketplace. When substantial municipal damages occur as a result of weather events, the value to our members of VLCT Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF) is quite clear, as members benefit from the broad coverage, excellent re-insurance, and prompt service and claims payments provided. The two Trusts are responsible for \$24 million in municipal tax dollars spent for insurance and risk management services in 2015.

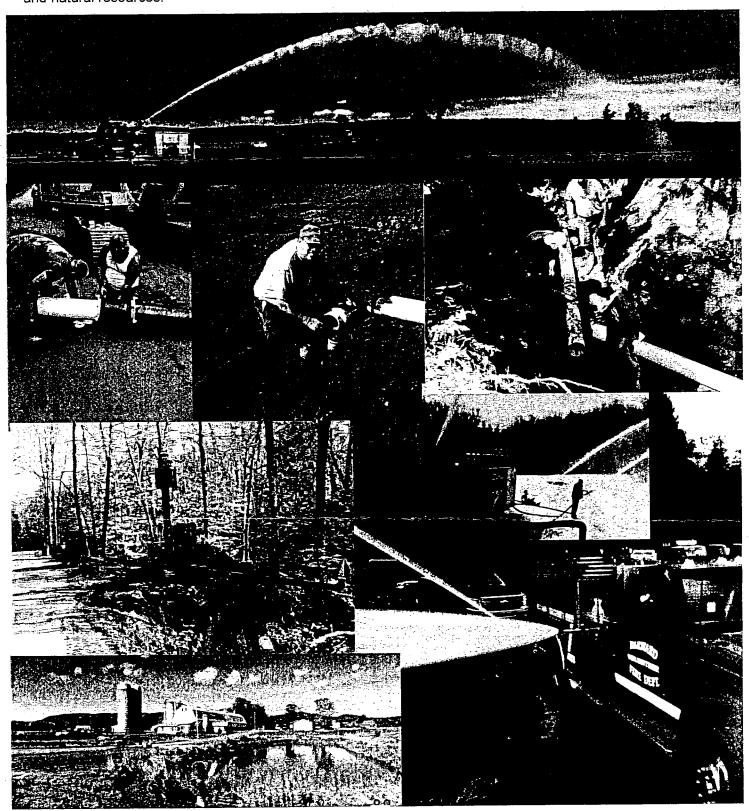
To learn more about the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, including its audited financial statements, visit the VLCT website, <a href="www.vlct.org">www.vlct.org</a>.

## **Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force** 1998-2015 Rural Fire Protection Grant Program

Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD) PO Box 566, Waitsfield, VT 05673-0566 www.vacd.org Troy Dare, Rural Fire Protection Program Manager (802) 828-4582 or dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com



The mission of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force is to improve the safety and welfare of Vermont communities by assisting local fire departments in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life, and damage to property and natural resources.



## VISITING NURSE & HOSPICE FOR VT AND NH Home Health, Hospice and Maternal Child Health Services in Stratton, VT

The Visiting Nurse & Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) is a compassionate, non-profit healthcare organization committed to providing the highest quality home health and hospice services to individuals and their families. VNH provides care for people of all ages and at all stages in life, and delivers care to all, regardless of ability to pay.

VNH services reduce costs 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, 2014 and June 30, 2015, VNH made 47 homecare visits to Stratton residents. We provided approximately \$3,340 in unreimbursed – or charity – care to Stratton residents.

• <u>Home Health Care:</u> 47 home visits to 4 residents with short-term medical or physical needs.

Additionally, residents made visits to VNH wellness clinics at local senior and community centers throughout the year, receiving low- and no-cost services including blood pressure screenings, foot care, cholesterol testing, and flu shots.

Stratton's annual appropriation to the 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,

Jeann a. M. Long Win

Jeanne McLaughlin, President & CEO (1-888-300-8853)

Wardsboro Public Library
P.O. Box 157, 170 Main Street
Wardsboro, VT 05355
(802) 896-6988
www.wardsboropubliclibrary.org
Wardsboro@vals.state.vt.us

2016-2017 Annual Funding Request

The Trustees of the Wardsboro Public Library are very grateful for the continuing support given by the Town of Stratton. In order to provide for increasing costs and continue to provide for an increasing demand for our services, it is our hope that you will again make a commitment for the 2016-2017 fiscal year in the amount of \$ 2,600.

The Wardsboro Public Library has seen dramatic increases in its use by everyone and particularly by young families. Using skills and information obtained by participating in the Vermont Early Literacy Initiative, our librarians are now able to incorporate early literacy, early math and social-emotional development concepts and skills into their programing for young children.

As part of its educational outreach to adults and children the library has hosted dozens of programs both educational and recreational. Several hundred attendees were given the opportunity to learn about travel, history, the arts and other programs not otherwise available nearby. The Library's outreach for children continues to provide active learning and recreational opportunities for many of our youngsters. Most recently, we teamed up with the Jamaica Public Library and Vermont PBS to bring a special public screening of The Opiate Effect here in the area. We also joined the Wardsboro History Group to present a program on Noble Hearts: Civil War Vermont.

We continue to update and expand our computer capabilities including providing public Wi-Fi available 24/7, document printing and even computer training for a growing number of patrons who have no other way to access these needed resources.

We especially want to thank Jill Dean, Librarian and Jenn Finaldi, our Children's Librarian as well as our able assistants. The Library also wishes to thank our dedicated core of volunteers and members of the Friends of the Wardsboro Library. Through a generous gift from the Deerfield Valley Rotary we now have a new sign and funds to buy large print books this year.

Help from the towns of Stratton and Wardsboro is critical. Donor response to the Trustees' annual fundraising letter and the public's support of Trustees' events all contribute to continuing operation of our library. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Backus, Mark Fernandes, Sheri Lewis, Nancy Perkins, Jeremy Schrauf - Trustees

## Request for appropriation and report of services Windham County Humane Society

Description of Services: The Windham County Humane Society is a non-profit organization serving all residents of Windham County, Vermont. The mission of the Windham County Humane Society is to ensure the safety and well being of animals as well as enhancing the relationship between individuals and pets through adoption, education, advocacy, compassion and promotion of animal welfare. We accept owner surrendered dogs, cats and other pets; house and care for stray/abandoned/neglected animals; facilitate adoptions; provide lost and found services; offer monthly low cost spay/neuter clinics to the public; provide pet food and basic wellness assistance for those in need; and coordinate the investigation of reports of animal cruelty and neglect. We are dedicated to educating the public toward increased awareness of the need to promote animal welfare and the importance of spaying and neutering pets, and to encouraging respect for all living things.

#### Animal Intake and Outcomes

881 animals came into the shelter from October 1, 2014 to October 1, 2015. The intake of animals breaks down as follows:

- 147 were seized by ACO's/law enforcement
- 255 animals were surrendered by their owners
- 204 were strays brought in by the public or abandoned at the shelter
- 195 were transported to WCHS from high kill shelters and successfully adopted out

897 animals left WCHS from October 1, 2014 to October 1, 2015. Outcomes are as follows:

- 654 or 73% were adopted out to new homes
- 110 or 12% were reunited with their owner
- 23 or 3% were euthanized per request of the owner (low income residents on Pet Care Assistance)
- 71 or 8% were euthanized for health or behavior reasons (WCHS does not euthanize for time or space. Average euthanasia rate in the US is 50%)
- 10 or 1% died
- 29 or 3% were transferred out to another shelter or rescue

#### Spay/Neuter

- 551 public animals
- 110 Feral cats
- \$12,194 in financial aid for spay/neuter to low-income pet owners

#### Pet Care Assistance

Our Pet Care Assistance Program is designed to help Windham County residents who are struggling to provide adequate care for their companion animals. It is our goal to keep pets in their homes whenever possible. This program provides food assistance, basic preventative medicines (flea/tick or heartworm preventative, etc.), and low cost vaccines for participants.

Pet care assistance was provided to 443 low-income residents from Windham County. This represents 506 dogs, 663 cats and 31 other animals (birds, hamsters, etc.).

#### Cruelty/Neglect

WCHS coordinated the investigation of 27 reports of cruelty and neglect in Windham County.

## Volunteers 2014-15

64 Volunteers worked a total of 5,201 hours. These numbers do not include time donated by the Board of Directors, or by the two event committees.

These services are not underwritten by any state or federal funding, as you are probably aware. I respectfully request the town consider an appropriation of \$500 to WCHS for the next fiscal year.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Carolyn Conrad
Director of Operations,

Windham County Humane Society

## WINDHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Keith D. Clark, Sheriff PO Box 266, Newfane VT 05345 Tel: (802) 365-4942 Fax: (802) 365-4945



#### Stratton Report

The Windham County Sheriff's Office provided a full time deputy to the people of Stratton FY2015 (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015) in the amount of \$55000. The service provided included motor vehicle enforcement and response to 50 calls for service, or calls where response was refused by the town's primary law enforcement agency. During FY15, we issued a total of 26 tickets. Under Vermont law, the town could receive up to \$2126.40 in fund disbursement from the Vermont Court Administrator's Office/Vermont Judicial Bureau from this ticket revenue. Additionally, 26 warnings were issued.

Our Electronic Monitoring Program pilot project has been going along strongly. The program allowed for the supervision of low-risk individuals who had been charged with, but not yet convicted of a crime. In the first year of operation, we estimate the program has saved the State of Vermont over \$180,000 in expenses. We've also begun researching our newest idea: the Liberty Mill Justice Center. In 2014, the cost to house a single offender in Vermont was approximately \$60,000 (male) and \$81,102 (female). This program seeks to reduce the burden on taxpayers by providing education services, social services, veteran support, mental health and substance abuse counselling, regional training and a variety of other services.

Since our last report, we've installed our new state-of-the-art radio communications system that we purchased through grant funding. The new system has extended our coverage through prior coverage gaps. It also ensures interoperability and communication amongst partner agencies and organizations. We've also added four mobile data terminals (in-car computers) to our fleet to help keep deputies in the community more, even while preparing court filings.

Along with years past, we've provided several community services throughout the county with no cost or effect on the contract rate. These programs include Click It or Ticket, the Southeastern Unit for Special Investigation, Are You Okay?, DUI campaigns, the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program, Toys for Kids, snow mobile patrols and the Camp Leadership Challenge. We continue to maintain secured anonymous drug disposal bin in our lobby, to help the citizens of our community safely dispose of unwanted/unused prescription medications without it going into their groundwater or being stolen. It is the continued support of Stratton and others which help contribute to our ability to provide these no-cost services to Windham County as a whole.

The Windham County Sheriff's Office has again been pleased to serve the people of Stratton and look forward to the upcoming year. If you have a need for our services, please don't hesitate to contact our office at 802-365-4942 for non-emergencies or 911 for emergencies.

Call Type	Count
Alarm	4
Arrest on Warrant	
Assist - Agency	7
Assist - Citizen	3
Assist - Motorist	3
ATV Complaint	1
Directed Patrol	2
Illegal Dumping	1
Motor Vehicle	
Complaint	2 ·
Parking	1.
Property Damage	1
Property Watch	4
Speaking Engagement	1
Suspicious Event	54 7
Theft	2
Traffic Hazard	3
Traffic Stop	Ö
Unsecured Premises	5.5
Untimely Death	
VIN verification	3
Grand Total	50

Respectfully submitted,

A A LOCAL Sheriff Keith D. Clark



## The Windham Regional Commission

The mission of the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) is to assist towns in Southeastern Vermont to provide effective local government and to work cooperatively with them to address regional issues. In the absence of county government, we provide an essential link between towns, the state, and the federal government. The WRC is comprised of 27 member towns: the 23 towns of Windham County; Readsboro, Searsburg and Winhall in Bennington County; and Weston in Windsor County.

The Commission, which just celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year, is composed of and governed by town-appointed Commissioners. Towns choose their own representatives to serve on the Commission. After town meeting, each Selectboard appoints up to two representatives to serve on the Commission for the coming year. Stratton currently has two vacancies. Each Commissioner represents their town's interests before the Commission, brings information from the Commission back to their town, and serves on at least one of a number of committees that address regional and municipal issues and concerns. Active service on these committees is very important because the WRC is organized around a strong committee structure. It's within these committees that most Commission decisions are made. All committee meetings are open to the public and subject to state open meeting law.

The Commission assists towns with activities in a number of different areas including town plans and bylaws; community and economic development; testing, technical support and cleanup funding for the redevelopment of "Brownfields" sites which are those sites that are or may be contaminated by hazardous substances; natural resources; transportation planning; infrastructure and capital improvement planning; traffic counts; emergency planning; energy planning; review of projects submitted for review through Act 250 (land use), Section 248 (energy generation and transmission, telecommunications), and federal permitting processes; grant application and administration; and mapping and geographic information system (GIS) analyses. The maps in your town office were likely produced by us.

Our relationship with towns is inherently collaborative. For instance, towns choose to have their plans reviewed by the Commission; town plan review and approval by the Commission is not mandatory. The regional plan, which was just updated last year following a 2-year process, is developed in consultation with our towns and is ultimately approved by our towns. We help towns make the most of the financial and human resources they have both individually and collectively. We assist with projects between and among towns, build and augment the capacity of volunteer-based town boards and commissions, and provide professional services to towns that may want to take on a project that is beyond what they can comfortably manage with their own staff and volunteers.

Highlights from the past year reflect the range of services we provide to the towns of the region. We assisted 25 towns at their request with plans, zoning and zoning administration, flood hazard area regulation updates, and community revitalization. Staff and the WRC's Project Review Committee received and reviewed 35 Act 250 (land use) applications and 19 Section 248 (energy generation/transmission) applications. We've convened towns to explore opportunities for shared services to reduce costs or make the most of taxpayer dollars spent. We assisted all of our towns with the development and submittal of Local Emergency Operations and have assisted 17 of our 27 towns with the development of local hazard mitigation plans. We continue to lead the region's response to the closure of Entergy Vermont Yankee, including understanding what the economic impacts will be and what the decommissioning process will entail. We completed a comprehensive Forest Stewardship Report and helped organize the Shedding Light on the Working Forest exhibit at the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center to highlight the ecological, cultural and economic importance of forestry to the region and its households. An annual report is available on our website (<a href="https://vimeo.com/131311272">www.windhamregional.org</a>). Click on the heading "About Us." You can also view a video about the WRC and its work at <a href="https://vimeo.com/131311272">https://vimeo.com/131311272</a>.

Funding for the Windham Regional Commission is provided through contracts with state agencies, federal grants, and town assessments. While town assessments make up a relatively small percentage of our budget – about 6 percent of a \$1.4 million budget for FY 2016 – it is ostensibly the only funding we receive that has no conditions placed upon it by entities beyond the Commission's borders. Your town's assessment makes it possible for us to leverage the resources that enable us to serve you across the range of activities mentioned above. We are not asking for an increase in funding from towns this year. The \$1.88 per resident rate will result in a total assessment of \$400 from Stratton for the new fiscal year. Stratton may wish to budget additional amounts for town-specific work needed from the WRC. To see our detailed Program of Work and budget for FY 2016, visit our website and click on the heading "About Us."



# WINDHAM SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 327 OLD FERRY ROAD, BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301 (802) 257-0272 • FAX (802) 257-5122 www.windhamsolidwaste.org

## WSWMD 2015 ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBER TOWNS

Brattleboro

Brookline

Dover

Dummerston

Guilford

Halifax

Jamaica

Marlboro

Newfane

Putney

Readsboro

Stratton

Townshend

Vernon

Wardsboro

Westminster

Whitingham

Wilmington

Winhall

In accordance with Vermont's Universal Recycling law, Act 148, July 1, 2015, was the start date for trash collection and disposal based on Variable Rate Pricing (VRP), or "Pay-As-You-Throw." The law also requires trash haulers to offer residential customers collection of recyclable materials along with trash collection at no separate charge. On behalf of the 20 member towns, the District enacted an ordinance that requires trash haulers to register with WSWMD and provide a copy of their VRP plan. Most of the member towns with transfer stations were already in compliance with VRP since they charge residents a price per bag of trash. For information on Act 148 go to <a href="https://www.windhamsolidwaste.org">www.recycle.vt.gov</a>, and the District's website: <a href="https://www.windhamsolidwaste.org">www.windhamsolidwaste.org</a>.

Despite the mandatory recycling law, total tons of recyclables processed at the District's materials recycling facility (MRF) did not increase significantly due to the fact that haulers are collecting recyclables at residences using the single stream method where paper is mixed with containers. Such single stream recycling can't be processed at the District's dual stream MRF, and is taken to other facilities, thus diverting them from the District's recycling containers at transfer stations, and the 24-7 sites. The District has over 100 roll-off containers that are utilized at town transfer stations and 24-7 recycling drop-off centers, and District trucks haul the boxes to the MRF.

Due to a stagnant world economy, the value of the recyclable materials processed at the MRF has not increased after dropping significantly two years ago. In response, the District has reduced its staffing, and is proposing an 11 percent decrease in the FY 2017 annual assessment to our member towns.

Act 148 requires the District's staff to work with businesses and schools to provide recycling education, and a full-time position is dedicated to this work.

The District conducted 2 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections this year in Brattleboro. A total of 341 households participated in the collections. The District offers year round collection of certain hazardous waste such as mercury containing products, leftover paints, and used

motor oil and filters.

WSWMD intends to apply for a State Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility Permit, which would enable WSWMD to accept a wider range of hazardous waste year round.

WSWMD participates in the Vermont Paintcare Program, which provides free recycling of leftover paints, primers, coatings, sealers, stains, shellacs, waterproofing and rust preventatives at the Brattleboro convenience center.

The District continues to operate a composting facility, which accepts food scraps and non-recyclable paper from the Town of Brattleboro's residential curbside collection program, the only such program in Vermont. By 2020, curbside residential food scrap collection will be mandatory. The composting facility is also processing food scraps from supermarkets, and other large generators. The District has implemented a marketing program for compost and sells it in bulk at the Brattleboro convenience center. With a grant from Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, food scrap collection programs were implemented at four regional middle and high schools in the District.

After an extensive request-for-proposals process, the District signed a 25-year lease with a company to permit, finance, construct, and operate a 5 MW solar facility on the 25-acre closed landfill owned by WSWMD. Towns and school districts will have an opportunity to participate in a group net-metering contract to receive lower cost electricity, and the solar system is anticipated to be operating by December 2016.

The District offers tours of our facilities to schools and interested residents, and provides educational materials about reuse, recycling, and composting. Backyard compost bins are sold at discounted prices at the District office.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Spencer Executive Director

Potest J. Spencer



Windham & Windsor Housing Trust (WWHT) is a non-profit organization founded in 1987, serving the residents of Windham and southern Windsor County. We provide housing for residents of low and moderate incomes, preserve and revitalize neighborhoods, help residents acquire their own homes, and generally improve the social, economic, and cultural health of communities of Windham and southern Windsor County.

WWHT's mission is to strengthen the communities of Southeast Vermont through the development and stewardship of permanently affordable housing and through ongoing support and advocacy for its residents.

## **Homeownership Center**

The <u>Home Repair Program</u> provides low cost loans to low and moderate income homeowners throughout Windham and Windsor counties to make critical home repairs. These include repairs necessary to bring a home up to code and make it a safe place to live. Our rehabilitation specialist inspects the home, determines which repairs are necessary, and works with the homeowner to plan and finance the project. We assisted 35 homeowners in 2015 with home repair projects.

<u>One-to-one Counseling</u> helps renters and homeowners understand and navigate their options and make smart financial decisions. The program is available to all residents in both counties. We provide homebuyer education, financial literacy training, credit counseling and delinquency counseling. In 2015, 55 of our clients were able to purchase a home.

The <u>Shared Equity Program</u> provides grants to income-eligible homebuyers to subsidize the purchase of single-family homes. Grants are used toward the purchase price of the land underneath the home, lowering the cost to the homebuyer. Windham & Windsor Housing Trust retains ownership of the land and ensures long-term affordability through special ground lease provisions. 136 homes are in the shared equity program.

**Rental Housing Development Program-**In order to meet the diverse housing needs of a community, WWHT develops affordable rental housing opportunities. This takes the form of both rehabilitation of existing housing and the construction of new apartments. WWHT works with towns to plan for meeting local affordable housing and community development needs. In 2015, we added 33 new apartments and renovated 47.

**Rental Housing Management Program-**WWHT owns 667 rental apartments with over 1000 tenants. We manage the rental properties in and near Brattleboro and contract with Stewart Property Management Services for the properties in northern Windham and Windsor Counties. WWHT takes pride in the appearance of our multi-family housing and is committed to providing the staff and financial resources necessary to ensure long-term health and safety for our residents as well as preservation of property values. Although WWHT is a non-profit, we pay local property taxes on our rental properties and our shared-equity homeowners pay property taxes to the Towns and Villages.

For more information, please visit us on the web at www.w-wht.org





## WINHALL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Annual Report July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015



## Circulation and Budget Data 2014/2015

- We spent \$5,471 on books, books on CD, magazines, etc.
- We bought approximately 343 books
- · We had approximately 1560 patron visits this year
- We circulated approximately 3432 books (some more than once)
- Budget data attached

**Programs** 

Our 6th Annual "Friend Raiser" and Summer Picnic was well attended and honored Doris Bass, a lover of books and a fan of our non-fiction section. Sadly, Doris passed away in 2015, her hard work and dedication to our library will be greatly missed! In memory of Doris, we listened to great music by Laura Molinelli and The Bondville Boys, grilled hot dogs, ate ice cream, sold books and in the midst of all that fun we raised \$2,497!

Many Thanks to Connie our Librarian for her enthusiasm and never ending dedication to our library!

Thank you to Annah for helping out when needed and for the "care and keeping" of our website and last but certainly not least, Thank you to all the Board Members who volunteer their time!

## **Library Hours**

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 3 to 6 pm Saturdays from 10-12

Don't forget FREE WI-FI!

www.winhallmemoriallibrary.org

2 Lower Taylor Hill Road, Bondville, VT 05340 802-297-9741



## Women's Freedom Center's

# Statement of Services And Report to the Town of Stratton

The mission of the Women's Freedom Center is to work to end physical, sexual and emotional violence against the women and children of Windham County. The Freedom Center works to fulfill its mission by educating the community regarding the root causes of violence against women, challenging the systems that help keep it in place and by providing support and services, including shelter and safe housing, to women and their children who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence. Since our beginnings in 1977, we have provided support to the survivors of these crimes, as well as consultation and educational activities to a wide range of community groups to help create a community in which violence is not tolerated.

Emergency support such as shelter, safety planning, financial assistance, and information and referral is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Ongoing individual and group support for women and children; legal, medical, housing and social services advocacy; and cooperative work with other agencies are provided during the week. Due to the rural nature of Windham County and the isolation inherent in many abusive relationships, we are committed to meeting with women wherever we may do so safely. Sometimes this means assisting her to get to us and other times it means us going to her, somewhere safe in her community.

During the fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, the Freedom Center worked with a total of 479 women and their 438 children, sheltered 37 women and their 49 children, and responded to 1,491 crisis telephone calls. In addition, we provided access to legal representation, community education, school presentations and workshops, outreach, and emergency advocacy throughout Windham County.

The Women's Freedom Center is a private, non-profit organization relying heavily on community support to provide our free and confidential services. We thank you for your Town's contributions to the Freedom Center, and hope you will look upon it as an investment in creating a future free from violence, something we all deserve.

Regards,

Vickie Sterling

Director

Women's Freedom Center

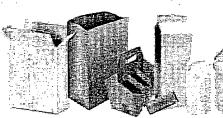
## ZERO-SORT: HOW RECYCLING GETS DONE

No sorting on your end makes recycling quick and easy! Just focus on tossing all recyclables into one bin and Casella takes care of the rest. Please **empty** and **rinse** all containers as well as **flatten** and **break down** cardboard boxes.

## CARDBOARD/PAPER ....



Corrugated Cardboard
(wavy center layer)



**Boxboard and Paper Cartons** (dry-food boxes, cores, paper bags, and egg, milk, and juice cartons)



File Folders and Office Paper (all colors)



Newspaper
(all sections and inserts)



Mail and Greeting Cards (junk mail and envelopes)



Magazines and Phone Books (catalogs and soft cover books)

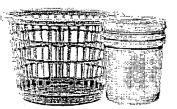
## PLASTIC



GLASS



Plastic Containers (#1 - #7)



**Large Rigid Plastics** (5-gallon pails and laundry baskets)



Empty Metal and Aerosol Cans (aluminum, tin, and foil)



**Glass Bottles** (food jars and beverage)

## **○** NOT ACCEPTED:

Plastic bags or wrapping, window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, dishes, pyrex, ceramics, paper towels, facial tissue, styrofoam, recyclables containing food waste, paints, oils, hazardous material, needles, syringes, VCR tapes, CDs/DVDs, scrap metal, pots, pans, batteries, hard-cover books, clothing/textiles, wood/lumber, yard trimmings, 3-ring/spiral notebooks





## Your Recycling Makes a Difference!

Our state-of-the-art sorting facilities are located throughout the Northeast. From pickup to final processing, we make sure your recyclables take the shortest route from your bin back to the shelves.

No sorting on your end makes it easier to recycle. You just focus on filling the bin and we take care of the rest.

Learn more about how we're giving resources new life at **casella.com** 

## **TOWN OF STRATTON**

Town Clerk & Treasurer's Office:

896-6184

896-6185

Town Office FAX:

896-6630

Town Office Email:

townclerk@townofstrattonvt.com

Town Office Web Site:

www.townofstrattonvt.com

**Town Office Hours:** 

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 3:00PM

**Town Garage & Highway Department:** 

896-6224

**Town Garage FAX:** 

896-6999

**Town Garage Email:** 

garage@townofstrattonvt.com

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Board of Selectmen:** 

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month – 7:30 PM – Town Office

Planning Commission:

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month - 7:00 PM - Town Office

School Board:

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month – 7:00 PM – Town Office

**Volunteer Fire Co.:** 

 $2^{nd}$  &  $4^{th}$  Wednesday of the month – 7:00 PM

Meetings are held at the Fire House – 5 Brazers Way

## **COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

Town Garage Refuse/Recycling Hours:

Tues., Thurs., Sun. 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Recreation Area Hours:** 

Lighting available as needed

Animal Control Officer:

Pat Salo 802-297-1032 Cell: 802-688-4020

**EMERGENCY NUMBERS** 

FIRE & RESCUE

911

**KEENE MUTUAL AID:** 

603-352-1291