



Volume 11, No. 5



March—April 2014

Windham News & Notes



TOWN MEETING DAY, MARCH 4, 2014 *by Dona Robinson*

The 2014 Town Meeting is at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 4, at the Meeting House. We'll conduct town business, enjoy a potluck lunch, and take a little time to socialize with our neighbors. Please bring a dish to share and \$1 to cover the cost of paper products.

A number of town officers will be elected at the meeting.

In addition, several positions will be filled by appointment of the Selectboard at their first meeting after Town Meeting. If you are interested in an elected or appointed position, please look up duties and responsibilities of the position at the Town Office, online, or by contacting the present position-holder.

RULING THE UNRULY *by Mary Boyer*

On Tuesday, March 4th most VT towns will use Robert's Rules of Order to control their Town Meetings, making it possible for the assembly to hear everyone without interruption, to hear all sides of a debate, and to make timely, informed decisions.

Today's parliamentary procedure in the U.S. evolved from procedures used by the English Parliament. Henry Martyn Robert (1837-1923) conceived of a 50-page booklet of guidelines, designed to be useful to every meeting goer, no matter the size of the meeting. Published in 1876, the first edition had 176 pages; the latest edition has nearly 700, due to questions that continue to arise.

The primary value of parliamentary procedure is that it enables organizations to work out satisfactory solutions to the greatest number of questions in the shortest time. It makes for smooth meetings when everyone is in agree-

ment, and for fair decisions when issues are contested.

The guiding principles of Robert's Rules are:

- *Everyone has a right to participate in discussions if they wish, before anyone may speak a second time.*
- *Everyone has the right to know what is going on at all times.*
- *Only urgent matters may cause interruption of a speaker.*
- *Only one motion can be discussed at a time.*
- *Once recognized by the moderator, a speaker must direct all comments to him/her.*

The role of moderator is to help move along the intended business of the meeting and to ensure fairness. Raise your hand and ask questions if you do not understand what is happening, or if you think what is happening is wrong for some reason, or if you want to do something but don't know how to do it.

Town Meeting is a day of democracy in action and your unique opportunity to participate in Windham's governance. Be there, be alert, and enjoy the day.

2014 ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICES, WITH TERMS OF OFFICE AND INCUMBENTS

ELECTED:

Moderator: 1 year, Michael McLaine
Selectman: 3 years, Margaret Dwyer
Lister: 3 years, John Lingley, Jr.
Auditor: 3 years, Imme Maurath
Constable: 2 years, Billie Jean Clay
Delinquent Tax Collector: 1 year, Ernest Friedli
Grand Juror: 1 year, James A. Scott
Town Agent: 1 year, Michael Pelton
Windham Center Cemetery Commission: 5 years, Walter Woodruff
West Windham Cemetery Commission: 5 years, David Crittenden
North Windham Cemetery Commission: 5 years, Ralph Wyman
Library Trustee: 5 years, Jean Coburn
Leland and Gray Union High School Representative: 3 years, Diane Newton
Windham School Director: 3 years, Carolyn Partridge
Energy Coordinator: 1 year, Peter McDonald

APPOINTED:

Town Planning Commission & Zoning Board of Adjustment: 4 years, Robert Kehoe
Rep. to Windham Regional Commission: 1 year, Carolyn Partridge & Heath Boyer
Fence Viewer: 1 year, Steven L. Amsden, Walter Woodruff, Richard Pare, Lawrence Worden
Pound Keeper: 1 year, Dr. Brandi Smith, DVM
Dog Counter: 1 year, Billie Jean Clay
Surveyor of Wood Lumber & Shingles: 1 year, Lawrence Worden & Robert Bingham
Weigher of Coal: 1 year, Ernest Friedli
Tree Warden: 1 year, Walter Woodruff
Town Service Officer: 1 year, Mary Boyer
Representative to Senior Solutions: 1 year, Regina Noel
Assistant Town Treasurer: 1 year, Kathy Scott
Citizens Advisory Committee, Housing Rehabilitation Development Grant Program: 3 years, Jerry Dyke and Rudolph (Buddy) Behrendt
Conservation Commission: 4 years, Alison Trowbridge and Barbara Davis
Emergency M'gment Coordinator: 1 year, Heath Boyer
Emergency M'gment Co-Coordinator: 1 year, Imme Maurath

TOWN OF WINDHAM BUSINESS

SELECTBOARD NEWS

Mary Boyer, Margaret Dwyer, Frank Seawright

The Selectboard met weekly during the month of January to complete the 2014 budget. We worked with the road crew on streamlining and clarifying the roads budget to make it more accurate and easier to understand. We also spent many hours with the Town Treasurer, reviewing budgets submitted by the other Town departments for inclusion in the Annual Report, on which our voters will vote at Town Meeting. The rising costs of fuel, electricity, sand, salt, and building/vehicle maintenance pose a significant challenge to us in our efforts to trim budgets. We are also trying to build a reserve for paving and for purchasing heavy equipment. Frank continues to seek grant funding to repair or replace several culverts in town.

The Selectboard drafted an update and amendment to the 1994 traffic ordinance, changing the speed limit from 40 to 35 miles per hour on Windham Hill Road from the Jamaica town line in South Windham to the Lawrence Four Corners intersection with State Route 121. Watch for an announcement of a public hearing on this issue shortly after town meeting.

The Planning Commission completed work on the new Town Plan and submitted it to the Selectboard for review. The first of two required hearings will be 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12 at the Town Office.

We look forward to seeing you at Town Meeting on Tuesday, March 4. Please remember to bring your Annual Report and a dish to share for lunch.

From Selectman Margaret Dwyer:

Dear voters,

It is after careful consideration that I have decided not to run for re-election as a Selectman for the Town of Windham. The years I have served on the Board have been very fulfilling and educational but I have found that my obligations to my job and family have increased leaving me with little time to devote to my duties as Selectman. I thank the town for the opportunity to have served in this position and for the experiences it has awarded me and will especially miss the people I have had the pleasure to work with.

Sincerely,

Margaret Dwyer

HOW THE COMMON LEVEL OF APPRAISAL (CLA) AFFECTS EDUCATION PROPERTY TAXES

by Listers Michael Simonds and John Lingley

The Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is a ratio, formed by dividing the assessed value of a town's properties by their actual sales prices. For example, to determine Windham's 2014 CLA, we take the sum of

assessed values of properties sold in Windham in 2013, and divide it by the sum of the actual sale prices of those same properties. We state the resulting ratio as percent, with our goal being 100%, achieved when the sum of assessed values and the sum of sales prices are the same. We hope to achieve this goal by utilizing the town-wide reappraisal now in progress.

Why is this goal important to you, the taxpayer? The state uses a town's CLA ratio to adjust the base property tax rate for both residents and non-residents of the town. The purpose of this adjustment is to equalize property values statewide so that all properties can be taxed at a common level. The closer Windham comes to a CLA of 100%, the more our property taxes are reduced.

Windham's 2013 CLA was 83.32%, and we are happy to say the 2014 CLA is 95.66%. In the table below,* you can see how the CLA influences our town's school tax rate, with a high percent reducing taxes. Our example is taken from the Windham School District's Budget Proposal for FY 2015. The weighted average school tax rate for Windham in FY 2015 is \$1.676. The table shows how this tax rate is affected by different CLA numbers, using the example of a property assessed at \$200,000.

Weighted School Tax Rate	Divided By CLA	Year	=	Actual Rate	X	\$200,000	=	Tax Due
\$1.676	83.32%	(last year)	=	\$2.012	X	\$200,000	=	\$4023
\$1.676	5.66%	(this year)	=	\$1.752	X	\$200,000	=	\$3504
\$1.676	100%	(listers' goal)	=	\$1.676	X	\$200,000	=	\$3352

In our town-wide reappraisal, some property values will go up, some will go down, and some will stay the same. At this point, we don't know which properties will be affected or how. We do know a high CLA will bring down the school tax *rate* for everyone. So please welcome the professional appraisers into your home. A visit usually takes only 20 to 30 minutes.

But first, if you haven't already done so, send in your contact informational card. We use that info to contact you to schedule the visit to your home. If you have lost your card, you may contact Green Mountain Appraisals at 802-362-4274 or greenmountainappraisals.com and give them your contact info.

* Frank Rucker, Chief Financial Officer of the Windham Central Supervisory Union, has verified these figures as accurate. He recommended that we include this statutory reference as a reminder regarding income sensitivity: *Residents of Windham with less than \$92,000 of household income qualify for a cap on education property tax liability, estimated to be 2.99% of household income, subject to the provisions of V.S.A. T32 Chapter 154.*

FROM THE WCO*by Dona Robinson, President, Windham Community Organization*

WCO would like to thank everyone who participated in the annual cookie exchange, whereby members bake and distribute Christmas cookies in the community and to Town employees as a way of saying "thank you".

At our meeting on January 29th, WCO kicked off the new year with initiatives to expand our contribution to the community. Gloria Dawson, executive director of Londonderry-based Neighborhood Connections, addressed WCO members on activities and services of this worthwhile organization. WCO shares with Neighborhood Connections an operating philosophy of focusing close to home and "caring for our own." We plan to formalize the relationship between the two organizations in the near future.

Also at this meeting, WCO agreed to purchase three Chrome-books for the Windham Elementary School. The school currently has three and would benefit from having six to meet student needs.

WCO's next meeting will be March 26. We continue our commitment to helping community members in need and, as always, we welcome new members to join our ranks. We look forward to a new year in which we strive to increase our presence and role in the Windham community. For more information, please call Dona Robinson at 874-7242.

**WINDHAM
NEWS & NOTES**

A publication of the Windham Community Organization, published six times a year. Please send donations to the address on the last page.

N&N Team

Dawn Bower Mary Boyer
Bev Carmichael Leila Erhardt
Imme Maurath Dona Robinson
Nancy Tips

Thanks to all who contribute. Send articles of around 300 words to the address on the last page or email to: windhamnews@hotmail.com

Next deadline: April 15, 2014

PLANNING COMMISSION SUBMITS NEW TOWN PLAN: MARCH 12 HEARING IS WARNED*by News and Notes Staff*

On Wednesday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. at the Windham Town Office, there will be an official hearing on Windham's proposed new Town Plan. Copies of the Plan are available at the Town Office.

The Plan is the fruit of more than 12 months of hard work by the Windham Planning Commission which officially submitted its work to the Windham Selectboard on January 30, 2014. The Planning Commission was chaired by John Lingley and Deputy Chair Bob Bingham, and its members put in long hours, occasionally engaging subject-area experts to help strengthen the Plan. Special thanks go to veteran planners Bob Bingham and Bob Kehoe for their knowledge and experience (Bob Kehoe has served on the Commission for over 20 years), and to Windham Regional Commission liaison Heath Boyer for his invaluable input.

When adopted, Windham's new Town Plan will replace the re-adopted 2008 Plan, providing a blueprint for town growth and development, and presenting the Commission's vision for Windham's near-term future. The Plan is based on our town's unique attributes, and presents policies and practices to promote the health and well-being of Windham's 419 residents and property owners. The Plan also seeks to protect and preserve Windham's 16,870 acres and abundant natural resources, and to insure that all economic and social de-

velopment is consistent with the 220-year history of the town. It outlines comprehensive policies on community services, natural resources (land, water, and air), housing, transportation, energy development, land use, and economic development.

With the Plan under its belt, the Commission is catching its breath, re-grouping, and getting ready to tackle an update of town zoning regulations, which will bring to life the policies outlined in the Town Plan.



Members of the Planning Commission:
l to r: Bob Kehoe, Paul Robinson, Bob Bingham, John Lingley
Not shown: Ken Grimm, Jim Morey, Dawn Bower

SCENES FROM WINDHAM AROUND 1900

By Mary McCoy, Elizabeth Stevens, & Jonathan Stevens

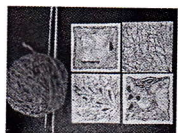


Clockwise, beginning with photo above: **1.** Seen circa 1890 from the belfry of the Meeting House and Congregational Church, looking down what was then called Baker Hill Road, this area was referred to as Windham Center and was the town's hub. Notice the tidy fences separating the houses on the right. On the left was the general store owned by the Harris family. Beyond that was the blacksmith's shop. **2.** The general store as seen from the south. The Stowell family ran the business after the Harris's. The building burned down in the 1920's, and the Stowell's opened a new store in the house beyond the blacksmith's (now the Boyer's home). **3.** Circa 1890, Town Clerk Luther Chapman and his daughter Winifred were perhaps coming from church, seen in the background.



4. Elias Stowell and his sons had a successful hunt in the early 1920's. **5.** Snowy roads were not plowed; they were flattened with a roller, as shown in this photo from the early 1900's. There was no official road crew, but many residents were paid small amounts for "breaking open" the roads. The town's annual budget for roads was about \$1,000 -- the town's biggest expense, as is true today. **6.** Taken on Burbee Pond Road in 1907 at what was then the Mountain Grove Farm. The men were playing quoits, a game like horseshoes. **7.** Taken in 1908, these ladies were dressed for church or some special occasion. But why was every lady clapping her hands? If they were posing, why were half not looking at the camera?





WINDHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL *by Antje Ruppert*

Windham Zentangles— What started as a temporary workshop in preparation for the Christmas art-gala fundraiser at the Windham School has

morphed into a lovely and regular community event. Windham students, parents and members of the community have been meeting on Thursday afternoons from 3-4:30 p.m. to Zentangle, a new and fancy designation for doodling. With a plethora of followers, patterns, and information online (zentangle.com; tanglepatterns.com) it is an easy, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing repetitive structured patterns. It's also a wonderful introduction to art for those who thought themselves without creative abilities. The relaxing nature of this art form is particularly noticeable in children, who calmly concentrate on their pieces. By now, many Windham adults and kids have taken Zentangle home and been swept up in its contagious magic.

Another activity offered on these Thursday afternoons is knitting, and, thanks to a kind donor, we will be doing pottery and clay work after vacation as well.

The Windham public is invited to join in and perhaps even lend their expertise by introducing other crafts. For questions or ideas please call Antje Ruppert at 874-4759.

And what about the budget?—The proposed school budget of \$358,357 for the Windham Elementary School for FY 15 is down by \$7,251 compared to last year. The main reason for this decrease is that the low preschool enrollment numbers do not warrant a continuation of our preschool program at this time. Apart from that, the Common Level of Appraisal, an important factor in the calculation of the actual school tax rate, has increased to a much more favorable 95.66% from 83.2% in the previous year. Our student population remains steady and may even slightly increase in the next school year, and our education spending is basically equal to that of last year.

As always, the Windham School Board, assisted by our head teacher Mickey Parker-Jennings, our Superintendent Steven John, and the Chief Financial Officer of the Windham Central Supervisory Union has worked diligently on preparing a workable budget in accordance with its education principles and standards. We are very grateful for our dedicated team of teachers and staff whose efforts were commended this year by the Secretary of Education, Armando Vilaseca, for above-average test results.

If you have questions, please contact Carolyn Partridge at 874-4182, Antje Ruppert at 874-4759, and Beth McDonald at 874-4015.

FROM THE WES NEWSLETTER *by Gail Wyman*

Jan 17...Mrs. Kehoe's class went to the Nature Museum on Thursday. Nature's Snowshoers was this month's program. The children learned about the unique winter adaptations of snowshoe hares, lynx, and grouse, and how they inspired the snowshoes that we humans use! They played lynx and snowshoe hare games and snowshoed in the Village Park...**Library Day:** it is exciting listening to even kindergartners and preschool students as they know the difference between fiction and non fiction... before a book is to be read the teacher will ask/tell whether the book is fiction or non-fiction, asking for a definition of what that means...

Jan 31...Cross Country skiers had a great Wednesday at school. The snow was deeper up here than at Grafton

Ponds. Sally took them skiing out back for an hour. They came back in and some of them made peanut butter cookies and applesauce, while the others drew pictures on t-shirts. They had choice time while the cookies were in the oven, applesauce was bubbling on the stove. Then a snack and back outside before the bus came.

Feb 14...From Mr. PJ: ...the students in the 3-6 class began a program called Digital Wish. The program, taught by Eric Bryd, is designed to help the students become good digital citizens and learn about the validity of information presented on the web. The goal is for children to be more aware of the dangers that online interaction presents, while giving them skills to deal with those hazards... funded by the Windham Central Supervisory Union.



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TIME TO SIGN UP FOR VT HEALTH CONNECT*by Carol Belucci, "Navigator"*

VT residents have until March 15 to sign up for a health plan that will begin April 1. After this deadline, residents will not be able to sign up for health insurance in 2014 unless they have a life-change circumstance. Those eligible for Medicare can enroll any time. To enroll, you supply basic information about yourself, (e.g., household size and income). Once your application is complete, you will receive a confirmation number and benefits paper explaining financial assistance you might be eligible for. At this point, you can choose a specific health plan from BC/BS and MVP plans.

There are three ways to enroll:

- Online at vermonthealthconnect.gov
- VHC toll-free phone line: 1-855-899-9600
- Call the Valley Health Connections office @ 802-885-1616 to set up an appointment.

For those who would like to apply online, I will leave a "TIPS" sheet at the town office for your convenience.

For Direct enrollment:

BC/BS 800-255-4550 www.BCBSVT.com/exchange benefits

MVP 1-800-348-8515 www.DiscoverMVP.com

For more information:

Website: VermontHealthConnect.gov

Individual/Family Support: 855 899-9600

Small Business Hotline: 855 499-9800.

Town of Windham Navigator: Carol Bellucci, 874-4413

OUTDOOR WOOD BOILERS*by Marcia Clinton, Health Officer*

Outdoor wood boilers (OWBs) are residential or small commercial wood-fired water heaters that are located outdoors or are separated from the space being heated. The fires in the large fire boxes heat water that is circulated into the home through underground pipes. The older styles of OWBs emit dense smoke, which can impact neighbors and affect public health - particularly for children, older adults, and people who have diabetes, heart disease, asthma or any other lung disease.

Newer OWBs should meet state standards for particulate emissions after certification tests are conducted in EPA-approved laboratories. The VT Department of Environmental Conservation through their Air Quality & Climate Division (AQCD) offers a voluntary change-out program that provides financial incentives to swap out an old OWB system for a cleaner, more efficient heating system. Any questions or complaints should be sent directly to the section chief, John Wakefield, at john.wakefield@state.vt.us or by calling AQCD at 802-828-1288.

More information on wood boilers and the change-out program can be found at: www.anr.state.vt.us/air/htmlOWBchangeoutprogram or www.vtwoodsmoke.org.

LOGGING HAS BENEFITS AND REGULATIONS*by Michael Simonds, Zoning Administrator*

Responsible timber harvesting can be beneficial for property owners. It can provide income, lumber for construction, fuel, or all three. Logging also improves wildlife habitat, and maintains and enhances productivity of your land.

A good way to start timber harvesting is to hire a professional forester to help plan what should be harvested now and what should remain for the future. You will also need to familiarize yourself with Windham's zoning regulations regarding logging.

According to Section 403 of these regulations, trees should not be felled into or across streams, and logging debris dropped in streams and ponds should be removed promptly. Coarse and fine woody debris ("slash") must not be left within 50 feet of property lines, town roads, established recreation trails, ponds, lakes, or streams. Nor should slash be left within 100 feet of any building. Commercial loggers must post a bond of \$500, which is refundable once the town fire warden approves the site after logging is completed.



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WINDHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY UPDATE*by Marcia Clinton*

This winter the Windham Fire Co. has responded to one chimney fire which fortunately was quickly brought under control without damage to the house.

Chimneys should be cleaned annually by a certified chimney sweep. Burning unseasoned wood creates a build-up of creosote on the lining in the chimney. If you have a chimney fire, do not use that fireplace or wood stove until a certified chimney sweep has inspected the chimney for fire damage. These suggestions can save you some headaches and possibly your house.

WANTED AND NEEDED IN WINDHAM*by Sally Hoover*

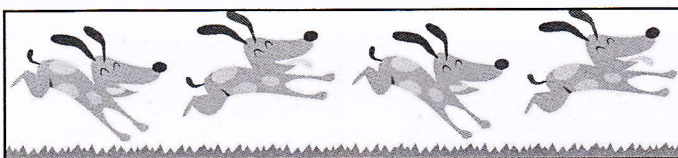
There is only one First Responder in Windham and she is not getting any younger. It would be very helpful to the community and the Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad if a few people would volunteer to take, at least, the First Responder course if not the EMT training. If anyone thinks they are at all interested please talk to Sally Hoover and she will be glad to give you details. Phone number 875-6224.

JOIN THE "FRIENDS OF WINDHAM"*by Donn Welton*

A new grass-roots group, calling itself *Friends of Windham*, is forming and invites those interested in its mission to join. Its purpose is threefold:

- To encourage the preservation of the rural heritage and the woodlands of the Town of Windham;
- To develop, publish, and serve as advocates for a rationale opposing any proposal to place industrial wind turbines on the ridgelines surrounding Windham;
- To actively raise contributions for its own work and for the Windham Woodlands Defense Fund.

There will be an informal gathering at the Meeting Hall on Wednesday, March 19, 5-7 p.m., for anyone seeking additional information or interested in becoming involved. Questions about the organization and its work can also be addressed to



Remember: April 1 is the deadline for licensing your dog! All dogs and wolf-hybrids, 6 months or older, must be licensed before April 1, 2014. Go to the Town Office during regular business hours with vet certifications of rabies vaccination and neuter/spay (if applicable). **License fees for 2014:** Females, males, wolf hybrids \$12. After April 1, \$16. Neutered or spayed dogs, \$8. After April 1, \$10.

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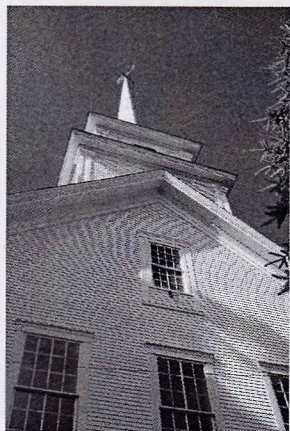
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THE BIRTH OF WINDHAM MEETING HOUSE *by Lydia Pope France, on behalf of the Friends of the Meeting House*



In the last issue we began this series on the Windham Meeting House, which is the iconic focal point of our tiny town. As promised, this time we are bringing you some of its early history. The article below was written by Margaret Woodruff in 1967. It brings the building of the Meeting House and its early history to life in a way that Margaret was so good at. As you read it, pay attention to the story behind the story.

Men from five towns coming together on a warm summer's day, the distance some of them traveled and what that must have been like all those years ago, raising the money over many years, etc.

July 8, 1802: It must have been a beautiful, sunny day at this hilltop town of Windham, elevation 2000 feet. Early in the morning 100 men gathered, 20 men from each of the towns of Londonderry, Peru, Weston, Andover and Windham. Before work began, a minister, name unknown, with uplifted hands, asked the Heavenly Father to grant his blessing and earnestly prayed that this might be the house of the living God.

Work had previously been done to have ready appropriate materials. Among them were 6 hand hewn beams, each made from a single tree. They measured approximately a foot square and 45 feet long. The center arched up several inches to add greater strength. Amos Emery is reported to have furnished one of these beams and to have sold a yoke of oxen as his contribution to the church. Probably other timbers were made ready in a similar way.

Some of the early churches were built by town taxation, but many such as ours here in Windham were by subscription. There were originally 25 proprietors. One poor man who could hardly support his family signed 15 dollars. He made salts in the woods and carried them to Townshend to sell to procure money to pay his subscription.


Much has been made of the barrel of rum purchased for the workmen of the day. The original receipt reads "Received from Deacon John Woodburn the sum of \$16.67 for rum and loaf sugar which he had for the gentlemen concerned with the building of the Meeting House in Windham." After the timbers were all in place Deacon John Bernap was appointed to deal it out. We know there was enough, for the Peru delegation returned after starting home and took another drink.

Within a year from the raising, meetings were held, a carpenter's bench serving as a platform for the speaker and rough boards for the seating. The first sermon preached in the house was by Rev. William Hall of Grafton. It took many years to complete the church although services continued to be held. The interior was completed about 1825, being one large room with "sheep-pen" style pews. Around 1850 the building underwent a big change when the second floor was added, as well as the belfry.

The present Congregational Church was organized on September 9th, 1805, three years after the Meeting House was built. Up to that time there seems to have been several different religious groups meeting in town.— Margaret Woodruff

The Meeting House Bicentennial cookbook was published in 2002. There I learned that Silas Stewart did the belfry installation. The first bell, which came from Troy, NY, was said to have the finest sound in the country. It was also said that it could be heard in Putney! That broke, however, and the second bell had such a poor sound it had to be returned. It was replaced by the third and current bell.

A booklet prepared by The Windham School Club in 1967 states that it cost \$1000 to finish the Meeting House in 1825. A year later, it was painted for \$228.01. Sounds about right for the time! But today, costs are dramatically higher, and the building is that much older. We, the town people, are just the latest in a long line of stewards of this wonderful old building. But it needs more help, so we hope that you will be inspired to join in and help keep it going for future generations. If interested, please leave your name and contact info with the Town Clerk and someone will be in touch. Checks payable to The Friends of Windham Meeting House gratefully accepted, too. And stay tuned next month for more about the building and news of the upcoming open house this summer.



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Town Meeting Potluck Recipes



Town Meeting Day "Meet-Balls" from Nancy Tips

A food processor or meat grinder makes short work of this recipe:

Mix together in a large bowl:

- 1 lb ground turkey, chicken, beef, pork, or a mixture
- 2 slices bacon, minced (use with turkey or chicken for extra flavor)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ onion, minced
- 3 large garlic cloves, minced
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon each: grated fresh ginger, soy sauce, sesame oil, brown sugar, corn starch, ground black pepper
- 3 tablespoons dried cilantro, or $\frac{1}{2}$ cup minced fresh

For glaze:

Mix together

- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup ketchup
- hot sauce to taste
- 1 teaspoon rice vinegar or other light vinegar.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Shape mixture into 18 small meatballs and thread onto soaked wooden skewers. Bake on a cookie sheet for 10 minutes. OR: without skewers, place meatballs in a cast iron skillet. Half way through baking time, give skillet a shake to turn meatballs for even browning. Turn on broiler. Brush meatballs with glaze and broil for 3 minutes. Flip skewers or shake pan so other sides of meatballs are up, brush with glaze, and broil another 3 minutes.

Mary's Maple Salad Dressing for a Group from Mary Boyer

- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups good olive oil
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup balsamic vinegar
- 9 tablespoons VT maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 6 cloves garlic minced
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon black pepper

Mix all ingredients in a jar, cup or blender. This recipe divides and multiplies well. It will keep in the refrigerator several weeks.

Focaccia from Lydia Pope France

I use bread machine to make the dough, and yeast that doesn't need to be proofed in water (SAF Red Instant Yeast). If using other yeast I would dissolve

first in the water and let it come to life, then proceed with all ingredients, wet followed by dry. If making by hand or with a mixer, follow standard approach for making dough, with two rises ...

Add the following to bowl of dough machine:

- $1\frac{1}{4}$ cups water
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoon salt
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 cups all purpose flour
- $1\frac{3}{4}$ cups bread flour (I recommend King Arthur; theirs is a higher protein bread flour than other brands)
- $1\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoons yeast

Run on dough cycle on machine (mixes, rises, punches down, second rise, no baking, mine takes about an hour and a half, machines will vary). When finished, pull dough out onto floured board and begin to shape into an oblong. Try not to deflate totally. Fit it into a rectangular pan with holes in the bottom, sprayed very lightly with PAM. Do not worry about making it go right to edges, this is freeform ...

You could also use a baking sheet, or bake directly on a pizza stone in the oven, in which case you should now place the dough on your peel.

You can either cover and let rise to cook same day, or rub with some olive oil, cover with plastic wrap and place in refrigerator overnight to bake the next day (take out to warm up and rise before baking). When dough is fully risen, preheat oven to 400 degrees. Heating the oven for half an hour or so before baking will yield a better crust.

Rub top with olive oil and sprinkle with coarse salt and thyme, or whatever herbs you like. Gently dimple top to keep bread from rising too much. You can use a rolling pin to spread it out a bit. Letting it rest so the gluten relaxes will also help you form it if it is being uncooperative (and springing back).

Bake in preheated oven at 400 for about 35 minutes or until top is golden brown. Let cool on rack for at least half an hour before cutting. Do not cover with plastic wrap or crust will soften too quickly. If you have an instant read thermometer, internal temp should be about 200 degrees. Best first day, after that is ok heated up, or toasted for bruschetta, etc.

WINDHAM HAS TALENT *by Imme Maurath*

Some of you may have seen Heath Boyer's wood turning, as he has donated several bowls to our WCO's raffle. The wood he used came from a couple of maples that had to be cut down at the Meeting House.

The art of woodturning began around 1300 B.C.E., when the Egyptians invented a two-person lathe. One person would turn the wood with a rope and another would use a sharp tool to cut shapes in the wood. The lathe was motorized during the industrial revolution. The motor produced a higher rotational speed for the wood, allowing it to produce high quality work.

How long have you been turning?

I started turning 7 years ago or so. I literally stubbed my toe on an old lathe under a flea market table and took it home. By the time I'd ruined the first piece of wood I was hooked.

What got you interested?

I have always fiddled with wood. My grandfather built birdhouses. As a young man I built some furniture and then restored an old 35-foot sailboat. That gave me a chance to learn more complicated stuff. Although I still enjoy building furniture, my go-to tool is the lathe.

Where is your shop?

In the basement. It has lots of windows and good light, although the ceiling is a little short.

What are some of your favorite things to make?

I prefer to turn what are called 'vessels,' which may be 'open' like a salad bowl, 'closed' where the rim turns in and creates more of hollow shape, and 'lidded' which has a (duh) lid. Regardless of form, my favorite part is seeing what the wood reveals when I get into it. I especially enjoy finding a way to make commemorative pieces like I did from the Meeting House Maples. Several friends have

brought me wood from trees that meant something special to them.

What are some of your disappointments?

Disappointments take many forms. Sometimes a shape just doesn't make the grade; sometimes the wood fails and splinters or breaks. Sometimes I make a mistake in tool control and just wreck the piece. All part of learning. Turners call these moments "redesign" opportunities, because they change the design to make the most of what's left.

Do you also sell some of your remarkable pieces?

I have sold some work at the Village Green Gallery in Weston, although they don't have any now. It's nice when people want to own something I've made, but I don't enjoy the pressure of trying to keep a gallery supplied. For me it's all about the wood and the pleasure of watching a piece emerge on the lathe. Trees are miracles, and can be as beautiful inside as they are outside. I love discovering and revealing that inner beauty.



Heath with his turned wooden hat

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE *by Carolyn Partridge*

The Legislature continues to move at a quick pace knowing that in a few weeks we will be facing "crossover." Crossover is the day by which all House bills have to be voted out of committee in order to be taken

up by the Senate without a rules suspension. This year, as it usually is, crossover is the Friday after Town Meeting Week.

The House Agriculture and Forest Products Committee is currently working on a compost taxation bill, a bill regarding Act 250 and prime agricultural soils, and a water quality bill. Work continues in the Appropriations Committee on the budget, also known as the "Big Bill," which is one of the most important pieces of legislation we do.

A bill that would mandate that employers with five or more employees give earned sick time will be up for ac-

tion soon. Full or part-time employees would earn one hour of sick time for each 30 hours worked up to a maximum of 56 hours. They could only use this time off for very specific purposes and would not be allowed to use it for vacation unless their employer okayed it.

On Town Meeting Day, Rep. Matt Trieber and I will be making the rounds to our smaller towns. We will start in Brookline and travel to Athens, Grafton, and on to Windham where we will hopefully have lunch. I will make my usual lasagna!

We look forward to visiting with everyone and hearing your concerns. During the Legislative Session, we can be reached by phone at the State House by calling 1-800-322-5616. Leave a message with the Sergeant at Arms and we will get back to you as soon as possible. Our emails are:

cpartridge@leg.state.vt.us

matrieber@gmail.com.

My home phone in Windham is 802-874-4182.

LELAND AND GRAY BUDGET DEFEATED*by Diane Newton*

By Australian ballot, the voters of the five member towns rejected Leland and Gray's proposed fiscal year 2015 budget by 10 votes, 132-122. While the majority of those voting in Brookline (17 to 11) and Townshend (54 to 20) opposed the nearly \$7 million budget, voters in the other three member towns – Jamaica (29 to 14), Newfane (44-39) and Windham (18 to 8) supported it. The snow-storm on the day of the vote likely affected voter turnout, although despite the storm, it was up by 40 over last year's turnout of 214.

The defeated budget represented an increase of 2.8% over the current's year budget. Proposed increases in-

cluded spending for a new driver-education car, a new kiln for the art department, computer technology equipment, and capital expenses that included a \$32,500 upgrade to the school's aging kitchen and cafeteria facilities. Adding to these increases is L&G's assessment to the Windham Central Supervisory Union, up by nearly 27% (\$67, 857). This increase is largely due to the loss of federal grant monies for the Director of Technology position.

In the coming weeks, the L&G school board will meet to revise the budget and set a date for another Australian Ballot vote. By statutory requirement, the board has to have a budget in place by the end of the fiscal year, June 30.

Town Contacts:

Town Office: Alison Trowbridge, Town Clerk. phone: 874-4211 email: windham.town@gmail.com

Town Treasurer: Peter Chamberlain: phone: 874-4211 email: windham.towntreasurer@gmail.com

Town Garage: Bill Roberts and Josh Dryden 874-7025

Town listers: Michael Simonds, chair. phone: 802-874-4790, email: Michael@windhamcountryhouse.com

Selectboard: Mary Boyer, chair. phone: 875-5242: email: mfb@vermontel.net

School Board: Beth McDonald phone : 874-4015; email: 220woodburn@gmail.com

Windham Community Organization: Dona Robinson phone 874-7242

BULLETIN BOARD**NEED HELP STAYING WARM IN YOUR HOME?**

Have your energy bills risen beyond your ability to pay? Does your home need repairs to be comfortably warm? For more than a quarter century, Windham's Citizens' Advisory Committee has provided low-interest loans to low and moderate income Windham residents for house repairs and energy saving upgrades.

If you could benefit from a loan, contact Marcia Clinton at 875-3531.

ZUMBA GOLD AT WINDHAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5 p.m. Fun and invigorating dance-fitness program providing low-impact and easy-to-follow moves. Latin-infused music and dance routines by ZIN certified instructor. \$8 for Windham residents, \$10 for the general public. Multi-class discounts available.

More info: Pauline O'Brien at 802-376-5397 or paulinebob@hotmail.com

WINDHAM WOODLANDS DEFENSE FUND

If you support Windham's Town Plan and oppose industrial development in Windham's woodlands, make a tax-deductible contribution to help pay for attorneys and experts in land-use issues, noise and light pollution, surface and ground water management, and wildlife protection.

Send tax-deductible contributions to the Windham Woodlands Defense Fund, 5976 Windham Hill Road, Windham VT 05359.

**WINDHAM SPINNERS' GUILD**

Spinners of all levels and types come together once a month to spin and share techniques and ideas. The Guild meets from 1 - 4 pm, usually on the first Saturday of the month. Whether you're a seasoned spinner or have an urge to learn, you're encouraged to join us. The Guild can make available to you spindles for drop-spindle spinning, but if you want to spin using a spinning wheel, you'll need to have your own. Email Bev Carmichael at carmichael-bev@hotmail.com for more information.

SPRING FITNESS AT THE MEETING HOUSE

Mon. and Thurs., 10 a.m.: Strong Living (bone building, muscle strengthening, stretching, balancing.)

Mon., 8:45 (before Strong Living): Yoga with Liza Eaton. (Temporary schedule change.)

All levels welcome in all classes. More information: Mary Boyer, 875-5242 or Ginny Crittenden, 874-4049.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Do you need a ride to the doctor's or dentist's office or a trip to the grocery store? Are you a caregiver who could use a short break? Do you need someone to stay with your loved one while you run errands? If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions, people from Windham Congregational Church are willing to help. Please call 874-4428.



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submissions. Send articles of up to
300 words to the Editor at the
above address or preferably by
email to windhamnews@
hotmail.com

Please keep us informed of any
address changes

REGULAR MEETINGS & SCHEDULES

Town Clerk: Mondays, 12-6;
Tuesdays, 8:45-2:45;
Thursdays, 12-3 ; third
Saturdays, March 15 &
April 19, 9-noon.

Selectboard: Mondays,
March 3 & 17 and April 7 &
21, 6:30 p.m. at the Town
Office. Open meeting.

School Board: Mondays,
March 3 & April 7, 4 p.m.
at Elementary School.
Open meeting.

Listers: Wednesdays, 9-
noon at the Town Office.

Planning and Zoning: Town
Plan Hearing, Wed, March
12, 6:30 p.m. Reg. mtg.,
Wed, April 9, 6 p.m. At the
Town Office. Open meeting.

Library: Wednesdays, 3-5.
Book Group will meet March
5 & April 2 at the Meeting
House during library hours.

Volunteer Fire Company:
Thursdays: March 6 & April
3, 6 p.m. at the Fire-
house. Heavy refresh-
ments served.

**Windham Community Or-
ganization:** Wednesdays,
March 26 and April 30, 7
p.m. at the Meeting House.
Everyone invited.

**Windham Congregational
Church (UCC)** Sundays:
Worship Services at 9:30
a.m.

Valley Bible Church: Sun-
days: Sunday School, 9:55;
Morning Worship, 11 a.m.; Pot-
luck, 12:10; Afternoon Service,
1:10. Tuesdays: Bible study/
Prayer, 7 p.m.



SAVE THE DATES

TOWN MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 10 A.M. MEETING HOUSE.

TOWN PLAN HEARING: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 6:30 P.M. AT THE TOWN OFFICE

FRIENDS OF WINDHAM: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 5-7 P.M. AT THE MEETING HOUSE