

The Reading Informer

November 2015



Published by the Town of Reading

PAY



TAXES

**Municipal Tax Bill
payments
are due**

by 5:00 PM

**at the Reading Town Clerk's Office
*Wednesday, November 4th.***

The office will be open

7 am to 5pm that day.

Post marks are *NOT* accepted.

Thank you

**Your Invited To Attend
“Suspended Worlds”
Historic Stage Scenery in New England
Saturday, 11/21/15
6 p.m. at the Reading Town Hall
Free Admission**

Come join us as we unveil our Town Hall curtains that were created by O.L. Story over 100 years ago. The evening will begin with refreshments and a short skit by some of our local students who will bring these curtains to life. This will be followed by presentations by Christine Hadsel and Peter Miller.

Suspended Worlds is a celebration of historic stage scenery in New England. In 1998, Christine Hadsel, the director of “Curtains Without Borders” took on the job of conserving what they thought would be a few curtains, but eventually she and her team were able to document over 500 curtains in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. Reading Town Hall has the most complete set of scenery in New England— six magnificent curtains which have been restored and now hang in the auditorium.

Christine’s book, “Suspended Worlds” tells the story of saving these curtains and shows us what they look like. The book is filled with vibrant pictures of curtains throughout New England, and the Reading curtains are the center of an entire chapter called “The Art of Scenic Art.” The author of that chapter, scenic artist Peter Miller, will join us and talk about scenic art and our curtains. This is the only time he will visit Vermont. “Suspended Worlds” (published by David Godine Press) will be available for sale that night.

This event is sponsored by the Reading Historical Society, The Reading Library and The Reading Friends & Neighbors Committee.



Street Scene by O.L. Story Scenic Company, Boston, MA, 1911
Reading Town Hall, Reading, VT

This is the “Street Scene” curtain at the Reading Town Hall. Join us November 21st to see all of our curtains come to life.

Town Reports and FY2017 budget requests \$\$\$\$\$\$
Please be advised that any requests by our local organizations for funds from the Town Budget must be submitted to the town treasurer by December 15, 2015.

Organization reports to be included in the Town Report must be submitted to the town office by December 30th. Thank you for your cooperation on this so that we can do a great job for you creating your town report.



PO Box 128
 384 WELD CEMETERY ROAD
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Selectboard Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2015

UNAPPROVED

The meeting was called to order at 6:27 pm. Present: Robert Allen, Gordy Eastman, Glen Towne, Calista Brennan, Lisa Silvester and Kathy Rondeau.

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

Minutes of the September 14th Selectmen's meeting were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: As of 9/30/15, Expenses were \$78,124.84; Revenue was \$193533.82. Balance in LSB \$165260.69 and balance in the sweep account \$346314.53 for a total of \$511575.22. Delinquent taxes for 2011-14 are \$63203.19. Gordy moved to approve and Robert seconded. Report is accepted.

Action Items:

- A) **Rech Property:** Lisa and Kathy were here to discuss concerns about the Rech property. Their concerns are that the building is falling into the brook and parts are washing down stream. The Selectmen have sent a certified letter, return receipt requested, to the owner asking about the cleanup. They are waiting for a response to see what the next step will be. Kathy expressed interest on serving on the SWCRPC board as a representative for Reading. Robert suggested that she meet with Tom Kennedy and explore what this would entail and get back to the Selectboard if still interested.
- B) **High Meadows Fund/Mill Brook Watershed:** Dan Potter has put on presentation in area Towns. He is looking to come to Reading for a presentation to the Selectboard and the Planning Commission in November or December. Robert will get with Steve Strait and get a mutual date set up.
- C) **Municipal Planning Grant:** This grant has been submitted.
- D) **Better Backroads Road Inventory Grant:** We have been approved for this grant. SWCRPC has requested that this Inventory take place in the spring/early summer of 2016. This will involve reviewing all of the Town Highways in detail and require several hours of the employee's time. Glen said that would work fine for the Highway Crew.
- E) **Town Farm Bridge Engineering Status:** Robert, Chris Bump (AOT) and Peter Holden had a conference call regarding Holden Engineering doing an Engineering Study on this bridge.
- F) **Tyson Road Bridge #2 Engineering Status:** While the grant for construction is in the initial stages of approval, the Engineering Grant has not been submitted. Chris Bump indicated that the Town could do the Engineering but the funds would come out of the construction grant.
- G) **Highways:** The loader is in the shop. Glen is waiting to hear what is wrong and when it will be repaired. Robert asked Glen to look at the dead trees on Tyson Road above Puckerbrush Road, to see if they can take them down or if we need to contract it out. The crew is ready for winter!
- H) **Other:** There have been complaints about speeding on Tyson Road. Glen will look at moving the speed limit sign so it is more visible. Robert will talk with Sheriff Mike Chamberlain about more patrolling. The land on Stone Chimney Extension that the Town owns has been put back on the market with Dark Horse Realty.
Solar Farms - The Public Service Board is the organization that issues permits. SWCRPC has a sample ordinance for Towns to use so that setbacks etc. can be taken into consideration. Robert will get with Jason from SWCRPC concerning an ordinance.

Being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 7:20PM.

Next Selectboard meeting will be on Monday, November 9, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Calista N Brennan

Local Property Transfers



Anthony C. Downs to Frank C. & Janice W. Jenkins
1258 Town Hill Road Dwelling & 12.06 acres \$ 76,129



Ian Lee & Barbara Lee Leviten to David J. Matz & Lauren A. Hanna
160 Stone Chimney Road Dwelling & 19.71 acres \$500,000



Walter W. & Mary J. Wilkins to Newhall Farms Ltd.
3325 Tyson Road Dwelling & 1.58 acres \$ 77,000



Meccawe Club to Vermont Land Trust, Inc.
600 acres Reading & Bridgewater \$254,810

Reading Giving Project

Again this year, the food shelf and many kind souls, will be providing boxes of food and also gifts to many local families, seniors, and children for the holidays.

Early in November, there will be a Giving Tree set up at the Reading Town Hall that will be holding holiday cards that will include a gift idea for our area needy children. If you can, please stop in to select a card, purchase a gift and return it to the Town Clerk's office. Please return all unwrapped gifts by December 10th.

You may also help by making out a check to "Reading Seniors", writing "Giving Project" in the memo section of the check, and mailing it to Reading Town Clerk, PO Box 72, Reading, VT 05062.

Thank you
Sarah Norcross and the Reading/Brownsville Food Shelf

Volunteer WantedTown Auditor Vacancy

Per the Vermont Statute, the town auditor plays a vital role in preserving the democratic nature of Vermont's local government by ensuring that local officials are accountable for their expenditures of the taxpayers' money. It is the auditor's job to review the accounts of local officials and report the findings directly to the taxpayers for review.

The town auditors meet the first Saturday of each month at the Town Office at 9 a.m. Our current auditors are Channing Smith and Rayna Bishop. This position will be filled by the Select-board as a term until March of 2016 at which time the position will be elected at Town Meeting.

If you have an interest in learning about this position or serving as an auditor please contact Calista at the Town Office at 484-7250.

Reading PTO Annual
Thanksgiving Pie Sale
Saturday, November 21, 2015
8:00 am until 12:00 pm
(or until they are sold out)
Reading Town Hall



You're Invited by the Reading Elementary Students

To attend their ***Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon Feast*** complete with turkey, potatoes and all of the fixings.

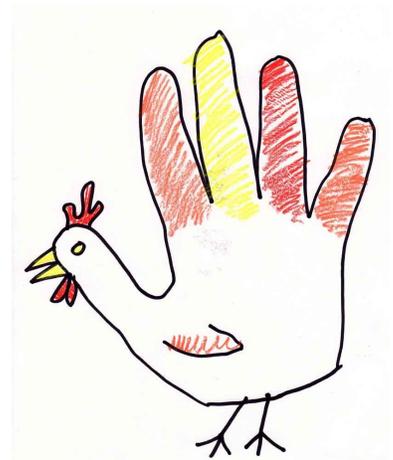
Tuesday, November 24th at the Reading Elementary School

There will be two sittings:

11:30 for the families of the PreK to 2nd grade

12:00 for the families of the grades 3 to 6

Community members are welcome at either sitting.
Donations to defray the cost of the feast will be gratefully
accepted at the door.



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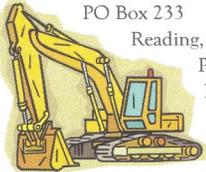
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- Beef Jerky
- Pepperoni

Available locally at Watroba's Store & Reading Greenhouse



Weathersfield Transfer Station
Price of a "PUNCH" has risen from \$2.50 to \$3.50

On 10/21/15 the Town was given notice that the Weathersfield Select Board voted to raise the price of a "punch" at the Weathersfield Transfer Station from \$2.50 to \$3.50 effective on October 26, 2015. Punch cards that you purchase from the Reading Town Office will be: 5 punch card \$17.50 and a 10 punch card will be \$35.00.

Librarian's Note

The library will be hosting a book discussion group this fall and early winter. The group will be reading Elena Ferrante's Neapolitan Novels. The first book in the series is called *My Brilliant Friend*, and will be discussed at 5:74 p.m. on Tuesday, November 54. Feel free to bring your lunch. The group will be meeting monthly after that. Because this series has only been recently published, participants will be providing their own copies. I can perhaps get one or two copies via interlibrary loan on a first-come, first-serve basis.

In most cases, if Reading Library does not own a particular book, you may still get a copy through interlibrary loan. I can borrow the book for you from another library anywhere in the state. It will be sent here in the mail and will be available to you for check-out for up to a month.

As of this writing, we are planning on having the K-6 graders over, as we do each year, for pumpkin-carving. The pumpkins will be displayed and lighted on Halloween.

HeritageQuest is a database providing patrons with research materials for tracing family history and American culture. Search in City Directories, Slave Schedules, U.S. Indian Census Rolls, Mortality Schedules, Agricultural and Industrial Schedules, the Veterans Schedule, U.S. Federal Census images, family and local histories, the Revolutionary War Era Pension & Bounty-land Warrant Application Files, or the Freedman's Bank. Library patrons can access this database for free from anywhere there's an Internet connection. Call, e-mail, or come by the library to obtain the login information.

If there are people in the community who cannot make it to the library because of physical disability or debilitating illness, I will be happy to deliver books to your home. Just call the library at 484-5588.

A library is a place where the community can celebrate itself. By housing special collections based on the needs and unique identities of their towns, libraries serve as a hope chest, preserving a community's memories and experiences. We celebrate our town's colorful history by collecting relevant photographs, maps, memoirs, and other paraphernalia. Our website includes historical photographs as well as audio excerpts from the library's Oral History project.

Cordially,
Tony

Reading Public Library. Tues. 12-3:30 p.m. & 4-7; Thurs. 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. & 2-5; Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mail: P.O. Box 7, Reading, VT 05062. Tel. 802-484-5588. E-mail: reading.public.library@comcast.net. Web: www.readinglibrary.org. The board meets the last Tues. of each mth. at 6 p.m. Wi-Fi 24/7.

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

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
9:30 am-12:30 pm, 1:30 pm-4:30 pm
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

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

The Thrift Store is open to anyone, not just
food shelf members. Please feel free to stop in

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

Copies of the ***Informer*** can be
found on our Town website at
www.readingvt.govoffice.com

Or
we can e-mail a copy to you.
Send the Town Clerk an e-mail
at
readingvermont@comcast.net
to request this.

Reading Planning Commission Meeting

10/7/15

Unapproved Minutes

Present: Steve Strait, Kevin Kaija, Ken Cox, Becky Basch

Minutes of September 14, 2015 – Steve made a motion to accept the minutes as they appear on town website, Ken seconded, all were in favor.

Review recent PC mail –

Oct 28 town planning & zoning forum in Montpelier

Cavendish draft flood hazard regs were submitted for review

East Central VT – What We Want – New publication that provides a vision for the larger region

Update on filling the vacancy on the Planning Commission – Steve reported that Rachel Navarro withdrew her offer to serve on the PC, but may be willing to serve as a consultant. Becky suggested that it would be good to have representative from the Village, and will put another notice in the Front Porch Forum. Steve said he had an email from a part-time resident who is interested in coming to meetings, but could not serve on the commission since he will be away for several months.

Discuss changes to the current Zoning Ordinance:

Group homes – VT statute says that homes of 8 or less people do not require a permit so should not be listed as a permitted use. Steve reported that the RPC said that they should be listed under exemptions and should not require a permit. The Reading Zoning Bylaws definition of group homes says that they are considered a permitted single family use property. The PC reviewed Chapter 117 and confirmed that a group home should be considered a “permitted single family residential use of property.”

Child care homes/facilities – permitted under a certain number, above a certain number a conditional use w/ site plan review

2-family dwellings – Currently a conditional use in 25, 10 and 5-acre zones and permitted in villages. Members commented that they would be unlikely to get a septic permit in Felchville. Members agreed that the zoning should remain as is.

Review 5.1.2, Permit Exemptions – Steve commented that we may need to add group homes to this section if they don't require a permit.

Accepted forestry management practices – Steve commented that the Forest Plan recommended that forest land that is being cleared for development should require a permit. Kevin suggested adding language to state that a certain percentage of the land is cleared for development purposes. Cuts more than 40 acres have to be reviewed by the state. Ken suggested saying that if the basal area of forest is being reduced by X % it should be reviewed as a development if there is not an approved forest management plan in place. Our job is to protect resource and neighboring property. Kevin commented that there may be a lot of clearing for agriculture and for biofuel (wood pellet plant). Kevin commented that it can be done properly and maintain wildlife habitat. Steve commented that the East Central VT book says that agricultural and forestry practices will change as climate changes. Members commented that we may not be able to regulate forestry practices.

Review 2.4.8, Ridgeline Protection Overlay District – Steve commented that we may look at this more if we get the Municipal Planning Grant.

Solar farms – Steve sent out materials regarding siting and regulating of solar farms. Towns will have a say in Act 248 hearings regarding renewable energy facilities. Steve commented that it would be good if they could be put on less valuable soils so they don't take prime agricultural land. Ken commented that there is a project in Townsend where forest land was cleared to make room for a solar farm. Ken commented that there are several farms planned for abandoned gravel pits. Members will look at the materials that Steve sent out and will discuss more at a future meeting.

Next meeting – November 4th Adjournment - Kevin moved, Ken seconded – meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Basch, Secretary

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November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1 Change the Clock!</i>	<i>2 Fire Auxiliary 7pm.</i>	<i>3 Fire & Rescue 7 p.m.</i>	<i>4 Taxes</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>9 Selectboard 6 p.m.</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11 School Closed</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i>	<i>16 PTO 6:00 pm @RES</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18 RES Schoolboard 6pm</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21 Curtain Program Town Hall 6</i>
<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24 Library Mtg. 6 p.m. at Library</i>	<i>25 No School</i>	<i>26 Thanksgiving</i>	<i>27 No School</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>					