



THE

FELCHVILLE INFORMER

April 2015

Published by the Town of Felchville



Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday April 4th at 10 AM

Toddlers to 6th graders

Peter Cotton Tail is hopping his way to an Easter egg hunt with games and give-a-ways at Bartley Memorial Field (bad weather location is Reading Elementary School).

Bring your baskets and have some fun!!!

Sponsored by the Reading Recreation Commission

Reading Friends & Neighbors

Please call Kevin Barnes 484-5156 or

Chris Titus 484-5610 for more information

Selectmen Meeting

March 9, 2015
UNAPPROVED

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Present: Robert Allen, Jim Peplau, Gordy Eastman, Calista Brennan, Becky Basch, Karl Hanson, Jane Cleveland and Don Scullin

Robert started the meeting asking if there were changes to the agenda. There were no changes.

Minutes of the February 9th Selectmen's meeting were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: As of 2/28/15, Expenses were \$117,647.21; Revenue was \$4,576.96. Balance in LSB \$80668, 774.87. Delinquent taxes for 2011-14 are \$115,395.023. Jim moved to approve and Gordy seconded. Report is accepted.

Action Items:

Energy Committee: Becky Basch asked that the Selectmen sign a letter in support of participating in the Solarize program sponsored by Vital Communities of the Upper Valley. Reading will partner with the towns of Cavendish, Windsor and Weathersfield. This letter will have Becky as the lead volunteer for this project of selecting a solar provider for the program. The letter only commits to participating in the program. The Selectmen agreed to sign the letter.

Ambulance Service: Don Scullin was asked to attend the meeting as the Director of Rescue Squad, to get his feeling on changing ambulance service from Golden Cross to Windsor. Don felt that there are no significant differences in service from either place. Windsor maybe be a bit closer for response time but not enough to be a big difference. Windsor is 24-7 as is Golden Cross. Windsor would transport to Mt. Ascutney or DHMC.

Highways: Glen reported that the 2014 truck was in for a recalled repair and should be back by Friday. The 2010 truck is over budget due to repair work on hubs, rims and tires. The roads will be posted by March 13, 2015.

Other: Karl Hanson was here to ask permission to put a dog waste receptacle with bags, up on the corner of Mill Street and Niagara Street. He will be responsible for taking care of it. The Selectmen agreed to let him place it in that location and see how it works out.

Bridge # 2 Tyson Road: Robert has a meeting on Tuesday, March 10 with AOT to go over the emergency grant for this bridge and also grants for retreatment and bridge on Town Farm Road.

Appointments: The Selectmen appointed the following positions: Planning Commission/ZBA Steve Strait – 2021, Patrick McLean – 2020 – Tree Warden Michael Barr – 2016 – Memorial Day Administrator Patrick McLean – 2016 – Energy Coordinator Becky Basch – 2016 – Recreation Commission Kevin Barnes – 2018, Chris Titus – 2017, Diane Moore – 2016 – Service Officer – Select board - 2016 - Jim moved to approve, Gordy seconded.

Elect Chair of the Select Board: Gordy nominated Robert, Jim seconded. Robert was elected Chair.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm.

Next Selectboard meeting will be on Monday, April 13, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

Calista N Brennan

Note: The minutes from the Reading Town & School Meeting of February 28, 2015 are posted at the Town Hall and can be found on the Town's website at: www.readingvt.govoffice.com



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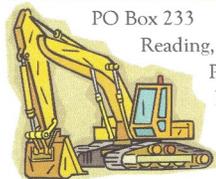
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 jtgaledc@me.com 802.291.2288

OFFICE LOCATIONS

76 Keyes Mtn. Road
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**off Rt. 106 in Hammondsville*

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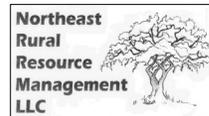
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AndyPacz@gmail.com

Lister's Report

- The parcel owner of record date is April 1, 2015
- Weather and mud season permitting, the Listers will be inspecting and updating the approved building permits in early April
- Other exterior/interior inspections will be identified and completed in April and early May
- The project to replace outdated parcel photos will be completed during the summer
- The new Current Use parcel owner data will be downloaded in March with updates/changes completed and verified during April
- 2015 Resident parcel owners' Homestead Declaration files from the VT Tax Dept. are being received, downloaded, and verified weekly
- **Remember**, there are no extensions for Homestead Declaration beyond April 15th
- The Listers will be attending lister education workshops in March and April to receive the latest updates and changes for NEMRC and CAMA, our tax and cost computer software

The Reading Listers want to thank the Reading parcel sellers and buyers for their prompt completion and return of the parcel transfer information questionnaire.

Reading Listers
John Fike
Penny Allyn



Community Garden Plots

Did you miss out on winning the
CSA plot raffle at Sunrise Farm
sponsored by the PTO???

Thinking about growing your own
vegetables at our
community garden?

Contact Dennis Barbour
at 484-5119 if you are interested
in having a garden plot this
summer in the field behind the
fire station.



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Notice

The **Felchville Cemetery Association** Annual Meeting will be held at the home of Duane Wyman, 98 Tyson Road on **Tuesday, April 28, 2015** at 6:00 pm

At this time, officers will be elected; the secretary and treasurer's reports will be reviewed and any other necessary business transacted. Any owners of lots, or descendants of lot owners, in the Felchville Cemetery are welcome.



Duane Wyman, Chairperson



License your dog by April 1st to avoid a late fee.

In accordance with the State of Vermont Statute Title 20: 3541-3591 and 3801-3813 the municipal clerk shall issue licenses for dogs and wolf hybrids. *If you own or keep* a dog or wolf-hybrid that is six months or older on or before April 1st of each year you must license the pet.

If you become an owner or keeper of a dog or wolf-hybrid that is six months old after April 1st, you have 30 days to license the animal.

Stop in at the Town Clerk's office to register any new dogs or renew your dog's license. You must have a copy of a current rabies vaccination certificate.

Dog Fees:

Males/Females	\$13.00	Neutered/Spayed	\$ 9.00
Replacement Tag	\$ 3.00	New Dog after 10/1	Half Fee
After 4/1 add a late fee of \$2.00 / \$4.00			

Reading Energy Survey and Handouts

Becky Basch, rebeccabasch@comcast.net

The Reading Energy Committee has developed a short survey so that we can better focus our work according to people's interests and understanding related to energy issues and topics. If you are a resident of Reading, please take a few minutes to fill out our survey. Hard copies of the survey are available at the Reading town hall. If you have access to a computer and wish to complete the survey online the link is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FMSLYHN>

We have also developed some informational materials on energy audits and solar. Copies of these are available at the Town hall also. Stay tuned for more informational updates on FPF and in the Informer. We will also be posting meeting minutes on the Town website—<http://www.readingvt.govoffice.com>

School Closing Dates

Spring Break 4/13-17, 5/25 Memorial Day
6/12 Last Day of school (with 3 snow days included)

Keeper's

A Country Cafe

RESTAURANT FULL BAR

CATERING PRIVATE PARTIES

Tuesday - Saturday from 5pm
Holiday- Weekends and Summer
open Sundays

Rte. 106 & Bailey's Mills Road, Reading, VT
484-9090

www.keeperscafe.com

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484-7809 BARBARA THAEDER

Share some of your green to keep Vermont clean! Now you can donate to Green Up, not a State Agency, when you do your taxes. Item 29d on your tax form.

3 Easy Ways to Get Your Vermont Income Tax Forms From the Vermont Department of Taxes

- 1. Download fillable PDF forms from the web**
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- 2. Order forms by email**
Email request to taxforms@state.vt.us
- 3. Order forms by phone**
Call toll-free in the U.S. at (855) 297-5600

When ordering, please provide 1) your name; 2) mailing address; 3) form number or form name; and 4) daytime phone number



Tax Preparation time for year end 2014: Reading Listers' Reminder

Homestead Declaration- Reading parcel owners who have their domicile in Reading are required to file a Vermont Homestead Declaration **annually** on or before April 15! This is the criteria for determining income sensitivity eligibility for any residential state-wide educational property tax adjustment. Individual circumstances may require filing for an income tax extension. Remind your tax preparer of the annual Vermont Homestead filing requirement and the date for filing. *There are no extensions for the Homestead Declaration* Late filings are subject to late penalties.

Per the Selectboard there will not be any waiving of penalties!

Non-residents- These parcel owners pay the non- resident state-wide education tax only adjusted for the Local CLA.

Impact of not filing Homestead Declaration-If you have your domicile in Reading and fail to file a declaration, you are subject to paying any difference between the residential and non-residential education tax plus a substantial penalty. Forms are available by going on line, and entering Vermont.gov, clicking on VT Tax Department, and clicking on forms.

The Reading Common Level of Appraisal for 2015 is 99.75.

Reading Listers,
John Fike, Penny Allyn, Richard Sullivan

Reading Elementary School Student Test Scores

For the fourth year in a row*, Reading Elementary School exceeded the state wide fall 2013 NECAP test scores in BOTH reading and math. Ninety two percent (92%) of our students in grades 3-6 scored proficient or proficient with distinction in math *as well as* in reading. We outperformed most schools in Vermont and all schools with similar FRL profiles. FRL is the tool the federal government uses to measure the level of economic challenge faced by families in a school community. In writing our students also exceeded the state scores.

Science NECAPs were administered in May 2014. Once again our RES students exceeded the state average.

[Vermont uses the New England Common Assessment Program \(NECAP\) to test students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 in reading and math, in grades 5, 8 and 11 in writing, and in grades 4, 8, and 11 in science.](#)

No NECAPs were administered in fall 2014 as Vermont is switching to the SBAC or A Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium to measure mastery in the Common Core State Standards. SBACs are an adaptive computer based test which means that based on student responses, the computer program adjusts the difficulty of questions throughout the assessment. For example, a student who answers a question correctly will receive a more challenging item, while an incorrect answer generates an easier question. By adapting to the student as the assessment is taking place, these assessments present an individually tailored set of questions to each student and can quickly identify which skills students have mastered. This approach hopefully represents a significant improvement over traditional paper-and-pencil assessments such as the NECAPs. SBACs will be administered at RES this spring.

*Because of the untidiness of switching over to a new assessment system, the last two years of data are incomplete. Nonetheless, if you look at the data site below, you will note RES performance is consistently well above the state average for the past FOUR years, suggesting a trend of excellence.

<http://edw.vermont.gov/ReportServer/Pages/ReportViewer.aspx?%2fPublic%2fNECAP+Assessment+Report&orgtype=School&orgid=&schoolyear=2012-2013&testname=NECAP+Science+Grade+4&breakdown=4&aggroup=12>

Zoey Zullo
Reading Elementary Principal

Alison Clarkson's Legislative Update April 2015

{This is an abbreviated version of her report; please see the Town Website for the complete report under Reading Residence/Legislative}

Vermont's Legislators returned to the Statehouse last week. Facing us is the 'cross over' deadline at end of March. So, we are working hard to complete the bills which the House has identified as its priorities. These bills have to be voted out of our House Committees – then off the Floor of the House, and to the Senate for consideration, if they are to be enacted into law this year. We have a significant budget gap of \$112 million. In January, five days after the Legislature received the Governor's budget which addressed a \$94 million budget gap, an additional revenue downgrade of \$18 m was announced. So, we are now grappling with a \$112 m gap between our revenues and our expenditures – making a tough budget year, a lot tougher. Our expenditures are rising at 5% and our revenues at 3%.

Just before Town Meeting a number of proposed cuts were presented by the House Appropriations Committee. Many of you have been in touch about services, programs and State investments which are being considered for serious cuts. I've heard from you about everything from funding for children and families, the Courts, the Windsor Prison, the Community High School of Vermont, state parks, state fairs, Vermont Life, education, state employees and Efficiency Vermont. Thank you for your advocacy and support of these worthy enterprises. I will pass on your concerns to the House Appropriations Committee.

Our post-recession revenues have not rebounded as quickly as our economist's predictions. Our growth in spending outpaces our revenues. While GDP has grown, Vermont wages have not and that has weighed down our state revenues. Vermont is not alone. Many other states are dealing with declining revenues and difficult financial challenges. Discretionary spending is being cut at the federal level and this impacts our state budget. Ironically, the success of the Affordable Care Act means that more Vermonters are getting health care coverage through Medicaid which has put an additional \$15 million pressure on the budget. And, financing the recovery from Tropical Storm Irene used up many of our reserves.

Vermont's budget is where we fund the policies which illustrate our priorities and improve outcomes for Vermonters. Of Vermont's total budget of \$7.2 billion (made up of federal, state, transportation and special fund money) the General Fund, which the Legislature budgets, is \$1.4 billion and is allocated in the following fashion: 27.2% goes to public education, 23% to Medicaid, community based & inpatient mental health, addiction treatment, developmental disabilities, services and long-term care, 9.6% to Corrections, 8.8% to Protections, 8.6% to programs for Children and Families, 5.9% to higher education, 5.2% to general government, 4.6% to debt service and 7.1% to all other General Fund Appropriations.

Vermonters are resilient and we take responsibility for living within our means. We will balance our budget. By 'cross over' you will see how the House plans to balance FY16. Then the Senate will review our work and make additional suggestions. It will require creativity and the solution will involve a combination of additional cuts across state government, efficiencies, consolidation of programs, restructuring parts of state government and additional revenues - all of which will be on the table for careful review in balancing the FY16 budget. The proposed cuts have been publicized, public hearings were held across the state in February to give Vermonters the opportunity to express their thoughts and concerns on the state's expenditure/revenue proposals, and constituents have been in touch. This hard work will take us all Session – and it will be done transparently and thoughtfully.

I appreciate hearing from you. I can be reached by email: aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us or by phone at the Statehouse (Tues-Fri) 828-2228 or at home (Sat-Mon) 457-4627. To get more information on the Vermont Legislature, and the bills which have been proposed and passed, visit the new legislative website: legislature.vermont.gov

Meeting Schedule

Board of Selectmen

Second Monday
6:00 PM at Town Office

Elementary School Board

Third Wednesday
6:00 PM at Reading School

Planning Commission/ZBA

First Monday
7:00 PM at Town Office

Fire Dept Auxiliary

First Monday
7:00 PM at Fire Station

P.T.O.

Third Monday
6:30 PM at Reading School

R.A.T.S

2nd Wednesday
7:00 PM at Fire Station

Library Trustees

Last Tuesday
6:00 PM at Library

Fire Department

First Tuesday
7:00 PM at Fire Station

Reading Rescue

First Tuesday
7:00 PM at Fire Station

Little Ascutney

Snowmobile Club
Second Thursday at 7PM
Sept - April, at Fire Station

EC Fiber

Second Tuesday at 7pm
Oaks Hall 1st floor of Law
School
In S. Royalton, VT

Reading– West Windsor Food Shelf

Monday 2:00 to 4:00 (Food Shelf)

**Thursday 4:00 to 6:00 (Thrift Store & Food
Shelf)**

Located at 3456 Tyson Road
in South Reading

at the Stone School House

New items are always arriving at the
Food Shelf / Thrift Store in South Reading
Come and see us! Open to EVERYONE.

Inquiries please contact

Sara Norcross 484-5097

Dana Waters 802-291-3299

To send a donation please mail to:

**Reading– West Windsor Food Shelf
PO Box 384 Brownsville, VT 05037**

Emergency Telephone Numbers

*Fire and Ambulance 911
State Police 457-1416*

Town Clerk/Treasure Office

484-7250

Mon—Thurs 8am-4pm

First Saturday of the Month: 9am-12pm

Website: www.readingvt.govoffice.com

Email: readingvermont@comcast.net

Post Office

484-5994

Retail Counter

Monday – Friday

8am-11am, 1:45pm-4:45pm

Saturday Retail Counter

9:00 to 12:00

Lobby

Monday – Friday

8 am to 5 pm

Saturday

8am to 12pm

Library

484-5588

Tuesday 12:00 to 3:30, 4:00 to 7:00

Thursday 10:00 to 1:30, 2:00 to 5:00

Saturday 10:00 to 2:00

Listers

Call for appointment – 484-7258

Email: rtownhall_464@comcast.net

Reading Elementary School

484-7230

Fire Warden - Fire Burning Permits

Nathan Willard 484-0094

Sorting out winter clothes?

The Clothing Shelf located at the
Food Shelf is in need of gently used
SPRING clothing and shoes for all
ages, as well as linens. Items may
be dropped off during the food
shelf's operating hours.

Thank you, Sara Norcross



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April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 <i>Plan Comm 7pm @ Town Hall Fire Auxiliary 7pm</i>	7 <i>Fire & Rescue Mtg. 7 pm @ Fire Station</i>	8	9	10	11
12	13 <i>Select Board 6pm @Town Hall</i>	14	15 <i>RES School Board 6 pm</i>	16	17	18
19	20 <i>PTO 6:30 pm @ RES</i>	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 <i>Library Mtg. 6 pm</i>	29	30		