

News Items DEADLINE

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Mount Holly Chit Chat

March 2022

Church Listing on back page "Who's Got It Locally?"

Mount Holly Community Asso – Contact Linda Miller at 802-345-1740

Mount Holly Museum-Open Jul & Aug Sat & Sun 2-4pm www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org 802-259-2460 ddevereux@vermontel.net

Mt. Holly NewsFlash Town email sign up at mthollynewsflash@gmail.com Check Out www.mthollynewsflash.blogspot.com

Town Library: In-Person with Mask Sat 9-1, Mon 9-1, Tue 1-5, Wed 2-4, P.O. Box 93, Belmont, VT 05730 Call 802-259-3707

Town Office Hours: Mon. to Thurs. 8:30 am – 4:00 pm Closed Fri. & Holidays Phone 802-259-2391

Town Treasurer's Office Hours: Mon 8:30 am – 12:00 pm Wed 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm and by Appointment 802-259-2391

Town Lister Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 am – 2:00 pm and by Appointment 802-259-2391

Town Garage: 802-259-3179

Burn Permits: Call Fire Warden ~ Jim Seward 802-786-3408 or 802-259-2211

TRANSFER SITE: Sat. 8 am – 2 pm & Sun. 9 am – 12 pm

March 2022

Feb 28th Annual Town Meeting, MH School Gym
1st VOTE by Australian Ballot! MH Town Office
MH Snow Flyers Meeting
Mt. Holly Community Association Meeting, Library
Mount Holly Conservation Commission



7:00 pm
Polls open 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

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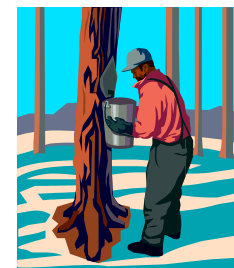
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2nd Fire Dept. Business Meeting, Belmont Fire Station

Ash Wednesday ~ Texas Independence Day

Alexander Graham Bell 1847

"Star Spangled Banner" Made US National Anthem 1931

Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race Begins Anchorage, Alaska 50th Anniversary

Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni 1475

International Women's Day

Sat 5th Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont
Sun 6th Select Board Meeting, Town Office & Zoom
8th LMHUUS Meeting, MH School Library & Zoom
9th ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont
10th Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station



Snow Goose- Permit Required Season Starts

Girl Scouts Founded 1912

Hare & Rabbit Season Ends ~ Daylight Savings Begins

Pi Day Est. 1988 ~ Albert Einstein 1879

Sat 12th Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building
Sun 13th Mason Meeting, Mt. Moriah Lodge #96, E. Wallingford

14th Mt. Holly PTSA Meeting, MH School
15th Mt. Holly Town Library Meeting, Library, Belmont

Purim Begins

16th Mount Holly Planning Commission, MH Town Office & Via Zoom

Purim Ends ~ St. Patrick's Day 1631

Full Worm Moon

17th Fire Dept. work night, Fire Stations

Vernal Equinox – Spring Begins

World Down Syndrome Day

18th Community Guild Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont

Civil Rights March 1965

19th ODD Fellows Meeting, IOOF Hall, Belmont

National Diabetes Alert Day

20th Fire Dept. Drill, Fire Station

Seward's Day (Alaska)

21st Rescue Squad Meeting, Rescue Squad Building

National Vietnam War Veterans Day

22nd Fire Dept. work night, Fire Stations

Cesar Estrada Chavez US Labor Organizer 1927

23rd Otter, Muskrat, Beaver, Hare & Rabbit: WMUs D,E Season Ends

Emergency Services

Mount Holly Fire Dept.	802-259-2700	911	Poison Control	802-658-3456
Mount Holly Fire Warden – Jim Seward	802-786-3408	802-259-2211	American Red Cross	802-773-9159
Mount Holly Rescue Squad	802-775-3133	911	Game Warden – Tim Carey	802-773-9101
Mount Holly Constable Paul Faenza	C 802-353-8347		Health Officer - Tim Bickford	802-779-6429
Animal Control For Mt. Holly C text only	802-353-4492 H 802-259-3976		Vermont State Police	802-773-9101

Send ARTICLES to: Diana Garrow, 3379 Shunpike Rd., Mt. Holly, VT 05758 Phone 802-259-2314 or E-Mail to chitchat@vermontel.net Check out Mt. Holly Web Site www.mounthollyvt.org

"The views and opinions expressed in the enclosed articles are solely those of their authors and are not necessarily those of the Chit Chat, its staff, or its board of directors. The authors are solely responsible for the content of their articles."

Donation Thank Yous: Jim, Millicent & Jerimiah Johnson (Mt. Holly Dairy-Aire Farm) * Carol & John Serravezza * John Manning & Lydia Graves II * Marilyn Roberts & Ted Hall * Doug & Ann Rose (Green MTN Sugar House) * Andy Worcester (AW Carpentry-Remodeling-Building-Portable Sawmilling) * Gail Beardmore (Engel & Volkers Okemo Woodstock) *



March Birthdays: 1st-Jessica Duarte 2nd-Doris Nelson * Donald Reiser * Nicole Reiser 3rd-Alexander Melville * Violet Colm 4th-Deborah DeTore 5th-Morgan Coldwell * James Johnson * Alexa McCallum 7th-Elijah Teter 8th-Mike Dawley Sr. 9th-Hanna Colm 10th-Dennis Devereux 12th-Julie Parsells 13th-Debbie Woods * Elizabeth Manuel 1995 14th-Shawn Wortman 15th-Cassandra Parsels * Karen Ham * Frank Gerdin 19th-Patrick Melvin * Andrew Garrow * Eureka Johnson 20th-Bill Jacobs 21st-Jeremiah Johnson 22nd-John Taylor * Rachel Manuel (1971) 23rd-Megan Carrara 25th-Nicole Griffin * Lucy Columb. 28th-Bessie Centini 29th-Nancy Columb 30th-April Melvin * Mary Nortunen * Brian Roberts



March Anniversaries: 26th-Raymond & Linda Tarbell

If you would like to add or remove yours or a family members birthday and or anniversary from the list please send the information to me at the above address or e-mail me at chitchat@vermontel.net or call me at 802-259-2314.

Local Post Office Hours

Mount Holly		802-259-2796
Window	Mon – Fri	8:00 am – 10:00 am
	&	2:45 pm – 4:45 pm
	Sat	7:30 am – 10:30 am
Lobby Hours: Mon – Fri		8:00 am – 4:45 pm
Belmont		802-259-2790
Window	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 9:30 am
	&	2:45 pm – 4:45 pm
	Sat	8:00 am – 10:45 am
Lobby Hours: Mon – Fri		7:30 am – 4:45 pm
East Wallingford		802-259-2829
Window	Mon – Fri	7:00 am – 11:00 am
	Sat	7:00 am – 10:00 am
Lobby Hours: Mon – Fri		7:00 am – 4:45 pm
Cuttingsville/Shrewsbury		802-492-3585
Window Hours	Mon – Fri	7:30 am – 10:30 am
	&	11:30 am – 2:30 pm
	Sat	8:00 am – 11:00 am
Lobby Hours		Mon – Fri
	Sat	7:30 am – 5:00 pm
		7:30 am – 11:00 am
Ludlow		802-228-7436
Post Master: Dawn Howlett		
Lobby Hours: Mon – Fri		6:30 am – 5:30 pm
	Sat	6:30 am – 11:00 am
Window Hours: Mon – Fri		8:30 am – 5:00 pm
	Sat	8:30 am – 10:30 am



Mount Holly Chit Chat, Inc.

PUBLISHER: Mount Holly Chit Chat, Inc., a Non Profit Vermont Corporation; Federal 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt statuses

BOARD of DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT: Dennis Devereux **V. PRESIDENT:** David Venter

SECRETARY: Terri Isidro **TREASURER:** Diana Garrow

DIRECTORS: Heather Garrow, Christine Pratt, Kevin Plew

MANAGING EDITOR: Diana Garrow

ASSISTANT to the EDITOR: Heather Garrow

SUBMISSIONS: Deadline is 22nd By 6:00 pm of each month for the following month. Send to chitchat@vermontel.net or mail to Mount Holly Chit Chat, 3379 Shunpike Rd., Mount Holly, VT 05758 Phone 802-259-2314. E-mail or mail articles on Town news, events, and issues; op-eds and essays; poems, jokes, recipes, nature observations, reviews, obituaries, remembrances. Include name, address, and phone number. Anonymous articles will not be accepted. Mailed copies should be camera-ready, i.e., ready to be scanned into the paper. Contact the editor for further information. Contact the editor for inclusion in the coming month's announcements of birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, graduations, retirements, and other milestones.

PHOTOS: Color photos of events are welcome as they look great on the Chit Chat web edition

LETTERS to the EDITOR: email; 300 word limit; include name, address, and phone number. Letters are subject to editing for reasons of space and clarity. Requests for anonymity will be considered by the Editor.

DISCLAIMER: The views and opinions expressed in the enclosed articles are solely those of their authors and are not necessarily those of the Chit Chat, its staff, or its board of directors. The authors are solely responsible for the content of their articles.

ADVERTISEMENTS: Camera ready. Contact editor with questions, or to assist with ad creation (cost \$15).

RATES: Back Page: \$25 Per Listing for one year

	1 Mo.	3 Mo.	6 Mo.	9 Mo.	12 Mo.
Business Card:	\$15	\$40	\$75	\$115	\$150
Quarter Page:	\$30	\$80	\$150	\$225	\$300
Third Page:	\$45	\$125	\$225	\$350	\$450
Half Page:	\$75	\$200	\$375	\$550	\$750
Full Page:	\$125	\$325	\$625	\$1025	\$1250

FREE ADVERTISING: Only Community and Non-Profit (501 c3) tax-exempt organizations may qualify for free advertising in the Mount Holly Chit Chat, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. Articles submitted for print which promote the sale of goods or services for financial gain will be charged the Chit Chat's set rate for advertisements.

CIRCULATION: The Mount Holly Chit Chat is delivered to every residence in Mount Holly and mailed to out-of-Town property owners as well as other folks with Mount Holly ties.

INTERNET: Each month's edition is published on the Mount Holly Town website: www.mounthollyvt.org

MEMBERSHIP IN CORPORATION: Open to all who live, work, or own property in Mount Holly and who make an annual donation of any amount.

The Annual Membership meeting is held on the second Monday in September in the Mount Holly Town Office at 6 p.m. The meeting includes the annual report and election of the Board of Directors

ORGANIZATION SUPPORT: The Mount Holly Chit Chat has been published each month since 1974 and has been supported solely by donations until 2006 when readership was expanded as a public service to all who reside, vote, or own property in Mount Holly. The Chit Chat is supported by donations, advertisements, and appropriation from the Town.



Jack P. Koponen

Jack P. Koponen, 77, passed peacefully Feb. 10, 2022, at the Gill Home in Ludlow. He was born Dec. 17, 1944, on Pleasant Street in Ludlow, Vermont, son of Bertha and Ake Koponen. Jack was a graduate of Chester High School and New Hampshire Technical College. He was employed by many machine tool businesses in Springfield. He also worked for the town of Cavendish, Wright Construction and Windsor Minerals, as well as being a welder for many at home. Family includes his wife of 52 years, Sanrita (Bancroft) Koponen; two sons and their wives, Jack and Cathy Koponen, of Mount Holly, and Jason and Leanne Koponen, of Ludlow; grandchildren, Noah, Sadie, Mia, Rissa, Ellen and Matt. There will be no services as that was Jack's wishes. We would like to thank the many people of the Gill Home, and Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire.

John A. Puro

John A. Puro, 82, died Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, at the Pines at Rutland. A full obituary will be published at a later date. Arrangements are pending with Aldous Funeral Home in Rutland.

Diane Jo Emerson Hart

Diane Jo Emerson Hart, 66, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on Jan. 20, 2022, after a short struggle with cancer.

Diane was born Oct. 21, 1955 in Shrewsbury, VT the daughter of Benjamin L. Emerson & Lillian M. (Freeman) Emerson. She grew up in Mount Holly, Bethel and Ludlow, graduated from Black River High School, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in education from Lyndon State College.

Diane returned to Ludlow Elementary School where she taught grades first and second for 35 years. She loved everything to do with butterflies and she raised and released Monarchs and Tiger Swallowtails every year in her life cycle science lessons.

In her free time, she loved doing jigsaw puzzles, reading mystery books, making crafts, playing word and board games, camping, fishing, and spending time with her cats and beloved granddaughter Rowan. She made many special memories traveling to visit her daughter in far-away places like Wyoming and Switzerland. She found many friends through local organizations including the Loyal Order of Moose in Springfield, VFW of Claremont, Polish American Club of Claremont and

Daughters of the American Revolution.

Diane is survived by her partner David Ryan of over 30 years of Chester, VT, daughter Julie Hart (Daniel Schlaepfer) of Belmar, NY, son Richard Hart and granddaughter Rowan Hart of Chester, VT, brother Winston C. Derby (Linda) of New Market, TN, sister Barbara Pukt (Joseph) of Nashua, NH, sister Donna Emerson of Muncie, IN, best friend Robin Steele of Chester and many friends. Diane is predeceased by her parents, brother Gerald Derby and sisters Ruth Preston and Carol Ann Emerson.

Diane was a kind, gentle, loving soul who touched many, many lives. Her loving, inviting smile will not be forgotten. When it is again safe to gather, we will invite friends and family to come together to celebrate her wonderful life. Arrangements are being handled by Fenton and Hennessy Funeral Home, 55 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, VT 05101.

Bone Builders

Monday & Thursday Mornings
9:00 am

Odd Fellows Hall

For Weights and more information
Call Judy Nevin 802-259-2443

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March

By Rebecca Hey

Could sullen Winter, in his mid-career,
Call from his magazine of storm and cloud,
A ruder gale than this How shrill how loud,
Its angry dissonance assails the ear!
Where be those tokens now which late did cheer
The trusting heart with hopes that Spring was nigh?
Ah! as I gaze around, earth, sea, and sky,
In mournful cadence, seem to answer "Where?"
Yet wait we patiently a little while—
The boon for which we sigh is but delay'd;
So sure as Nature's summer charms did fade
At Autumn's touch, so sure at Spring's sweet smile
Shall trees again bud forth, and flowers unfold,
"And all be vernal rapture as of old."

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The Mount Holly Town Office along with the town's Animal Control Officer will host a rabies vaccination clinic on Saturday March 26th from 10am till 12 noon. At this same time the town office will be open to make it convenient to register your dog. A Rabies shot and certificate is required to get your dog licensed. This clinic is also open to cats.

The cost of the rabies shot is \$20.00 Dollars in addition to the cost of the license. Will need separate checks for the Vet check made payable to Riverside Veterinarian Care. For the license for the town would be payable to Town of Mount Holly.

The cost of the license is \$11.00 for a spayed / neutered pet and \$15.00 dollars for unneutered prior to April 1st, the due date for licensing. After April 1st a late fee will be applied.

*** Hall Rental in Belmont ***

The use of the Hall in Belmont is scheduled by contacting Carol at 802-259-2791, or at tcg2791@yahoo.com. You may also leave a message with Dennis at 802-259-2460, or at ddevereux@vermontel.net.

Mt. Moriah Lodge #96 Trestleboard

Next meeting Tuesday 3/15th 7:30PM

Greetings Brothers,

The end of the year is up already and it's time to be filling the chairs for the ensuing year. If you have a specific chair you would like to fill, this meeting would be the perfect time to let your wishes be known.

Don't forget the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Fraternally,
Dennis Start W.M. - Buster Seward Sec'y

Scheduled Rabies Vaccination Clinic



All dogs must be on a leash and please have cats in a carrier. The attending Veterinarian will be Dr. Carol Gifford of Riverside Veterinarian Care. Masks will be required to enter the town office. If you have any question you can reach out to Carol at the town office or call or text Laurie (ACO) at 802-353-4492 Thank you!

Free Writers Workshop

March 27th from 10 a.m. until noon at my home. All are welcome regardless of experience. I will have nosh food and tea and coffee. It is a private home, so if you attend, you are vaccinated. More details: connor@ohio.edu or 259-2773. Thank you, Joan Connor

Mount Holly Community Association

It's March, 'In like a lion out like a lamb'...should we be taking bets on that? Where did that phrase come from? Does it apply to all areas of the country? Is it strictly American? These are questions that start noodling their way into our minds as we start thinking ahead to spring. Speaking of spring, the Board has decided to cancel the Mudd Fling over safety concerns once again. Although having a party as we come out of hibernation, dancing the night away with friends and neighbors as we ring in mud season sounds incredibly fun; leaving with the latest Covid variant, becoming sick and spreading it more would not be so fun! And so we think forward and make plans for outside gatherings. Stay tuned!

Wait... noodling questions do have answers. If you are interested:

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/02/weather/weather-proverb-march-lion-lamb/index.html>

Our community center has picked up some use over the last few months with the Folk Club, Guild, Bone Builders, tutoring, the Tree Preservation group, and the latest being a yoga class offered by Kayla Soule who is working on hours required for her teaching certificate.

We are looking for interested community minded folks who would like to join our board. The Board is responsible for organizing community events and for the care, maintenance, and renovation of the historic church building that houses the library and community room. If being on the Board is a larger commitment than you want to make, we are always looking for volunteers for a variety of tasks such as individual events, helping with mailings, advertising, inventory organization,, and welcoming new members to our community. It is a great way to get involved and meet people! Please contact us at mhcavt@gmail.com

As always, thanks for supporting MHCA; we do it all for you!

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A special note of gratitude to Bob Herbst for transportation back and forth to UVM Medical Center. This is an important community service. – Joan Connor

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This month's edition of the *Chit Chat* will not contain any advertising promoting the good feeling people get when they submit their favorite photos of Mount Holly to the annual

Mount Holly Photo & Calendar Competition

and, at the very least, get to see those photos publically displayed in the Mount Holly Community Center during October's popular *Cider Days* celebration (and maybe even see them voted into the next Mount Holly calendar). Sorry for the inconvenience.

Entry forms will be available in early July and entry deadline is September 26, 2022. But you didn't hear that here.

Reinbow Riding Center

Snow and cold aside, Reinbow Riding is already gearing up for the coming lesson season. Besides getting funding and programs lined up we're working on a new design for T-shirts and caps and hope to have them ready to show everyone next month. Planning is on for spring work at Stonewall Farm that will include spring cleanup, fencing, getting equipment ready and brushing that long winter hair out of the coats of those fuzzy horses.

School programs are filling up. The 2022 registration paperwork is now available on the website for anyone who would like to participate in Reinbow Riding Center programs as a rider or volunteer. Please inquire about financial assistance that is available. If you need a hard copy send us an email at the address below or contact Janet at janupton@comcast.net

Please view our website: reinbowridingcenter.org and follow us on Facebook, Twitter @ReinbowRiding; Instagram @reinbow_riding_center. Contact us at: programs@reinbowridingcenter.org or call 802-236-2483.



Boy that sure felt good!

Mount Holly Snow Flyers

Once again Mother Nature has been throwing us curve balls all season. We've had snow for some weeks now, but we sure could use more. Last week's warm up & rain has really hurt the trails, water bars may be open, rocks poking through, & ice showing. At this time - our trails are still open - but with **Caution**. The base we had is now very hard so overheating is a real possibility. If you ride, be very careful as conditions are varying day to day. We now have a logging operation in progress on Summit Road, there is a re-route up Summit Road to Stewart Road to bypass the loggers - so be cautious riding the side of the road & beware of vehicle traffic. The groomers have been out whenever possible - given the conditions we've had so far. The logging operations on Old Plymouth Road & Grouse Hill have been completed so those areas are now clear. There are still several weeks left in the riding season - so let's hope for a couple more snow storms!

Thank You to our Land Owners that allow us to travel on their land & enjoy all that winter brings. Ride Safe - Stay on the Trails & Respect those who let us travel on their property.



Wheeeee! It's so much fun getting a good roll in fresh fallen snow even when your clothes are still on. I do believe this is what Cutie loves best about winter. Plus she's on vacation.



Two Hundred Years Ago This Month

You know her name, but there's more to Harriet Tubman than what you learned in school. In March of 1822, she was born Araminta "Minty" Ross, enslaved in Maryland. She was beaten and whipped by her various masters as a child. As a teen, she was struck in the forehead by a 2 lb. lead weight thrown by an irate white overseer. The traumatic head injury caused dizziness, pain and "spells" throughout her life. 21st Century historians speculate that she may have had narcolepsy, epilepsy or both.



Upon the death of her owner she suspected she might be sold to pay debts, so she devised a plan to escape with her brothers (who subsequently turned back out of fear.) Before leaving, she adopted her mother's 1st name and her husband's last— although her husband, a free Black man named John Tubman, refused to join her. Once she escaped slavery, God used her to rescue between 70 and 300 others.

Given the codename "Moses" by those she freed, Harriet bravely made 19 trips back to the pre-Civil War South to rescue others. A woman of "unyielding faith", strength and determination, she stated, *"If I'm free, my family should be too. I've made up my mind. I'm going back... I will give every last drop of blood in my veins till this monster called slavery is dead."* She continued even when there was a price on her head and her life was in constant danger. A devoted believer in Jesus, she carried a hymnal and a Bible on every trip and due to her lifelong illiteracy, she had others read her verses, which she memorized and quoted often. She said, *"I prayed all the time about my work, everywhere; I was always talking to the Lord."* The 2019 movie, *Harriet*, depicts her having to pull her pistol on the very people she was helping so they wouldn't turn back and give them all away. She'd say, *"You'll be free or die."*

Harriet had a "fluid conversation" with God. She attributed much of her northbound missions' successes to God's direction. Reaching a crossroads, she'd pause, listen for a moment before deciding which way to go. She

assisted hundreds of others with her knowledge of safe spaces and escape routes. As distinct from other "conductors" she later said, *"I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger."*

Her bravery and activism didn't end there, however. She was active in the abolitionist and suffrage movements and served the Union Army as a nurse, scout and spy. She raised money to build schools for newly freed people and donated her home for the care of the ill and elderly. Committed to freedom and dignity for everyone, her life was a powerful expression of Paul's instruction to the earliest Christians: *"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in... Jesus."*

Harriet was a woman who lived dependently in prayer, spending time in God's presence and it gave her tremendous strength to face her difficulties and tackle the most challenging tasks. You can too. You may never have a national park site dedicated to you, (She has two.) But you have the same access to that mighty Savior who can enable you to live every moment in a "fluid conversation" with the One who gives the courage and determination for each day.

Rabies Clinic & Dog License

If you are going to pay by check it would be extremely helpful if you could make out the check ahead of time (if you are unsure of the total, you could fill in the rest except the amount). You will need two checks, one for the vet and one for the town. After the dog gets the shot, please give the Town Clerk the rabies Certificate then take your dog out to the car and come back in to pick up the tag so we can keep things moving. Thank You!

The cost of the rabies shot is \$20.00 each and the check should be made payable to: **Riverside Veterinary Care**

The cost for registering with the Town is:

Male or female neutered or spayed = \$ 11.00 per dog

Male or female unneutered = \$15.00 per dog

The check for registering the dogs should be made payable to:

Town of Mount Holly

If paying by cash, please have the correct amount it would be very helpful! Thanks!!



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Mount Holly Friends and Neighbors,

These are difficult times for our country, for rural towns like Mount Holly, and for many of us personally. The problems facing us are real and growing. We know our town has always been a desirable place to live and now, thanks to top-notch broadband and pandemic-driven remote work, the rest of the world knows it too. We are concerned this huge demand will make our town difficult for us to afford to live in. We are concerned the demands on our public services will increase our taxes. We are concerned that many more non-resident home buyers will make it hard to rely on purely volunteer town services. We are concerned about the loss of recreational land due to posting and new development.

True, there are many challenges ahead. But there are also great opportunities. Our federal and state governments are providing immense financial resources—millions of dollars through the bipartisan infrastructure law and others—specifically to help rural towns like ours address these challenges head-on.

I have the right experience and skills needed to help our town in this unique moment. That is why I am running for the vacant position on the Select Board of Mount Holly.

I am recognized in town as someone who knows how to raise money and write grants. In my two decades of public service, **I have raised well over \$2 million for the town of Mount Holly.** I have written successful grants for the Fire Department, Community Association, and Historical Museum—among others. This skill was honed during years of working in local governments where I ran departments of recreation and raised funds for new parks and public services. I have used these abilities to lead the effort to save Star Lake with a dam and added hundreds of acres to Okemo State Forest, land that has unparalleled views, great hunting and fishing, and protects a critical junction of the VAST snowmobile trail.

I will take steps to directly address the rising cost of living and affordability of housing in order to retain and attract younger families and keep our school and local organizations strong.

I will support tourism, local products and trades, and infrastructure projects that allow local businesses to thrive. We can leverage our top-notch internet and highway connectivity to create good paying jobs.

I also invest my time in other local activities, through which I have come to know the town and its people well. I am serving as Justice of the Peace and as a member of the Planning Commission. I helped found and direct BRACC (Black River Area Community Coalition) to help reduce substance abuse among pre-teens and young teenagers; and I currently serve on the board of Ludlow Rotary, whose service area includes Mount Holly. I volunteer with the Mechanicsville Cemetery. Maybe you've seen me play French horn in the Springfield Band.

I promise to work for the people of Mount Holly and for the town's benefit. I'll seek funds to grow our future and to reduce our reliance on property taxes. I promise not only to listen, but to actively seek out your concerns, problems, ideas, and suggestions. I am committed to an open Town government that represents all of us and not just a small group of insiders. Our future is a joint venture and I look forward to working with you all.

If you would like to know more, come to Coffee with the Candidate, Sunday, Feb. 27 from 1 to 2:30 at the Community Center (below the Library located in Belmont at the corner of Maple Hill and Tarbellville Roads across from the Belmont General Store). Light refreshments will be served. Please come!

We don't have to sacrifice our rural quality of life to move forward on tough issues facing Mount Holly.

I kindly ask you to support me, Brigid Sullivan, for Mount Holly Select Board on March 1st. I can be reached at brigid526@gmail.com. I hope to hear from you. Thank you, Brigid Sullivan

PTSA BI-ANNUAL AUCTION & FUNDRAISER

Join the PTSA for this fun filled evening to fundraise for the Mt Holly Elementary School & Events! Proceeds Fund programs such as The Winter Sports, Trout in the Classroom, Artist in Residence, and More!

**Live Auction
Silent Auction**

Items Available:

Student made items! Furniture, Cords of wood, Gift Certificates, Sports memorabilia, Quilts, Gift Baskets, Family Vacations near and Far and More!

Cash Bar

Lite Appetizers and Desserts

Tickets for the event are \$10.00 per person in advance, \$15 at the door. They can be purchased at the Belmont General Store or by emailing Mounthollyptsa@gmail.com.

ALL proceeds will benefit the school, teachers and students!

SATURDAY APRIL 9TH

ODD FELLOWS HALL, BELMONT

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM



To Editor,

This letter is to support Diana Garrow for our Selectboard.

Diana has served the town in many capacities over the years, which has given her the insight on how the Town runs best.

Having grown up here she was raised with certain values and has learned the methods in the past that has made the Town a good place to live.

She worked for her family's successful business for years. During this time she learned the importance of maintaining a budget and working towards limiting unnecessary expenses. During this work environment she also knew the importance of good customer service and the need to treat people with respect. In the Town this means respect for fellow Co-workers, Town Employees and the Tax Payers.

Her experience working as substitute Town Clerk and Assistant Treasurer gives her an understanding of how these positions run smoothly. She has the knowledge and experience working with the other offices in the Town and will continue to work with Town officials in the role of a Selectboard member.

It can be seen that Diana has worked for the Town's benefit for many years and would continue to work for the Town of Mount Holly as a Selectboard member.

Sincerely, Christine Pratt, Mount Holly Resident



SUPPORTING DIANA GARROW

I hope you will join me in support of Diana Garrow for our selectboard vacancy. She brings years of local government experience from serving as our assistant treasurer and assistant town clerk. As a Justice of the Peace, she chairs our Board of Civil Authority that deals with property tax appeals and local elections. With our other board members working full-time Diana is willing to complete the required paperwork and write our grant applications.

A selectboard's focus is on local issues and her experience would prove invaluable. With the opportunity to receive funding she understands there should be no need to increase taxes for our municipal road budget.

I want a selectboard that works together, and Diana is ready to take on the challenging issues and contribute to the important decisions. I can assure you that Diana does not support taking more control and wants to keep our town an affordable place to live. She also respects all points of view, and her involvement with many organizations helps her understand the pulse of our town.

Please take the time to vote, and you can vote anytime the town clerk's office is open. Dennis Devereux

Retail Cannabis in our Community: VOTE NO

Our family has lived in Mount Holly for 18 years, our daughters attended Mount Holly School. For the past 16 years I have had the pleasure to work with community members to ensure our children are safe from the use of alcohol, cannabis, and other drugs through The Black River Area Community Coalition programming. After the legalization of cannabis for adults 21 and over, towns have now been given the opportunity to vote on whether to allow retail sales in their communities. Hopefully many of you followed the two attempts to pass a similar measure in Ludlow, it was defeated both times. There are valid reasons that all Mount Holly residents need to understand before voting on March 1st.

Since the passage of Act 86 in 2018, Vermont has seen the rates of cannabis use among children aged 12 and older increase at twice the national rate. Adult use has steadily increased since 2013 and use among high school students increased significantly from 2017 to 2019.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse recently conducted the first-ever study measuring the time between first use of an addictive drug and the onset of a substance use disorder among adolescents and young adults. In adolescents ages 12-17, 10.7% developed a substance use disorder (SUD) within 12 months of starting to use cannabis. Among young adults 18-25, 6.4% have developed an SUD. (Published in the American Medical Association, March 31, 2021).

The New England Poison Control Center reported a 160% increase in calls reporting the accidental ingestion of marijuana by children, especially with cannabis manufactured products, despite using childproof packaging and warning labels. (2019)

Retail sales of cannabis will be subject to a 20% tax (14% excise tax & 6% sales tax). Towns cannot directly collect local license fees or levy separate taxes on cannabis sales. There is no local option tax in Mount Holly, and as such the Town will see no revenue. **(This was one of the reasons Ludlow voters defeated the measure!)** Meals and Rooms taxes do not apply to cannabis products, even edibles. Therefore, even if Mount Holly were to pass a local option tax, it would not apply to retail sales.

Please consider all the facts before voting. We don't need a retail store in our community! Our children's health is of prime importance. Let's keep them safe through prevention. Please VOTE NO. Paul Faenza



Driveway Grading / Ditching
Site Work / General Excavation
New Lawns / Ponds
House Sites / Septic Installations
Land Clearing / Driveway Installations

KEITH Hawkins
 president



Mount Holly, Vermont

802 558.3082

have known for over four decades. She has been very active in community affairs and has been responsible for the production and delivery of the Chit Chat for many years. We believe she will be a competent and unbiased asset to the select board and will represent Mount Holly residents with kindly confidence. On voting day we will cast our votes for Diana Garrow for select board. Bill & Linda McGrath

Dear Mount Holly Voters:

We are very pleased and honored to be writing in support of Diana Garrow for Mount Holly Selectboard. As a lifelong resident and active participant in our community, Diana has the historical perspective and understanding necessary to assess our town's needs. Diana has worn many hats in the service of our town. As Editor of the ChitChat, assistant Town Clerk and assistant Treasurer, she has accumulated a wealth of information which will assist the Selectboard in addressing the many issues before the Board. She has clearly demonstrated her dedication to her home town and will always act in the town's best interest regardless of politics. Mount Holly is extremely fortunate to have someone with Diana Garrow's background who is willing to serve our town as a member of the Selectboard.

We ask that you please consider voting for Diana on election day.

Sincerely,

Former members of the Mount Holly Selectboard

Raymond Tarbell
 Raymond Tarbell

Paul Nevin
 Paul Nevin

Jim Heald
 Jim Heald

Ted Crawford
 Ted Crawford

Ron Tarbell
 Ron Tarbell



March 2022 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.

To Editor, VOTE, Mount Holly Voters

Please cast your VOTE March 1, 2022 for Diana Garrow, for Selectboard.

She was born and raised here and knows many Residents by their first name. She will do all she can for what is Right and in the best interest of the Voters.

I know, trust and respect her and you can too.
 Sincerely, Zena & Robert Gates, Mount Holly

To Editor

We would like to express our support for Diana Garrow as a member of the select board .Diana is a neighbor who we



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Vote for Diana Garrow for Selectboard

The Mount Holly Town Office is in need of peace and unity that it has not had the last couple of years. Diana has worked in the town office as Assistant Town Treasurer and Assistant Town Clerk. She has been the Chair of the Board of Civil Authority for many years and also is a Justice of the Peace. She understands how the office works and is a team player. Diana has lived in Mount Holly all her life and knows what it takes to keep the town running smoothly. She gets along well with the other Selectboard members and the people that work for the town.

Please vote for Diana Garrow for your Selectboard.
Susan Covalla, former Town Clerk

State Representative Ludlow, Mount Holly, Shrewsbury

I've given this preface a few times over the last few years, but this is a big time of year for the legislature because we are approaching "crossover". For a bill to get to the Governor's desk it has to pass both the House and the Senate. So we set a date at about the midpoint of the session, this year it's March 11th, and for a bill to go forward it has to be voted out of the "committee of jurisdiction" in the chamber it starts in before that date. So in the run up to crossover things get busier and somewhat more frantic until we hit that crescendo. And then things are busy on the "floor" for a few weeks as bills come out of committees and make their way to the main chamber to be voted on, with a stop in the House Ways and Means Committee if they contain a tax/fee change and/or a stop in the House Appropriations Committee if they change how State dollars are spent. After crossover things slow down somewhat as we regroup and start to review the bills we received from the Senate, which are generally focused on a different topic than the bills we have worked on this far this year and likewise sent to them.

In my last article I talked about the different proposals for redistricting that were on the table and had been told that our district's population was too far above the "ideal" district size for this cycle. I was concerned because most of the alternative plans split our towns up or in some cases carved out small sections of one town to vote in another district. However, there has been a preliminary vote and even though it is 8.56% above the ideal population size, they are leaving our district untouched!

I am in the House Commerce Committee this session, and we have spent most of the last two months and a lot of last year talking about workforce development. The culmination of that work will be passing H.703, which looks to make structural changes to Vermont's technical education system, and hopefully help in our effort to destigmatize technical education. We are experiencing critical shortages in our technical careers workforce and with this hope to improve access for all Vermonters, at any age or experience level, to education that can improve their income and address these critical workforce shortages.

I will just note that we are almost entirely physically in Montpelier again, and it is great to be back in the building, which makes it so much easier to get this work done, especially when there are disagreements that need to be hashed out on bills. I have been commuting each day as opposed to staying because I just can't stand to leave my baby, (now 14 months old!) or my wife, who is about 5 months pregnant with our second (another girl!) much longer than 12 hours. Even though we are physically in Montpelier again we are hanging on to the accessibility we learned during the pandemic and all committee meetings and floor sessions continue to be live-streamed on youtube.

As always there are other issues I hope to expound on more next month, including my decriminalization bill which made some waves on Facebook. But I think it makes more sense to address that bill and some of the other big ones after we see how they come out of committee. But if you have questions about any of this or anything else, I would love to talk to you about it, call me! Anytime! Please! I love talking politics and I love explaining my logic and reasoning on these issues. I also appreciate the insight and perspective from you that is often vastly different from my own. Thanks and hope to see you soon! Logan Nicoll, State Representative Ludlow, Mount Holly, Shrewsbury 802-345-8430

David Martin for School Committee

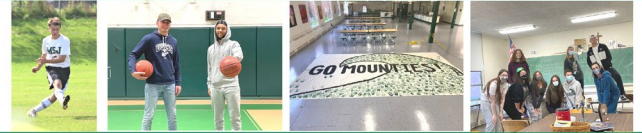
I am running as write in for Mount Holly's position on the school committee. After college I taught for four years before earning my Master in Business Administration and beginning a career in government financial management. For many years I worked overseas advising governments in developing countries about their systems of budgeting and financial control. In 1982 I started building my house in Mount Holly and it became my home whenever I returned to the United States. Since retirement it has been my full time home. I have been treasurer of the Ninevah Foundation and its predecessor the Wilderness Corporation where I worked to preserve our beautiful town and I recently joined the Mount Holly Conservation Commission.

Now I would like to help my town by joining the School Committee. My only agenda is to work to maintain the excellence of our elementary school and do what I can to support it. I will appreciate you writing in David Martin for the open spot on our school committee. If you have any questions for me email david@davidsmartin.net. Thanks!

The choice is MSJ



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A Laughing Chorus

Oh, such a commotion under the ground When March called, "Ho, there! ho!"
Such spreading of rootlets far and wide, Such whispering to and fro;
And, "Are you ready?" the Snowdrop asked, "'Tis time to start, you know."
"Almost, my dear," the Scilla replied; "I'll follow as soon as you go."
Then, "Ha! ha! ha!" a chorus came Of laughter soft and low,
From the millions of flowers under the ground, Yes—millions—beginning to grow.

O, the pretty brave things! through the coldest days, Imprisoned in walls of brown,
They never lost heart though the blast shrieked loud, And the sleet and the hail came down,

But patiently each wrought her beautiful dress, Or fashioned her beautiful crown;
And now they are coming to brighten the world, Still shadowed by Winter's frown;
And well may they cheerily laugh, "Ha! ha!" In a chorus soft and low,
The millions of flowers hid under the ground Yes—millions—beginning to grow.

Senator Alison Clarkson's Legislative Update 6 February 2022

Every ten years the results of the national Census requires each state to review the impact of any population change on their electoral districts. Our Vermont Constitution requires that our state's population must be fairly distributed to afford "equality of representation". COVID delayed the national Census returns and as a result, the re-districting process has been condensed. Each state manages its own

work. Vermont's process begins with the Legislative Apportionment Committee (LAB). It is a non-legislative group, with a chair appointed by the Supreme Court Chief Justice and a Committee of seven, which is politically balanced. It is charged with taking the first stab at this work.

The LAB met this summer and fall and it produced two reports – a majority and minority report for both the House and the Senate to consider. In the House, the Government Operations Committee, after feedback from the Boards of Civil Authority, reviews the LAB proposals and after much work, proposes a new re-districting map to the House for approval. In the Senate, the LAB report comes straight to the Senate Reapportionment Committee, a group of seven, balanced by party and region. You can find all the LAB reports and maps on either the Secretary of State's website or on the Legislative website on each Committee webpage (see below).

I have been appointed to the Senate Reapportionment Committee (SRAC) which has been trusted with the task of incorporating the 2020 Census data into our Senate Districts so that they equitably reflect the changes in population. While the population in Vermont grew from 625,741 in 2010 to 643,077 in 2020, most of that growth was in the NW of the State, in Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. The increase in Vermont's population requires that each House member represent about 4,300 and each Senator about 21,500. The Southern four counties (Bennington, Rutland, Windham and Windsor) lost some population but the most significant loss has been in the North East Kingdom.

The SRAC has made a few decisions already. We have chosen to not accept the LAB's majority report which created one person Senatorial districts. With the support of our constitution and historic precedent we have decided to adhere to the following standards. We agree that Senate districts be based on 1) county

boundaries, 2) substantial equality (minimal percentage deviations), 3) the avoidance of splitting towns and counties, 4) respecting community connections, common interests and geography, and 5) creating reasonably shaped districts (compact and contiguous territories).

We have a small window of time in which to finish our work – as candidates need to know what a district looks like before they know if they are eligible to run for it. With a primary date of Tuesday, August 9th and candidate consent forms and petitions due May 26th, we need to have finished our work by April 1st. This is important work which impacts the composition of the House and the Senate and how Vermonters are represented in their state legislature.

I appreciate hearing from you. I can be reached by email: aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us or by phone at 457-4627. To watch Legislative Committee's in action, and to get more information on the Vermont Legislature, the bills which are being debated now, and those which have been proposed and passed, visit the legislative website: legislature.vermont.gov



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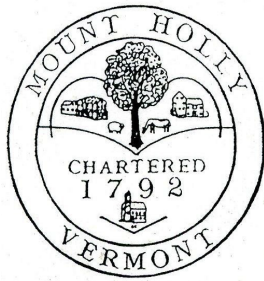
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Mount Holly Town News

The following Minutes of the Select Board and the Planning Commission are “DRAFT” until approved at their next meeting. NOTE: Most Select Board and Planning Commission meetings are covered by Okemo Valley TV. The videos can be viewed at their website, www.okemovalley.tv. Computers with internet access are available at the Town Library.

Town of Mount Holly Special Select Board Meeting January 20, 2022 Minutes

Present: Select Board: Jeff Chase, Jennifer Matthews, Mark

Turco (Chair)

Town Officials: Carol Garrow-Woolley, Diana Garrow, David Johnson

Public: None in Attendance

1. **Call to Order** by Mark Turco at 4:03 p.m.
2. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the **Agenda** – None were necessary.
3. **Ballot Machine Programming Cost – Approve** – Carol Garrow-Woolley went through the quotes and costs involved. David Johnson noted there was money in the budget for this. Mr. Turco made a motion to proceed with the ballot machine programming at a cost of about \$1,500, seconded by Jeff Chase, unanimously approved.
4. **Sign Annual Town Meeting Warning** – Select Board members reviewed the warning. Mr. Chase made a motion to approve and sign the warning, seconded by Jennifer Matthews, unanimously approved.
5. **Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted: Jennifer Matthews

Minutes Approved: 2.8.2022

Regular Select Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Town Office. Items to be included on the Agenda are due by Noon the Wednesday before the meeting.

Mount Holly Select Board Meeting February 8, 2022 Minutes In-Person with Zoom Meeting: 898 6126 5487

Present: Select Board: Jeff Chase, Jennifer Matthews, Mark Turco (Chair)

Town Officials: Dennis Devereux, Fra DeVine, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Diana Garrow, David Johnson, David Martin, Jon McCann, Christine Pratt, Renee Sarmiento, Andy Schulz, James Seward, Brigid Sullivan, Clinton Woolley

Members of the Public: Paul Barton, Caitlyn Boyle, Timothy Fair (Vermont Cannabis Solutions), Zena Gates, Casey Hodge, Marianne McGee, Stephen Michel, Jeb Porter, Donna Seward, Sue Starr-Adams, Amy Turco, Ron Unterman

To Contact Mt. Holly Town Road Crew, call the Town Garage at 802-259-3179

1. **Call to Order** by Mark Turco at 6:30 pm.
2. **All stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.**
3. **Changes and/or additions to the agenda** – Jennifer Matthews asked to add the approval of Harry’s Restaurant liquor license and the approval of the annual Geese Depredation Permit to the agenda. It was agreed to do so under New Business. Jeff Chase asked to add an ARPA funds request from the Mount Holly Community Historical Museum. It was agreed to do so under the ARPA Funds Request agenda item.

4. **Retail Cannabis Informational Session** – Ms. Matthews introduced Timothy Fair from Vermont Cannabis Solutions. Mr. Fair gave a presentation on the benefits of voting for the retail sale of cannabis in Mount Holly (jobs, young people in town, additional revenue, tourism, increase in property values, etc.). A number of residents spoke against allowing the retail sale of cannabis in town (increased drug use, gateway drug to harder drugs and sale of those drugs, addiction problems, law enforcement issues, new cultivation and processing of marijuana in town, etc.). For full discussion, please see: Videos | Okemo Valley TV

5. **Approval of January 11th, 2022 Meeting Minutes & Special Select Board Meeting Minutes of January 20th, 2022** – Mr. Chase made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved.

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6. Reports

a. Highways & Transfer Station Update –

i) **Monthly Update** - Clinton Woolley reported: it’s been busy in town this month; at the Rutland Region Transportation Advisory Committee meeting, it was said that rules on use of ARPA funds for matching funds for road and bridge grants are loosening; at the Rutland County Solid Waste District meeting, a quorum was not present.

ii) **Retreatment Plan for Spring/Summer** – Jeff Chase discussed repaving Hortonville Road from the town line to Shunpike Road at a cost of \$351,680. He noted paving grant applications to VTrans are due in early April, and he hopes the Town will receive a grant to help cover these costs.

Mount Holly Animal Control Officer

The Mount Holly Animal Control Officer is Laura Swartz. She handles all calls concerning domesticated and farm animals, including Animal Cruelty concerns. For more information or to make a report please call **Home (802) 259-3976** or Cell text only 802-353-4492

b. **Treasurer** – David Johnson

i) Monthly Income & Expense Report – Mr. Johnson reported: all the property taxes are booked; there is no change in the interest amounts as the January bank statements have not yet been received; the third quarter payments from the State have been received for State Aid to Roads (additional \$30,200) and for Special State Aid – Roads (additional \$3,342); the Solid Waste Labels Sold amount of \$18,386 is through January 20th, so two-thirds of the budgeted amount has already been received in less than two-thirds of the year; the Hauling & Disposal Expenses amount of \$27,546 does not include Casella's January bill. Ms. Matthews asked about the Judiciary Fees, and she noted that the Cott System Research Fees received by the town continue to increase each month.

c. Mount Holly Planning Commission Update – Jon McCann reported: the Planning Commission welcomed new Commissioner Andrew Seward; they continue to do work on the utilities and facilities section, and transportation section of the town plan; the Commission voted unanimously to serve as the Board of Adjustment, if asked to do so by the Select Board.

d. Mount Holly Conservation Commission Update – Fra DeVine reported: the Commission is in the midst of restructuring; Annette Lynch has moved out-of-town and resigned from the Commission; he and Phil Crane are serving as co-leaders temporarily; the Commission is reviewing their policies and procedures; the work on the shade tree preservation plan is progressing, as is the Star Lake bottom barriers permitting process; work continues on the natural resource inventories with teams responsible for different ones; and, the Commission is working with the Planning Commission on any information they need from the natural resource inventories. The Select Board agreed to post the current opening on the Conservation Commission.

Mount Holly Listers Hours

The Listers are at the Mount Holly Town Office most Tuesdays 10:00am-2:00 pm or by appointment. Please call 802-259-2391 for any questions.

Annual Town Meeting
Mount Holly Elementary School Gym
Monday February 28th, at 7:00 pm

VOTE By Ballot
Mount Holly Town Office
Tuesday March 1st
Polls Open 10 am – 7 pm

7. Ongoing & Old Business

a. Traffic Ordinance – Mr. Chase reviewed the traffic ordinance he drew up using VLCT's model and the traffic study information from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. Discussion ensued about speed limits on various roads, town highway numbers, school zone speed, historic village and other signage, amongst other items.

b. Junk Ordinance Enforcement – The Select Board agreed to issue another municipal violation with an additional financial penalty to the property on VT Route 103 North, which continues to be in violation of the Junk Ordinance. The property owner will have 30 days to clean up the property before another violation and penalty are issued.

c. ARPA Funds Requests –

i) Land Records Digitization Project – Mr. McCann presented the Select

Board with a thorough but concise history of this project, which started in 2020 with the grant application and award of \$29,132 (\$10,000 more than requested) and the completion of the first part of the project. He reviewed what needs to be done next to continue to digitize and preserve the Town's land records. He also reviewed the proposals and costs to do this work. Discussion ensued about costs, need, computer access, methods, amongst other items. Mr. Chase made a motion to approve the use of up to \$11,800 to continue the work to digitize and preserve 40 years on town land records, seconded by Ms. Matthews. Mr. Chase and Ms. Matthews voted in favor the motion; Mr. Turco voted against it.

ii) Mount Holly Community Historical Museum (agenda addition) – Mr. Chase presented an email request for funds to cover the costs of a water line. Discussion ensued. Mr. Turco made a motion to approve the use of up to \$3,400 in ARPA funds for the water line costs, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.

d. Board of Adjustment – Ms. Matthews presented the town attorney's recommendation that the Town of Mount Holly establish a Board of Adjustment in order to be in agreement with town regulations and to be in compliance with State Statutes (laws). Discussion ensued about the need for an in-town appeal process, the Environmental Court, legal costs to the town, the role of the Administrative Officer, the subdivision process, the composition of the Board of Adjustment and the number of its members, amongst other items. Mr. Turco made a motion to create a Board of Adjustment with up to seven members, seconded by Ms. Matthews, unanimously approved. In most towns, the Board of Adjustment is comprised of the Planning Commission members, a model which has proven to work. Mr. Johnson suggested a Board of Adjustment made up of the Planning Commission members plus two other residents. The exact composition of the Board will be decided at the March Select Board meeting.

e. Other – Ms. Matthews asked about the current status of the financial audits as RHR Smith has not yet presented the Select Board with final audit results for the fiscal years ending June 30th, 2019 and 2020. Per the RFP, this was to have been done by the end of December. She will contact them regarding this.

8. New Business (agenda additions):

a. Geese Depredation Permit – Ron Unterman explained it was time to renew the annual permit to keep the beach area of Star Lake clean of goose poop. He noted this is the 12th year of the program. Ms. Matthews made a motion to approve the Geese Depredation Permit, seconded by Mr. Turco, unanimously approved.



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Kevin Hollebeek

Submitted: Jennifer Matthews

Mount Holly Planning Commission Town Office & Remote Electronic – Regular Meeting Minutes Wednesday January 19, 2022

Commission Members Present: Jon McCann (Chair), Jim Seward, Andrew Seward, Brigid Sullivan, Andrew Schulz

Also Present: Renee Sarmento (Clerk), Marianne McGee, Jeb Porter, Donna Seward, Stephen Michel, David Johnson

1. Jon McCann called the meeting to order at 7:01pm
2. Changes to agenda: no changes
3. Approval of minutes
 - a. The minutes from December 15th, 2021 regular meeting and January 5th 2022 special meeting were approved as distributed.
4. Reports & Announcements
 - a. Welcome to Commissioner Andrew Seward / Introductions
 - i. The Chair welcomes new appointee Andrew Seward.
 - ii. After introductions, the Chair informed Andrew Seward of the Planning Commission's role and current work revising the Town Plan, performing quasi-judicial review of land use ordinances, and drafting regulations. He provided Andrew with reading material to learn more about the Planning Commission and what the Planning Commission does. Chair also provided Andrew with the Rules of Procedure and Conflict of Interest Policy to review.

b. Harry's Restaurant Liquor License Renewal – Mr. Turco made a motion to approve the liquor license renewal for Harry's Restaurant, seconded by Mr. Chase, unanimously approved.

9. Citizen Comments – There were none this evening.

10. Announcements/Other Business –

a. Town Office Closed: Monday, February 21st for Presidents' Day

b. Annual Town Meeting, Monday, February 28th @ 7:00 pm at the Mount Holly School Gym & via Zoom

c. VOTE on Tuesday, March 1st @ Town Office from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm

11. Review & Sign Orders – To be signed by Select Board members.

12. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm. Respectfully



b. Administrative Officer Report:

- i. Porter subdivision has been received, and is being reviewed.
- ii. New BCR application received today from David Goldman for 1575 Healdville Rd.

5. Correspondence

a. Subdivision proposals

i. Porter/Sketch Plan Review

1. The Chair noted that last year the Commission had considered a previous application by Mr. Porter. This year's application consists of the Town's application form, with payment; a copy of the survey submitted last year with additions made by Mr. Porter's septic designer, Mr. Hollebeek of Belmont Septic Designs; Mr. Hollebeek's septic design; and a copy of Mr. Porter's application for a State subdivision permit and an

acknowledgment of receipt by the State.

2. Upon question from the Chair and Commissioner Sullivan, Mr. Porter confirmed that the plats he submitted to the Town are the same as the ones that he submitted to State as part of his new State permit application

3. Commissioner Andrew Seward raised a question about Mr. Hollebeek's design, noting that it lacked a replacement field for the proposed new septic system. Discussion followed as to whether the State or the Town requires identification of a replacement disposal field. Commissioner Schulz stated his belief that the State does require that a replacement site be identified in the State's subdivision application, and that the Town's Minor Subdivision Checklist requires an "alternative wastewater and sewage disposal."

4. Commissioner Sullivan raised a question about survey's statement that the permit is to be deferred. Mr. Porter explained that the deferral statement is from his prior application, when he sought a deferral of permit for the second lot. He is using the survey from his 2013 state permit approval for this new application. Mr. Porter said the deferral statement will be changed by State (and can be changed only by the State) when the State approves his new application. Mr. Porter said that the deferral will be negated with state's approval.

5. Mr. Porter asked whether the Commission is saying that he must have a new survey prepared, and expressed concern about the delay that might cause. Discussion followed about the confusion created by the application's use of the 2013 survey since it partly depicts a different and conflicting site plan.

6. Mr. Porter asked whether the Commission would require State approval of his permit application before approving his town application. The Chair said that was likely, adding that it was good that Mr. Porter had already submitted his State application on January 13, so that the State's decision would probably be received before the Commission's next meeting. Mr. Porter agreed that it would be best to await the State's action on his application.

7. Given Mr. Porter's stated desire to avoid delays in obtaining approval, Commissioner Schulz encouraged Mr. Porter to proactively look into the replacement field question. If the State does require a replacement field, Mr. Porter may want to know that sooner rather than wait for the State to tell him, which could be toward the end of the 30-day period that the State has to review his application.

8. Commissioner Sullivan asked why the list of abutting neighbors is different from last year's application. Mr. Porter explained that several properties had changed hands since the survey was prepared in 2013.

9. Discussion of Mr. Porter's application ended with his agreement to keep us posted on developments with his application to the State.



b. Building Construction Registrations

i. BCR application received today will be scanned for Planning Commission members to review.

ii. The Chair explained that the Commission no longer formally reviews these, as their principal purpose is to apprise the Listers of changes that may affect the value of property. Still, copies are provided to the Commission so that Commissioners are aware of development in the town.

c. Wastewater system and potable water supply permits

i. None received.

ii. The Chair noted that Commission is still waiting to find out whether State will send us electronic copies of approved wastewater permits.

d. Email / Other: None

6. Unfinished business: None

7. New business

a. Board of Adjustment discussion

i. The Chair informed the Commission that the Selectboard will likely establish a Board of Adjustment at its next regular meeting, and is awaiting a final letter from

the Town attorney on this. A Board of Adjustment is required by state law to hear appeals from decisions made by the Administrative Officer, and hear questions on certain types of variances. Our local Flood Hazard Area ordinance also requires this. The Chair explained that the State statute allows members of the Planning Commission to also serve on the Board of Adjustment, or even that the Planning Commission stand as the Board of Adjustment, and so it is possible that the Selectboard may ask Commissioners to do so. Discussion followed about what the State statute requires and what it authorizes. The Chair asked whether any Commissioners would be opposed to serving on the Board of Adjustment? No member objected. The following resolution was moved by Commissioner Sullivan: Resolved that, if the Selectboard asks members of the Planning Commission to serve as members of the Board of Adjustment, we shall agree to do so. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Schulz and all voted in favor.

ii. Chair reviewed the two models in Vermont for these types of panels: Planning Commission/Board of adjustment model or Planning Commission/Development Review Board model. Hear appeals from interested party after any administrative decision by the AO in a timely manner.

iii. Stephen Michel stated he could not find requirement in the statute. Chair stated he would send info by email. It is 24 V.S.A. § 4465 (c).

iv. David Johnson stated he thought it would be better to have individual from the general public in addition to Commissioners as the AO is also the Commission clerk.

8. Public comments: Stephen Michel thanked Jon for sending him information about the BOA.

9. Upcoming meetings

a. Special working meeting: February 2nd, 2022 at 7pm

i. A conflict for the March special meeting was noted and Chair will try to accommodate the Commissioners schedule.

b. Regular meeting: February 16th, 2022 at 7pm

10. The meeting adjourned at 8:02pm For the Commission, Renee Sarmento, Planning Commission Clerk & Andrew Schulz, Planning Commission Secretary

Maple Grove Cemetery
East Wallingford, Vermont

A Lovely Historic Cemetery
Landsaped With The Charm Of Old Majestic
Maple Trees

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Many Lots Available
1 Person \$450 - 2 Person \$900
Ask about Cremation Lots

For More Information Call 802-259-2810

**Remember To File Your Homestead
Declaration AND Property Tax
Adjustment Claim for 2021
Form HS-122**

**Mount Holly Planning Commission Town Office & Remote Electronic –
Special Work Meeting Minutes** Wednesday February 2, 2022
Commission Members Present: Jon McCann (Chair), Jim Seward (Vice
Chair), Andrew Schulz (Secretary), Andrew Seward, Brigid Sullivan
Commission Members Absent: none
Also Present: Renee Sarmento (Clerk), Stephen Michel, Fra Devine

(Conservation Comm.)

1. Jon called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
2. No changes to agenda.
3. Town Plan Revisions
 - a. Utilities & Facilities follow up
 - i. No responses to our letters to Fire, Rescue, and Library yet.
 - ii. No response from Emergency Management Director
 - iii. Made preliminary contact with Green Mountain Power, VTel, and Comcast and hopeful they will provide us some information.
 - iv. Will try to call Library to chat
 - v. Hope to meet soon with Clinton Woolley, Road Foreman and Solid Waste Coordinator, to hear his thoughts.
 - vi. Commissioners have questions about transfer station: status and future of storage building, presence of potty for employees, whether there is a local market for food waste composting, and whether recycling will remain zero-sort and free.
 - b. Transportation Plan
 - i. Reviewed our work plan and elements required by statute. Reviewed our current plan and compared to Shrewsbury plan. Feeling that the Shrewsbury plan may be more robust.
 - ii. Discussion of “trails” as transportation versus recreation.
 - iii. Discussion of scenic trails versus roads. Agreement among Commissioners that scenic roads should be treated differently from trails.
 - iv. Fra Devine offered for the Conservation Commission to prepare a draft inventory of scenic roads. The offer was appreciated and accepted.
 - v. Discussion about problems with shared use of our roads for foot, bike, and horse travel.
 - vi. Will need to investigate stock / horse trails in National Forest and State Forest.
 - vii. Discussion of transportation alternatives to autos such as bus and train. Will investigate expanding bus service. Will investigate train as recreational, economic opportunity. Chair suggested that the leaf peeper trains that come daily in the fall to our town and immediately turn around and leave is a huge missed opportunity for the town. If we had a station with a store attached it could be an opportunity for selling local goods. Discussion of a light rail to Rutland. Parking could be a challenge. Vail may also be interested in a train from Rutland station or the airport.
 - viii. Discussion of dangers of rail crossings and dangerous freight.
 - ix. Discussion of trying to find out how many people don’t have access to car travel
 - x. Will continue to reach out mostly by phone to people in our knowledgeable parties list and compile list of questions for each at the next working meeting.
4. Public Comments:
 - a. Brigid shared copies of the Federation of Lakes and Ponds newsletter
 - b. Fra Devine update from Conservation Commission
 - i. Annette Lynch has stepped down as chair. Phil Crane and Fra Devine are interim co-chairs.
 - ii. Fra asked if Commission has any priority requests for what the Conservation Commission should be working on. Chair suggested that a scenic roads inventory would be most immediately useful.
 - iii. Discussion about policy regarding new town roads. Andrew felt that we should balance benefits of new roads to the town versus the cost and adverse environmental impact. Fra felt that there should be a more robust process and policy for approving new roads.
 - iv. Fra requested digital map files for Arrowwood Inventory. Chair will send to Fra and RRPC.
 - c. Chair shared an article published in the Vermont Journal describing Lisa Kelley, realtor, talk at Ludlow Rotary in which she described some of the challenges facing Mount Holly due to the huge real estate demand.
<https://vermontjournal.com/business/ludlow-rotary-hears-update-on-real-estate-market/>
5. Upcoming meetings
 - a. Regular meeting – February 16th, 7:00 pm (3rd Wednesday)
6. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm For the Commission, Jon McCann, Chair

Annual Town Meeting

Monday, February 28, 2022 @ 7:00 pm

Attend In-Person @ Mount Holly
School Gym or Remotely via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting online:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85672372532
?pwd=Rk40bEd3UTFQQzJtbEJZZ2Y5eWl
Ndz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85672372532?pwd=Rk40bEd3UTFQQzJtbEJZZ2Y5eWlNdz09)

Meeting ID: 856 7237 2532

Passcode: 697411

Join by phone:

929-436-2866

Meeting ID: 856 7237 2532

Passcode: 697411

Mount Holly Planning Commission Town Office & Remote Electronic – Regular Meeting Minutes Wednesday February 16, 2022

Commission Members Present: Jon McCann (Chair), Jim Seward, Andrew Seward, Brigid Sullivan, Andrew Schulz
Also Present: Renee Sarmento (Clerk), Marianne McGee, Stephen Michel, Devon Neary, Jeb Porter, Donna Seward

Mount Holly CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBER NEEDED

Are you interested in helping inventory and protect Mount Holly's natural resources, be they agricultural lands, forest blocks, wetlands, floodplains, and/or wildlife habitats, streams, lakes, ponds, open spaces, unique plant life areas, scenic & recreational resources and more?

Are you interested in assisting the Planning Commission on natural resource issues and planning as it reviews the town plan?

Are you interested in working to safeguard the natural resources we all so value here?

The Select Board will appoint one (1) individual to complete a remaining term.

Any interested individual is encouraged to apply.

Please refer to 24 V.S.A. 4505 for all the various roles and responsibilities a Conservation Commission can assume to help protect & enhance Mount Holly's natural resources.

If this sparks your interest, please send a Letter of Interest to the Select Board, PO Box 248, Mount Holly, VT 05758, or to mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com, to be received by 12:00 Noon on Monday, March 7th. Please state why you are interested in the Conservation Commission position and your qualifications. Term runs until September 2023.

The Conservation Commission meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Additional information is available here: <http://www.mounthollyvt.org/conservation-commission/>

Any questions, please email the Select Board at the email address above, or call 802-259-2454.

the process and requirement of the Building Construction Registration form.

b. Planning Commission Clerk: None

c. Planning Commission Chair:

i. The chair reported he had followed up on why the Planning Commission has not been getting water permit notices electronically from the state. This is partly due to employees working from home, and lacking access to their usual systems.

ii. Select board resolved to establish a Board of Adjustment. They have not determined how it will be staffed.

iii. State Supreme Court amended "Snowstone" decision to return to interpretation of jurisdiction that had always been used. If this decision had stood the footprint size of the development would be the deciding factor rather than the size of the parcel. The Chair had distributed an Act 250 jurisdiction guide by email. Commissioner Sullivan asked if there are any maps that show properties in Mount Holly that are above 2500 feet. The Chair wasn't sure but this should be a part of the Town Plan.

iv. The chair reported he had followed up on adding the Okemo fire tower to the National Historic Lookout Register. The tower was on track for approval but the application had stalled. It is now moving again.

v. The Chair noted the second phase of land records digitization was approved by the Select Board. And will be helpful for the Planning Commission.

5. Correspondence

a. Subdivision proposals: None

b. Building Construction Registrations: None

c. Wastewater system and potable water supply permits:

i. Wastewater permit recorded today for John Porter.

d. Email / Other

i. Email received from the library regarding the letter requesting information.

ii. Email from VTel regarding Utilities Plan – 100% of homes in Mount Holly have fiber service to the home or available at the street.

6. Unfinished business

a. John Porter Sketch Plan Review

i. Mr. Porter has an approved amendment to the State water supply permit and delivered a new copy of the wastewater plan.

1. The Chair noted the copy of the approved wastewater plan has a stamp on it on the state website, but not on the copy provided to Commission. Mr. Porter provided a copy given to him by his engineer. Stamped copy is not required for this meeting. Mr. Porter will provide it to the Commission in advance of a public hearing.

ii. Following up on a question from Commissioner Andrew Seward at the last meeting, the Chair asked if Mr. Porter had any information from the state regarding if they would be requiring a replacement disposal area for the second lot. Mr. Porter responded that when the Town's Subdivision Regulations were written in 1998 it was a State requirement to have a backup system for all systems created in Vermont. In early 2000's, the State changed this to say only inground systems need a replacement area but mound systems do not because they are scraped and rebuilt

iii. Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to move the application forward to a public hearing. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Schulz. Motion passed unanimously.

1. Public Hearing will be held on March 16th at 6:15pm.

2. Mr. Porter will provide a stamped copy of the permit, and two paper copies of the design prior to the Public Hearing.

iv. Commissioner Andrew Seward asked if new copies of plat/proposed subdivision land survey were needed because parcel B says deferred. Mr. Porter responded that the permit addresses that in the permit it refers to the deferred parcel on the map. The letter refers to it as the deferred lot. Mr. Porter stated there is no way to change the survey. The Chair asked if it was an option for

1. Jon McCann called the meeting to order at 7:05pm
2. Changes to agenda: no changes
3. Approval of minutes
 - a. The minutes from January 19th, 2022 regular meeting and February 2nd, 2022 special meeting were approved as distributed.
4. Reports & Announcements
 - a. Administrative Officer
 - i. Email correspondence with Mr. Porter regarding subdivision.
 - ii. Email correspondence with an individual considering building a house on Barlow Road. Responded with information about



the septic designer to put a red line through it. The Chair suggested Mr. Porter present the Commission with paper copies of the stamped and approved septic design that are final plat size 24x18, instead of making changes to the survey. If the application is approved the septic design could be recorded along with the survey in order to satisfy the requirements. The Chair suggested that the septic designer can add, perhaps in red, a reference to the septic design on the survey (will be page 2 of the full site design final plats) and indicate that it clears the deferral. It will bring Mr. Porter's survey up closer to the present. Mr. Porter agreed that the septic design could be recorded, in addition to the survey, as a way to clarify the current status. Mr. Porter will submit a new/slightly changed final plat that includes a reference of the survey to the attached waste water and well plan (hard copy and digital form).

- b. Follow up on Facilities and Utilities Plan
 - i. As previously mentioned, VTel response was sent to commissioners: 100% of homes at least have fiber at the street.
 - ii. Email from the Library regarding our letter requesting information was distributed previously. Additional email received regarding the library hotspot was read aloud by the Chair.
 - iii. The Fire Department board met to discuss the letter requesting information. There will be a meeting Thursday night to write the letter. The chair was invited to attend the Fire Department Board meeting to provide information about the town plan and why it is useful for the Fire Department to have information and action items in the plan as they can be useful in applying for grants.
 - iv. Marianne McGee shared the library hotspot is an upgrade. The hotspot has been there for eleven years. The letter from Rescue will be received tomorrow.
 - v. The Chair reported on meeting with Clinton Woolley to discuss Transfer Station facilities
 - 1. Conex box is for e-cycle, fits 8 gaylord boxes. Last year we did 6,528 lbs of "covered" e-waste and 770lbs not covered
 - 2. Unfortunately, compost is a liability for use within the community without testing and sorting
 - 3. Metal pile not costing the town but not making money either
 - 4. refrigerators used to cost the town to recycle
 - 5. Fluorescent bulbs are supposed to be taken to Rutland hazardous waste or brought on hazardous waste days
 - 6. Zero sort recycling now makes a little profit but not much
 - 7. Compactors may be town equipment
 - 8. Haven't heard any demand for a portable potty
 - 9. Metal shed is only used for highway dept storage now
 - 7. New business
 - a. Discussion about Transportation Plan - Devon Neary, Transportation Planner Rutland Regional Planning Commission
 - i. Mr. Neary gave an overview of the process of developing a town plan:
 - 1. Meet with Planning Commission and lay out framework (overview and subchapters) of transportation plan
 - 2. Meet with stakeholders and town officials to collect information.
 - 3. Fill in gaps with data or mapping that can be done in-house.
 - 4. The 1st draft will be sent back to the Commission for review, and then come back to another Commission meeting to review the draft and create a rough final draft.
 - ii. Mr. Neary said the first step is to review the current plan
 - 1. Mr. Neary asked Commission members for thoughts on the content of the current plan. Commissioner Sullivan stated it should be more comprehensive. Mr. Neary agreed and stated that a plan should strike a balance between telling a story and giving relevant data during the timespan in which the plan is useful.
 - 2. Mr. Neary commented on the second page and how it is interesting that the plan lays out policies. This is not a typical format. Typically, the format would be goals and specific action items under the goals. This is useful to be able to look back and see what was done, and also to see what was not done and why. Policies are typically not part of a Town Plan. They could either be pulled out into separate policies or ordinances, or incorporated into subchapters.
 - 3. Mr. Neary spoke about the current "Tasks" which may be a form of an action item.
 - a. Regulation and Driveway rules enacted by the Select board will govern access to public roads. Not a bad task but should result in a formal access management (driveway/curb cut) planning into a formal policy.
 - b. Subdivision and connecting roads. Unless specific roads are laid out in the plan it is too general to be an action item.
 - c. Facilitate the creation and extension of a bicycle and pedestrian trail on class 4 roads. This could be an action item under an alternative transportation subchapter or active transportation subchapter.
 - d. Road drainage relating to Act 64 (Clean Water Act). Typically include an entire subchapter on municipal roads general permit (MRGP).
 - 4. Mr. Neary wanted to hear the Commissioner's thoughts: The chair shared his opinion that it would be nice to be able to look back in the future to see if progress was made, if goals were achieved, and if action items had been achieved. Mr. Neary stated he would like to provide something usable, something that could help support a grant application or point to future scoping study to move plan goals along.
 - 5. Mr. Neary reviewed how important and useful the Town Plan is for receiving grants and funding. Mr. Neary said, for example, the town recently failed to obtain a grant for a Summit Road box culvert and if that was in the town plan as a priority then approval would have been much more likely.
 - 6. Commissioner Sullivan asked about driveway rules in the 2018 plan, and commented that Mount Holly doesn't have any as she understands it. The chair responded with Mr. Neary's previous point that policies and ordinances should be pulled out into



separate documents. Mr. Neary stated how a goal of this plan could be to develop policies and an action item of this plan for that goal could be to develop an access management driveway policy.

7. Mr. Neary referred to the most recent plan he helped to rewrite for the town of Poultney which he shared electronically before the meeting. The framework referenced earlier is found in the transportation section of the plan.

8. Mr. Neary described the framework: Overview (painting a picture of the town), two asset management categories (highways and roads/bridges and culverts), traffic volume and safety (reference traffic study), accompanied map (lay out accident prone locations), municipal roads general permit, alternative transportation (public transit, rail, aviation, walking, biking), complete streets (may not be as applicable to town), parking, regional overview.

a. The Chair brought up having a scenic roads component of the Town Plan, and asked if Mr. Neary recommended it go into the transportation section or somewhere else. Mr. Neary stated it has sometimes gone into the transportation section other times it has gone into culture or history piece of the plan. Commissioner Sullivan suggested putting it in transportation now and moving it to another section later if necessary.

b. The Chair asked about the MRGP section in the sample plan. The goals and actions piece at the end have more specifics. Mr. Neary stated he does not go into great detail in narrative because it changes so frequently.

c. Stephen Michel asked hypothetically about Rainbow Riding wishing to expand their trails, would this be part of transportation or another section. Mr. Neary stated this could be included in transportation or recreation. Depending on what the ultimate goal is, it could live in the transportation/alternative transportation section.

d. Commissioner Sullivan mentioned the Electric Vehicle charging station. Mr. Neary stated there will be a lot of money coming and right now there are fully funded grants for charging stations at multi-unit dwellings. He mentioned there is a huge gap in charging stations between Rutland and Ludlow and floated the idea of a park and ride being combined with charging stations.

e. The Planning Commission is in agreement with the outline.

f. Mr. Neary will provide a draft by mid-April. Mr. Neary will contact the Chair to schedule another visit with the Planning Commission. Mr. Neary will reach out with any questions and speak with Clinton Woolley.

b. The Chair reported on meeting with Clinton Woolley to discuss Transportation plan

- i. Curious to compare Shrewsbury budgets to ours (paving, equipment etc)
- ii. Similar sized towns seem to have staff of 4
- iii. Could use help especially during summertime mowing
- iv. Personnel for flagging during ditching and mowing is an issue
- v. Equipment needs: mini excavator for ditching, culvert replacement, repairs, and storm water work
- vi. Not sure about status of bridge over Branch Brook at old 103
- vii. Downgrading class 2 to 3 not recommended because we will lose funding
- viii. No formal relationship with VAST for any trail use - we wondered if there was any trail insurance
- ix. Unclear who owns bridge at end of Greendale Rd. Coordinating with USFS on future.
- x. Unclear on status of Fowler Brook "ownership". Might be able to assist with locating information. Commissioner Andrew Seward agreed to look into the status, length, and location of the town road.

8. Public comments: none

9. Upcoming meetings

a. Special working meeting: March 2nd, 2022 at 6pm (Education Plan) – Please note different time

b. Subdivision Hearing: March 16th, 2022 at 6:15pm

c. Regular meeting: March 16th, 2022 at 7pm

10. The meeting adjourned at 8:41pm

For the Commission, Renee Sarmiento, Planning Commission Clerk



Notice of Public Hearing March 16, 2022

The Mount Holly Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 6:15 PM on March 16, 2022 at the Mount Holly Town Office and via Zoom to consider an Application for a Minor Subdivision, #2022-01.

Property Owner: John (Jeb) Porter

Property Location: 194 Bowlsville Road S

Application for: Minor Subdivision of an approximately 11 Acre lot into two lots (9.53+/- acres, 1.34+/- acres)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89833821716?pwd=aDBOWjJlcS9aQmorOXYwdENzZytBZz09>

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 898 3382 1716

Passcode: 150038

Link to the Zoom meeting will be on the web site: <http://www.mounthollyvt.org/planning-commission/>

Participation in this hearing is a pre-requisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

If you wish to make a public comment but do not have the ability to comment remotely during the meeting, please email your comment(s) in advance of the hearing to Mount Holly Planning Commission at planningcomm@mounthollyvt.org or mail to Mount Holly Planning Commission at P.O. Box 248 Mount Holly, VT 05758.

WARNING
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2022 AND MARCH 1, 2022

The legal voters of the Town of Mount Holly, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at the **Mount Holly School at 7:00 p.m. in the evening, Monday, February 28, 2022**, to act on the following articles, viz: **2 & 14**

On **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**, to vote by **Australian ballot at the Mount Holly Town Office**, polls will be open from **10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** to vote on the following articles, viz.: **1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13.**

Articles may be discussed Monday evening.

Article 1: To elect all Town Officers as the law directs. (Australian ballot)

Article 2: To act on the Town Officer's Report.

Article 3: Does the Town vote the following budget for fiscal year 2022-2023, to be raised by tax?

A. General Fund (net)	\$ 447,590.
B. Highway Fund (net)	378,750.
Total A & B (Australian ballot)	\$ 826,340.

Article 4: Does the Town vote **\$65,000.** for the Asset/Equipment Fund for fiscal year 2022-2023, to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

Article 5: Does the Town vote to the Mount Holly Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. an operating budget of **\$55,000.** for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, and Vehicle Replacement Fund of **\$45,000.** for a total of **\$100,000.** to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

Article 6: Does the Town vote to the Mount Holly Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc. for the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget, to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

A. General Budget Fund	\$17,500.
B. Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund	\$15,000.
Total A & B (Australian ballot)	\$32,500.

Article 7: Does the Town vote **\$12,000.** for the Mount Holly Town Library, to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

Article 8: Does the Town vote **\$2,000.** for the Mount Holly Chit Chat, to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

Article 9: Does the Town vote the following for Community and Social Services totaling **\$8,735.,** to be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)

A. American Red Cross	\$ 500.
B. Mount Holly Barn Preservation Assoc.	100.
C. BROCC Community Action in Southwestern Vermont	550.
D. Rutland Mental Health Services	1,302.
E. VNA & Hospice of Southwest Region	1,313.
F. RSVP & The Volunteer Center	100.
G. Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging	400.
H. Regional Ambulance Service, Inc.	620.
I. Vermont Adult Learning	500.
J. Black River Good Neighbor Services, Inc.	1,000.
K. Vermont Assoc. for the Blind & Visually Impaired	150.
L. Marble Valley Regional Transit District	300.
M. Vermont Center for Independent Living	100.
N. Green Up Vermont	150.
O. Child First Advocacy Center	400.
P. NeighborWorks	500.
Q. Okemo Valley TV	750.

- Article 10: Does the Town vote **\$2500.** for the Mount Holly Community Historical Museum to be raised by tax?
(Australian ballot)
- Article 11: Does the Town vote to fund the afterschool program at the Mount Holly School in the amount of **\$6,500** in the FY2023, (to maintain state grant funding in the amount of \$23,890), be raised by tax? (Australian ballot)
- Article 12: Does the Town vote **\$2500.** for the Town Highway Speed Enforcement to be raised by tax?
(Australian ballot)
- Article 13: Shall the Town vote to authorize **cannabis retailers** in the town pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863? "Cannabis retailer" means a person licensed by the state cannabis control board to sell cannabis and cannabis products to adults 21 years and older for off-site consumption.
(Australian ballot)
- Article 14: To transact all other necessary and proper business.

Dated at Mount Holly, Vermont this 20th day of January AD, 2022.
Town of Mount Holly Select Board


Mark Turco


Jeff Chase


Jennifer Matthews

Join Zoom Meeting online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85672372532?pwd=Rk40bEd3UTFQQzJtJEJZZ2Y5eWlNdz09>

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Ludlow Rotary Hears Real Estate Market Update

The Jan. 11 luncheon meeting of the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) featured Lisa Kelley, President, Crown Point Board of Realtors (CPBR) speaking to Rotarians and guests about current real estate activity in the area and the future of the real estate market.

She stated that home prices were at a peak in June. This is a sellers' market making it hard to buy. There is still very little inventory of homes for sale. On average houses are only on market for 6 days, said Kelley. This makes it tough for local residents to break into the market for a house. In addition, she predicted mortgage rates will increase over the next couple of years.

Buyers with resources purchase land as an alternative, only to find the builders are booking into 2023. She stated the population of buyers working remotely need high speed fiber optics. Because Mount Holly has that, housing there is in great demand.

Of concern to the local economy, Kelley noted that second home owners don't visit local shops daily. This puts local businesses at a disadvantage because of the smaller steady population base. It also makes the community less affordable. Affordable housing is difficult to provide for several reasons including building materials being so expensive.

She cautioned members to expect more foreclosures. Some foreclosures have been sitting for more than 2 years because of the backlog in the business. Rentals are very expensive in the Ludlow Rotary service area as well.

Kelley, a realtor from Mount Holly for the past 16 years and former owner of the Belmont General Store, was urged by her father-in-law, Larry Kelley, to get her license. Larry was a long time Ludlow Rotarian. Rotarian Sharon Bixby remembered when Larry was roasted by the club, he was given an outhouse adorned with a Kelley Real Estate sign because "he could sell anything." Lisa may be on that track after selling 50 homes in 2021. In addition to being President she is a State director of CPBR and active in the Mount Holly community.

Anyone interested in learning more about joining Rotary is invited to contact Kevin Barnes, Membership Chairman at (802) 228-8877, to receive an invitation to a meeting



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"O Brother, Where Art Thou", a comedy-drama, Comes to Ludlow, February 26

FOLA will present "O Brother, Where Art Thou", at the Heald Auditorium in Ludlow's Town Hall on Saturday, February 26 at 7 PM.

O Brother, Where Art Thou? is a 2000 crime comedy-drama film written, produced, co-edited and directed by Joel and Ethan Coen, and starring George Clooney, John Turturro, and Tim Blake Nelson, with Chris Thomas King, John Goodman, Holly Hunter, and Charles Durning in supporting roles.

The film is set in 1937 rural Mississippi during the Great Depression. Its story is a modern satire loosely based on Homer's epic Greek poem The Odyssey that incorporates social features of the American South. The title of the film is a reference to the Preston Sturges 1941 film Sullivan's Travels, in which the protagonist is a director who wants to film O Brother, Where Art Thou?, a fictitious book about the Great Depression.

Three convicts, Pete and Delmar led by Ulysses Everett McGill, escape from a chain gang and set out to retrieve a treasure Everett said was buried before the area is flooded to make a lake. The three get a lift from a blind man driving a handcar on a railway. He tells them they will find a fortune, but not the one they seek. The trio make their way to the house of Wash, Pete's cousin. They sleep in the barn, but Wash reports them to Sheriff Cooley, who, along with his men, torches the barn. Wash's son helps them escape.

They pick up Tommy Johnson, a young black man, who claims he sold his soul to the devil in exchange for the ability to play guitar. In need of money, the four stop at a radio broadcast tower where they record a song as the Soggy Bottom Boys. That night, the trio part ways with Tommy after their car is discovered by the police. Unbeknownst to them, the recording becomes a major hit.

What follows is a tale of how the wandering escapees eventually recover the predicted fortune, survive three "sirens", a one-eyed bible salesman, and assorted other woes.

The film is open to everyone and is free; donations are appreciated. Water is provided thanks to the folks at the United Church of Ludlow. Following town Covid policy, masks are required for all. For information, 802-228-7239 and <https://fola.us>.



Fletcher Farm School Announces Classes, Quilt Winner, Tuition Changes

The Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts is now offering our Winter/Spring classes.

Classes For March:



March 5-6 – Painting the Winter Landscape in Watercolor (Online) with Robert O'Brien – Registration deadline 2/22/22

March 19-20 – Success in Watercolor II with Betsy Johnson – Registration deadline 3/9/22

March 22-23 – Liberated Quilting with Susan Damone Balch – Registration deadline 3/12/22

March 26-27 – Silver Fabrication with Harold Bosco – Registration deadline 3/16/22

Raffle Winner Chosen

Our special raffle for the **Baltimore Album Quilt** culminated with a drawing for the winner today. Unfortunately, the quilt's creator, **Viola Greening**, was unable to join us for the drawing. The winning ticket was sold to **Mary Schacter** from Greenwich, Connecticut. Congratulations to Mary and thanks to all of you who bought tickets! Your donations will help us make sure local kids

are able to attend art camps here this summer.

Youth Tuition Changes

Along with the membership changes the Society of Vermont Artists and Craftsmen have approved this year, we have reduced the tuition for our Young Artist classes as follows:

- 1-day class - \$85 for non-members; \$75 for members
- 2-day class - \$140 for non-members; \$130 for members
- 3-day class - \$190 for non-members; \$180 for members
- 4-day class - \$235 for non-members; \$225 for members
- 5-day class - \$275 for non-members; \$265 for members

As a reminder, our **Membership Drive** is still underway, and we have added a Family membership category that gives \$10 off each class registration for all members of the immediate family.

Save the Dates:

We have selected dates for our summer festivals, **July 2** and **August 13**. If you are participating in one or both festivals, please let us know by calling or emailing to schooldirector@fletcherfarm.org and we'll add you to our list of potential vendors.

If you have any questions about classes, memberships, teaching, donations, etc., you can find most answers on our website at <http://fletcherfarm.org>. Or, if you prefer, you may call our office at (802) 228-8770. The office is staffed on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 – 2:00.



USDA Unveils Resource Guide to Help Rural Entrepreneurs Start and Grow Businesses, Create Good-Paying Jobs and Strengthen America's Economy

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under Secretary for Rural Development Xochitl Torres Small today unveiled a [resource guide](#) to help people in rural America start and grow businesses, create good-paying jobs in their communities and strengthen America's economy.

"America's rural entrepreneurs are critical to the success of our nation's economy," Torres Small said. "They create jobs for the people in their communities, start businesses and industries that expand financial opportunities, and deliver products and services that improve the lives of people across this nation. The guide we are unveiling today will enhance American competitiveness around the world to meet the challenges of the 21st century by equipping rural entrepreneurs with the tools they need to succeed."

The guide features information on how rural entrepreneurs can use USDA and other Federal programs to access financing and other assistance to help start and expand their businesses. It includes tools to help them:

- expand their access to capital to create small business incubators.
- create value-added agricultural products.
- access high-speed internet to connect their businesses to national and global markets.
- cut energy costs.
- access health care resources to enhance the quality of life for their employees.
- access workforce development and training opportunities to improve their skills, products and services, and more.

The guide also features firsthand stories from Rural Development customers on ways USDA programs and services have helped them start or expand businesses.

To learn more about investment resources for rural areas, visit www.rd.usda.gov, or contact the nearest [USDA Rural Development state office](#).

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov. If you'd like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our [GovDelivery subscriber page](#).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.





Ludlow Rotary Hears from Cavendish Town Manager

The February 1 luncheon meeting of the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC) featured Brendan McNamara, Cavendish Town Manager speaking to Rotarians and guests about the state of the Town of Cavendish. Cavendish is within the Rotary service district.

He reported there are concerns about the aging infrastructure in the water and sewer systems as well as the need for larger stormwater capacity. He wants the Town to be ahead of any concerns rather than reacting to a crisis. The Town is looking at the use of Covid recovery funds in ARPA to address some of the issues. As Town Manager for the past several years, McNamara spent his first five years continuing projects that were underway or in the planning stages from the prior Town Manager Richard Svec. Since then, he has enjoyed addressing new issues and projects.

His experience during the repaving of VT 131 was raised by an inquiring Rotarian.

McNamara stated he is glad it is completed and while it wasn't pleasant to experience, the finished project is much nicer than the potholes. In response to another question, he stated that broadband service to the community is spotty and inconsistent. It is an issue the Town is trying to address. Asked whether there has been an increase in residents due to the pandemic, he stated judging by the increase volume at the transfer station, there are several new residents.

McNamara is a lifelong Cavendish resident who is pleased to be able to serve his home town in this capacity. He was educated at Green Mountain High School and Keene State College. He returned to his home town and is able to have a career here.

In other business, Rotary inducted new member Lauren Severy of Summit Solutions

Property Services in Ludlow as a new business member.

Anyone interested in learning more about joining Rotary is invited to contact Kevin Barnes, Membership Chairman at (802) 228-8877, to receive an invitation to a meeting.

Pictured above left, left to right, Brendan McNamara, Cavendish Town Manager and Rotarian Art Randolph, President of the Ludlow Rotary Club; photo credit Kim Lampert.

Pictured above right, left to right, Rotarians Art Randolph and Tom Harris, new member Lauren Severy, and Rotarian Kevin Barnes; photo credit Kim Lampert.



Vermont Home Gardener Winter Gardening

Here we are... winter in Vermont with beautiful snow, cold nighttime temperatures, and there's still plenty to keep a good gardener busy. If you haven't ordered your garden seeds yet, that is *your #1 priority!* Look at the short list of local seed companies that I listed in the previous article (or any others that you like) and browse their online catalogs from the comfort of home. This is not the year to delay, the best varieties are already getting low or sold out. If you can't wait and want to grow something in mid-winter, consider micro-greens or sprouts to have freshly grown salad greens right now. This article includes several short winter tips and easy-to-do ideas that will prove useful and make the coming garden season more productive.

Too early to fertilize. House plants can begin to look very tired and weak at this time of year but resist the temptation to give them fertilizer. It's best to not stimulate new upper growth until day length gets longer and plants can grow stronger. If your plants have become a bit too tall or lanky due to low light levels they can be pruned back now in preparation for the new grow phase that's about to begin as day length gets longer (over 10 hours/day). Don't be shy with your pruning shears. Removing 30-50% of the tops will stimulate the roots to re-grow strong new shoots for the spring. Even outdoor plants brought indoors like geraniums, fuchsia, petunias, and begonias will respond well to this treatment.

Read the full article covering tips for houseplant bugs, poinsettias, shrub protection, seed sprouting, and more at <https://vermonthomegardener.com/>

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Contact Listing Agent

Sue Starr-Adams for More Info!

sue@kelleyrealestate.com

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To learn more about our services, or to refer a patient, visit www.shrinershospitalforchildren.org to locate a hospital near you. Or call 800-237-5055 in the U.S. or 800-361-7256 Canada – Past Potentate Bob Ferguson, Cairo Shriners, Rutland



Gardner Speaks to Ludlow Rotary on Education Recovery Plans

Pictured above is Anne Gardner, Recovery Plan Coordinator for Two Rivers Supervisory Union (TRSU), and Art Randolph, President of the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC), following Ms. Gardner's speech to the LRC at its recent luncheon meeting.

Ms. Gardner comments to the LRC dealt with the preliminary outline being followed by the TRSU concerning its allocation of ARP ESSER funds. She noted that the plan was still in a preliminary form and that she was seeking input from the various community stakeholders concerning it.

Community Health Center

For more information about [Community Kids Dental](https://www.chcrr.org/services/#dental-care) call 802-772-4413, check our [website](https://www.chcrr.org/services/#dental-care) <https://www.chcrr.org/services/#dental-care> or speak with your primary care provider or pediatrician about the benefits of good oral health for kids of all ages.

[Community Health](https://www.chcrr.org/) <https://www.chcrr.org/> is Vermont's largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), a network of primary care, pediatric, behavioral health, dental and pharmacy services with offices in Rutland, Brandon, Castleton, West Pawlet and Shoreham. [Community Dental](https://www.chcrr.org/services/#dental-care) <https://www.chcrr.org/services/#dental-care> offices are located in Rutland and Shoreham; [Community Kids Dental](https://www.chcrr.org/services/#dental-care-for-kids) <https://www.chcrr.org/services/#dental-care-for-kids> is in Rutland; [Community Health Pediatrics](https://www.chcrr.org/services/#pediatrics) <https://www.chcrr.org/services/#pediatrics> is in Rutland and [Behavioral Health](https://www.chcrr.org/services/#behavioral-health) <https://www.chcrr.org/services/#behavioral-health> services are available at all of our locations. [Community Health Express Care](https://www.chcrr.org/services/#behavioral-health) Centers, open 7 days a week, are located at the Rutland and Castleton Community Health Centers. For career opportunities at Community Health's network of health care services, check our [Career Center](https://www.chcrr.org/join-our-team/). <https://www.chcrr.org/join-our-team/>

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Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc., 3379 Shunpike Rd., Mount Holly, VT 05758

The Mount Holly Chit Chat, a membership organization, has been incorporated as a non-profit organization in the State of Vermont, dedicated to providing all members of the Mount Holly community with information on Town events and issues. Membership is open to anyone who lives in, works in, or owns property in Mount Holly and who has made an annual membership donation. Membership donations help bring the Chit Chat to you every month.

Check here if you DO NOT wish to receive the Chit Chat _____

Donation amount \$ _____ **Tax Deductible** *We have Federal tax exempt status.*

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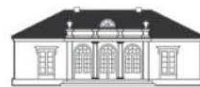
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Stone Creek Workshops Pottery www.stonecreekworkshops.com 802-259-2254

Catering - Restaurants - Stores

Harry's Café, Trip & Deb Pearce III www.Harryscafe.com 802-259-2555
Mojo Café – John & Jodi Seward mojocafevt@yahoo.com 802-228-6656

Building & Repairs – General Work

AW Carpentry-Remodeling*Building*Portable Sawmilling 802-259-3699
Cutting Edge Carpentry And Paint Works – Curt Marechoux Cell 802-236-5559

Church Listings

Annunciation, Ludlow, Mass Sat 4:30 pm, Sun 8 am & 10 am
Rev Thomas Mosher abvmludlow@comcast.net 802-228-3451
Belmont Village Baptist Church-Worship 9:30am, Coffee Hour 10:30
Pastor Glenn Davis vbch.weebly.com 802-259-2440
E. Wallingford Baptist – PS 9:15-10:00 am SS 10 am, Worship 11 am
Pastor Kevin Miner 802-259-2831
First Baptist Church, Wallingford, SS 11am Prayer Meeting Wed 7 pm
Pastor Dave Bentley 802-446-2020
Lighthouse Independent Baptist Church, Rutland SS 11am & 3pm
Until May 11am & 6pm 802-779-0300
Ludlow Baptist Church, 9:30 am SS, 10:30 am Music Fellowship,
11 am WS, 6:30 pm Evening PS, Wed 6:30 pm PM & BS
Pastor Jerry Scheumann jfscheumann@gmail.com 603-439-0803
Rutland Jewish Center office@rutlandjewishcenter.org
Rabbi Shemtov rabbishemtov@rutlandjewishcenter.org 802-773-3455
St. Patrick's, Wallingford, Mass Sun 9 am
Rev Msgr Bernard Bourgeois christthekingprsh@gmail.com 802-446-2161
Wilderness Friends Meeting (Quaker) Sundays 10 am
Shrewsbury Library, Cuttingsville 802-259-2803

Engineering

Krueger Engineering- Arthur G. Krueger, P.E. 802-492-3653

Equipment For Hire & Snow Moving

Beardmore Excavating beardmoreexc@gmail.com 802-342-3507
Flander's Excavating & Firewood 802-259-2147
Hawkins Excavation Driveways, Ditching, Septic, Ponds, Etc 802-448-3082

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www.Smithmaplecrestfarm.com

Sugar Hill Berry Farm www.sugarhillberryfarm.com 802-259-2155

Food Shelf

Black River Good Neighbor Services – Krey Kellington 802-228-3663

Funeral Homes

Clifford Funeral Home 802-773-3010

Garden & Landscape, Lawn Mowing

Belmont Country Gardens Quality Custom Stonework & More 802-259-2364
Kevin Smith, Garden Service & Lawn Mowing 802-259-3964
Salt Ash Nursery - The Balsam Barn – Scott Crawford 802-259-2146

Garage Mechanical

Belmont Motor Works LLC Parts/Service MTC, ATV, Sm Engine 802-259-3178
Welding/Metal Fabrication Dealer Parts Unlimited/Drage Specialties, V-Twin
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William H Johnson Automotive Services 802-259-2498
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General Contractors

Wright Construction Company info@wrightconstruction.com 802-259-2094
Ted Stryhas Builder Inc. 802-228-7327

Health & Community Health Care Providers

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Community Health – <https://www.chcrr.org> Medical, Dental, Pediatrics
Behavioral Health – Patient Access Center 802-779-9159
Express Care Rutland - 802-773-3386
Dr. Joseph P. Donohue – Chiropractic Care, Thrive Center 802-446-2499
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Lisa Donohue MA, LMT ~ Linda O'Brien MT 802-446-2499
Massage Therapy Belmont – Robin Nelson 802-353-4356

Home Management Services

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Yankee Home Management, Keith Hawkins 802-259-3064

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Green Mtn. Sugar House 802-228-7151
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Smith Maple Crest Farm www.Smithmaplecrestfarm.com 802-492-2151

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print@expresscopyinc.com

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Farrand Masonry – Angus Farrand farrandmasonry@gmail.com 802-417-1657

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Mount Holly Email

Kevin Plew – mthollynewsflash@gmail.com 802-259-2250

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masterplumbingheating@gmail.com
Tailored Plumbing tailoredplumbingheating@gmail.com 802-417-1647

Real Estate Sales

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Cummings & Co. Lisa Kelley lisa@cummingsvt.com 802-345-6581
Engel & Volkers, Okemo - Woodstock Gail Beardmore 802-975-0338
Gail.Beardmore@evusa.com (Mobile) 802-236-5431
Kelley Real Estate, Don Eatmon, Owner/Broker 802-228-5333
realtor@KelleyRealEstate.com
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kevin@belmontseptic.com

Krueger Engineering – Arthur G. Krueger, P.E. 802-492-3653

Therapeutic Riding

Rienbow Riding Center Home 802-259-2282 Barn 802-492-2226

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March 2022 Mount Holly Chit Chat Inc.

