



The Reading Informer

November 2016

Published by the Town of Reading

Your Property Tax Bill is due on
Friday, November 4, 2016 by 5:00 PM.

Payments must be received at the
Reading Town Clerk's Office by 5 PM.
For your convenience the office will be
open that day 7 AM to 5 PM.

Post Marks are NOT accepted. Thank You



Please note that we are not setup
for credit card payments.

Meeting Schedule

Board of Selectmen
Second Monday
6:00 PM at Town Office

Parent Teacher Org
Third Monday
7:00 PM at Reading School

Cemetery Commission
Fourth Wednesday
6:00 PM at Town Office

**Planning Commission
& Zoning Board**
First Monday
7:00 PM at Town Office

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

R.A.T.S
2nd Wednesday
7:00 PM at Fire Station

Fire & Rescue Dept.
First Tuesday
7:00 PM at Fire Station

School Board
Third Wednesday
6:00 PM at Reading School

Fire Dept. Auxiliary
First Monday
7:00 PM at Fire Station

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

Library Trustees
Last Tuesday
6:00 PM at Library

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

Emergency Telephone Numbers

Fire and Ambulance 911

State Police 457-1416

Domestic/Sexual Violence Hotline
866-348-WISE (9473)

Town Contact Information

Town Clerk/Treasure Office

484-7250

Mon, Tues, Wed, 8 am—4 pm

Thursday 8 am—3:30 pm

First Saturday of the Month: 9am-12pm

Website: www.readingvt.govoffice.com

Email: readingvermont@comcast.net

Post Office Iiri Makkonen

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

Nathan Willard 484-0094

Contribute to The Reading Review in
the Vermont Standard. Author, Stephen
D'Agostino is always looking for newsy
items, sweet Reading stories, or tidbits to
share with our community.

Send your ideas to him at
stephen.d.dagostino@gmail.com

Selectboard's Meeting

October 10, 2016

UNAPPROVED

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

Present: Robert Allen, Gordy Eastman, Jim Peplau, Calista Brennan, Mary Vittum, Sarwar Kashmeri and Mike Beam

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

Minutes of the September 12th Selectmen's meeting were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: As of 9/30/16, Expenses were \$63,502.82; Revenue was \$157,540.08. Balance in LSB (G/L account) \$139,726.02 and balance in the sweep account \$531,494.31 for a total of \$671,220.33. Delinquent taxes for 2013-15 are \$48,185.35. Gordy moved to approve and Jim seconded. Report is accepted.

Action Items:

Appointment to Planning Commission – Kathy Rondeau: The Planning Commission requested that the Selectboard appoint Kathy Rondeau to fill the vacancy. Gordy moved to appoint Kathy Rondeau, Jim seconded. Kathy is appointed to the Planning Commission until 2020.

Welcome to Reading Signs: Mary Vittum submitted 3 quotes for the signs. She had asked the Cemetery Commission if a sign could be placed at New Amsden Cemetery. This was approved at the last cemetery meeting. Mary left the bids with the Selectboard for review.

Homestead Penalty Appeal: Sarwar requested an appeal of the penalty for late filing of their homestead. After some discussion, Gordy made a motion not to waive the penalty, Jim seconded. The Selectboard had voted at a meeting in August of 2014 that no penalties would be waived.

Bridge Bids: Mike Beam was here to explain his bid and answer any question that the Selectboard might have.

Highways: Glen reported that 7 culverts have been replaced. There is another one on Twenty Mile Stream Road that will be done in the spring. They have been working on getting class 3 roads ready for winter. Robert said the scope-of-work for the ditching on Town Hill Road would be going out Tuesday. Bids are due back by October 21st.

Other: Robert got more information on the Historical Grant for the Town Hall. After some discussion of the pros and cons of receiving grant money, it was decided not to continue with the application.

Being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM.

Next Selectboard meeting will be on Monday, November 14, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Calista N Brennan

Upcoming General Election—dates to note

November 2nd, Wednesday — last day to register to vote.
Town Clerk's office will be open until 5 p.m.

November 7th, Monday —last day to request an absentee ballot.
Ballots must be returned by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8th.

Vermont General Election Voting

Tuesday, November 8th at the Reading Town Hall.



NOTE ! For your convenience voting hours
have been extended.
Polls in Reading will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

You have the opportunity to vote for:

US President & Vice President

US Senator

Representative to Congress

VT State Governor

Lieutenant Governor

State Treasurer

Secretary of State

Auditor of Accounts

Attorney General

State Senator (3)

State Representative

High Bailiff

Town of Reading: 5 Justices of the Peace



ACT 46 - The Future of Our School and Education in our District from your local school board. Local Forums are your chance to learn more and get involved!

Please attend the Reading forum on 11/15/16 at 6 pm at RES

Our Schools.... Your Child's Education

- In 2015, the Vermont legislature passed Act 46 which declares that the "State shall provide educational opportunities through sustainable governance structures by July 2019."
- Act 46 encourages the districts that make up the Windsor Central Supervisory Union (WCSU) to explore the opportunities and challenges of unifying into a single PreK-12th district with one board and one budget that would serve Barnard, Bridgewater, Pomfret, Killington, Reading, and Woodstock prior to the state developing its own redistricting plan.
- The Act 46 Study Committee (consisting of board members and citizens from each town) meets publicly twice per month, and is developing **Principles for Unification and Articles of Agreement** that will specify, among other important issues, how representation on the new unified board will be allocated.
- The Committee is working to address the legal requirements of Act 46 and is seeking new ways of delivering a greater variety of high quality, educational opportunities to every student in the current WCSU. A unified district will likely mean the restructuring of some schools and may add some school "choice" options for Grades K-6. Restructuring does not mean closing any school within the next 4 years, however, it could mean the closing of some grades in some schools by July 2018.

As a result, on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, you may be asked to vote by Australian ballot on Articles of Agreement that would create a new unified union (PreK - 12th grade) school district, as well as, elect individuals who would represent our town on that new school board. This vote will directly affect our school, the future of our children's elementary education, our board, and our school budget! Please note that this does not change our regular Saturday, Town Meeting.

If our town votes YES, it will join a new unified school district that would begin operation in July of 2018 with other towns in our Supervisory Union that also vote YES, creating a single unified board & one budget for those towns. A Yes vote would mean all schools in the new district would keep their existing State funding, including small schools grants, and obtain additional State tax incentives. One board and one budget could mean increasing opportunities for students by creatively restructuring the delivery of our schools existing educational programs in a more efficient and educationally effective manner.

If our town votes NO, our school board and budget process will remain as it is until November 2018 when the State puts forth a statewide redistricting plan to go into effect by July 2019. A NO vote would mean our school might lose any small school's grant that it currently receives and will not be eligible for tax incentives from the State. At this time, we do not know what the final statewide redistricting plan will dictate.

Thanksgiving Break - School Closed

November 23, 24, 25



Law Office of Peter K. Vollers, PLC

Peter K. Vollers, Esq.

KimAnn R. Vollers, Office Manager

T'Other House
4 The Green

Woodstock, Vermont 05091

Tel: 802-457-2420

Fax: 802-457-9960

pvollers@vollerslaw.com

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Recent Local Property Transfers

Properties Sold

- ⇒ **George & Diana Davis to David & Charlene Puska**
20 Mile Stream Road 105.3 acres \$124,750
- ⇒ **Secretary of Housing & Urban Development to Charles Johnson**
690 VT Route 106 House & (.22) acre \$ 30,100
- ⇒ **Jacob & Jami Waters to Newhall Farms Ltd.**
6 Park Circle House & (.50) acre \$120,000
- ⇒ **Andrew & Jane Rodd to Janet B. Hall**
1016 Malagash Road House & 11.73 acres \$256,000
- ⇒ **Internal Revenue Service to Jeffrey S. Knight**
Kittridge Pasture Road 77.16 acres \$ 31,036.77

Librarian's Note

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.

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.

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.



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Thanksgiving Pie Sale

At the Reading Town Hall

Saturday, November 19, 2016

8:00 am until 12:00 pm
(or until they are sold out)

The Reading Elementary School students will be making their delicious pies for your enjoyment.

Some of the flavors will be apple, pumpkin and coconut.
Sponsored by the Reading PTO



GOBBLE, GOBBLE

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 22 at the Reading Elementary School

There will be two sittings:

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

12:00 for the families of the students in 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.

Reading Historical Society

Preserving The Past For The Future

Meteors Like Snowflakes

When I started writing this column, two people were excited to tell me about some writings called “Reminescences of Reading, Vermont” (misspellings and all) by Adin Estabrook. They both told me there were a lot of great stories in there that I would find enlightening.

They weren’t lying. Now, knowing more about Reading history than I did a year ago when I started this endeavor, I can go back to Estabrook’s writings and see names that have become familiar to me, including Buck, Shedd, Brown, and Burnham.

The “reminescences” reads like a genealogy of people in town. Most of it is typewritten but some of it is recorded by hand and hard to decipher. The thing that caught my eye on the first read is an account, written in shaky script, of what happened one night in November 1834. I can assume that this was written by Adin, reflecting back years later on that night. The story starts:

“In November 1834, a meteor burst high above us. Yellow particles like snowflakes covered the snow.”

He goes on to describe sounds like thunder and strong wind and buildings shaking.

“I asked father, ‘has the end of the world come?’ ‘No, my boy, we are still all safe.’” Still frightened, the young Adin goes on to ask about the safety of his family, the cat, and the pony. His father assures them they are fine.

It’s likely that Adin Estabrook had seen the Leonids meteor shower (though the sounds remain a mystery), an annual event we now know happens as a result of the Earth passing through the tail of the Comet Tempel-Tuttle. Late in the evening of November 17 and early morning November 18, you can watch the meteor shower that Adin saw (depending on the weather and the just-past-full moon). You’ll probably see around 10 to 15 meteors an hour. You likely won’t see meteors like snowflakes, as did Adin.

He was lucky enough to experience something that happens only once every 33 years. During that 33rd year and possibly a few years after it, it might be possible to see thousands of meteors a night—it may seem that they’re falling like snowflakes—as the Earth passes through a particularly dense part of the comet’s tail.

We’re half way through the span between these extra-special shows. The next one will likely occur around 2033, so stay tuned!

Science and knowledge have made it possible for us to know more about when to expect meteor showers and what causes them. They’re still spectacular, but surely the sense of awe must have been greater—especially to a young boy like Adin Estabrook—when people witnessing this event didn’t quite understand what they were seeing.

--Stephen D’Agostino



Calling All Crafters

The Reading Historical Society is planning a **craft fair for December 3 at Robinson Hall**. If you have a handmade craft business, knit sweaters, make Christmas ornaments, blow glass, carve wood, sell maple syrup and maple products, make things that would be perfect gifts—you get the idea—we want to hear from you!

Email stephen.d.dagostino@gmail.com if you want to learn more!

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 8th.

No time to shop or you can't get out to shop..... 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

Community Involvement Opportunities.....

Reading Parent Teacher Organization—

At the PTO meeting held on October 17th, the positions of Chair and Secretary were not filled. Elections will be held again on Monday, November 21st. If no one is willing to step up and serve as Chair or Secretary at the next election cycle all future fundraising events are in jeopardy. Therefore, we *strongly* encourage you to consider becoming a board member of the PTO. This is a dedicated group of parents, grandparents, volunteers and teachers who work tirelessly to provide educational opportunities for our children and promote the importance of our school within the community.

If anyone is interested in serving in either an officer position or as a classroom parent please feel free to contact Jessica Seman 952-1004, Boolie Sluka 484-8957 or Wade Mullins.



Wanted by the Town of Reading—3 members to serve on the Reading Recreation Commission to fill the vacancies created by Diane Moore, Chris Titus and Kevin Barnes. The purpose of the commission is to oversee the activities that take place at the ball field and to host community activities. Please submit a letter of interest to the Selectboard.

The Reading Informer
PO Box 72
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November 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|----------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 <i>Time Change</i> | 7 <i>Fire Auxiliary 7 pm Fire Station</i> | 8 <i>Fire & Rescue 7pm Fire Station</i> | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 <i>Selectboard 6 pm</i> | 15 | 16 <i>School Board at RES 6 pm</i> | 17 | 18 | 19 <i>PIE SALE</i> |
| 20 | 21 <i>PTO 7 pm—RES Plan Comm 7 pm</i> | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |
| | | | | | | |