



Windham News & Notes



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINDHAM GRADUATES!

Graduates Make Windham Proud

by Susan Persa and News and Notes Staff

We have much to be proud of in our Windham community. We have nine students who have reached a milestone in their education. I hope we haven't missed anyone!



Caitlin Marie Persa graduated *cum laude* from Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut on May 22, 2016. Caitlin received her Bachelor of Science degree in Botany and Environmental Studies. The Sally L. Taylor Prize for consistent excellence in the field of botany, offered by the biology department in honor of Professor Emeritus of Botany, Sally L. Taylor, was awarded to Caitlin. Her Senior Integrative Project was on *Ethics and Efficacy: Aesthetics in NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) Wind Activism* based on the Stiles Brook wind project in our own town. Some of you were probably interviewed by Caitlin last year. Her conclusion was that aesthetics are not reason enough to protest development of the wind project in our community. She determined that other avenues need to be explored and researched to determine if the proposed project is a wise choice for our area.

Caitlin is a graduate of Windham Elementary School and Leland and Gray. She plans to continue her studies in the environmental field and presently is looking for job opportunities on the West Coast. She has currently relocated to Portland, Oregon. Her family and friends wish her the best in all her endeavors!

Amy Blazej received her degree from Colby-Sawyer College, a liberal arts and science college in New London, New Hampshire. Amy's degree is in Creative Writing.

Owen McDonald, Julian Plumadore and **Andrew Persa** graduated from Leland and Gray on Saturday, June 18. The football team will miss Owen and Julian. We hope to hear more from them in an upcoming issue. Andrew completed his last two years in the technical program at Brattleboro High School. He is working part-time for his uncle Scott Carson here in Windham and is considering further education in the future. Andrew is also a graduate of Windham Elementary.

Abigail Maken from Brookline, VT and **Velora Rhodes** from Springfield, VT graduated June 3, 2016 from the Valley Bible Church School Co-op. Abigail attended this school for eight years and Velora had been a student here for five years. Abigail is planning to attend Community College of Vermont in the fall.

Sisters **Erika Van Alstyne** and **Abagale Van Alstyne** are both celebrating. Erika graduated from Burr and Burton Academy in Manchester, VT on Friday, June 3, and Abagale received her Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA) certification. Abagale plans to continue her studies in nursing.

We wish you all the best! And remember "Its never too late to be what you might have been".

George Eliot

So, graduates, keep reaching for the stars!



Andrew Persa

News from the Selectboard

DOGS! Most of us love them so much. We treat them as part of the family - sometimes better than some actual people family members! We might even forget that they ARE dogs, and as such, act instinctually. It is for this reason that we need to regulate them.

This is where *The Big Book of Woof* comes in. We know it sounds funny, but trust us when we tell you that it's a very serious, 60-plus page manual from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). It is subtitled *Handbook on Vermont Municipal Dog Law*. It is partly upon what we will base our own Windham dog ordinance. It deals with all kinds of issues including immunization and licensing, enforcement, vicious dogs, animal cruelty, strays and service dogs. There are even some conversations with a fictional Vermonter named Spot. In one example, he gives his owner a \$20 bill and tells him to get him a license and some Snausages, and to bring back the change! That makes sense, because, if done on time (on or before April 1) a license can cost as little as \$10 - plenty left over for Snausages.

Our re-worked dog ordinance will be posted soon. Please look for it and let us have your comments.

The bottom line is: license and control your dog, spay or neuter him, keep him healthy, clean up after him - and the whole town wins!

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The 2016 legislative session began with hope, if you supported the idea of towns having a say about siting of wind installations and introduction of noise level guidelines, but ended with the governor vetoing the passed bill S230 and having it subsequently replaced by S260, that does neither.

Bill H.857 states that a permit to burn brush, wood, weeds, or grass is now required for **every fire**, unless (1) snow surrounds the open burning site; (2) the fire is in an outdoor fireplace or fire ring not located within woodland, timberland, or a field containing dry plant material contiguous to a woodland; (3) the fire is 200 feet or more from any woodland or field containing dry plant material; or (4) it is in a city with a fire department. Other provisions aim to conserve our forests and sustain long-term forest health and integrity. A tree harvest notification system study group will report to the legislature by December 15 on the benefits of implementing a statewide program which would require notification to the state prior to the cutting of trees. The group will summarize the environmental and economic benefits of a recommended harvest notification program, including whether it would increase compliance with *Acceptable Management*

Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont.

Paving update from Kord Scott

As planned, the initial phase of our long-term paving project has begun. Working together with our road foreman, Josh Dryden, and our engineer, Everett Hammond, a comprehensive set of specifications was developed, put out for bid, evaluated, and awarded. The work began a few weeks ago.

Horsenail Hill Road and White Road have been contour-milled, shimmed, and have had an overlay layer applied. There will be a Chip-Seal layer applied in the coming weeks. Chip-Sealing is a process that the engineer has had good success with in other areas of Vermont. It is an asphalt based material, mixed with 10% rubber and 3/8" stone. After application, the surface is not as smooth initially due to the aggregate, but typically will smooth out with traffic. The rubber content helps seal the asphalt and lessens the chance of water seepage into the sub-base. White Road, after you pass Hitchcock Hill Road going towards the Talc Mine, looks good after the milling and paving, but we need to keep in mind that this section has an extraordinarily poor sub-base (even for Vermont) that could not be rehabilitated in an affordable manner, so it will likely heave again. We'll learn how seriously that impacts the new paving in the coming winters.

The complete length of Route 121 has been spot milled, crack-sealed in sections, shimmed and had an overlay layer applied. Similar paving work is continuing past four corners onto Windham Hill Road and will end at Carlton's Corner (in front of Jo-Jo's house).

The shoulder/driveway apron work and center lines are not complete at the time of writing this article, but will be done.

We were recently awarded an \$8,500 Better Back Roads Capital Planning Grant. Part of the grant will be use to continue to develop the long-term paving plan mentioned above. Our goal is to pave in a regular cycle - in conjunction with state grants - to maintain the paved roads in perpetuity. In anticipation of residents asking, the decision to pave Route 121, as it goes by my house, has nothing to do with my position as selectman. All of the paved roads in town need work. Horsenail Hill Road and White Road were clearly the most urgent and the decision to also pave Route 121 and the upper end of Windham Hill Road was based on the economic advantage of the paver working in one vicinity.

The project budget is \$510,000, of which \$175,000 is coming from VTrans. At this point the costs are being controlled well and the project is expected to come in within budget.

Residents' Help Wanted

The Selectboard is looking to form a committee of volunteers to work with the highway department to investigate potential town garage facility and/or location improvement opportunities.

Anyone who is interested and willing please contact Kord Scott at kordscott@vermontel.net.



Windham Committee Presents Energy Fair July 30

by the Energy Committee

With our focus on weatherization, energy efficiency, and production of renewable energy, the Windham Energy Committee invites you to attend our Energy Fair from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on Saturday, July 30 at 1275 Old Cheney Road in South Windham.

The event will include presentations on the following topics: Energy Audits, Insulation for Energy Efficiency, Cold Climate Heat Pumps, Hot Water Heat Pumps, Pellet Stoves, Solar PV & SHW Installations (rooftop, ground, and community), Efficiency Vermont (and tax credits), and Zero Energy Now. Presenters will be from local companies and Efficiency Vermont.

Those attending will also be able to tour a partially completed barn-house being built at this location to meet Efficiency Vermont's requirements for a "silver certification". You will be able to see how it is tightly constructed and insulated to prevent leakage of heated or cooled air while providing constant circulation of fresh air. Also on site for your inspection is a ground-mounted 4.8 KWH solar installation that is tied to the grid.

Refreshments will be on sale from a local vendor. Alan Partridge and friends will provide music. There's plenty of parking space. This will be a good time to learn more about energy efficiency, as well as to enjoy the company of your Windham neighbors.

From Jo-Jo's Desk

STATE PRIMARY TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

The Vermont Primary Election Warning, Voter Checklist and Sample Ballots are posted. Be sure you are registered to vote. Deadline to register is 5 PM on Wednesday, August 5. You may register online. Absentee ballots are available by request and must be received in the Town Office by August 9. Polls will be open at the Town Office from 10 AM to 7 PM, Tuesday, August 9.



WINDHAM NEWS & NOTES

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Many 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: August 17, 2016



THE FARM SHOW

by Sally Newton



The Farm Show was created at the end of a year-long program involving Windham Elementary School students and Meadows Bee Farm. The first and second graders went to the farm every Tuesday morning to help with the chores and learn about caring for the animals and plants that give us food and other important things. Some of the work they did included feeding and watering the animals, collecting eggs, milking cows, watching lambs being born, and on another day sheep being sheared, washing and carding wool, checking the beehives and feeding the bees, harvesting honey, planting garlic, starting seeds, making kimchi and collecting sap for making syrup. Much of the curriculum at school was tied into their experiences at the farm. Children did research, and made books and posters, as they worked to earn badges for their knowledge of, and skill in, certain aspects of farming.

In April, Cate Kelley and Sarah Peck came to help us build puppets and put together The Farm

Show. The creation of the show was a joint effort between the children and the adults involved, whenever possible using the kids' ideas and language. It depicts life on a small farm from the point of view of both the farmers and the animals. Some careless neighbors move in and begin spraying and mowing everything in sight, bringing to the audience's attention the plight of the pollinators. These small but important creatures; hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, and other types of flying insects, are essential for the production of our food supply and the propagation of about 50 percent of all plant life. They are currently threatened by pesticide use, habitat loss and a dwindling food supply. Weeds, such as dandelions and goldenrod, which many people try to get rid of, are an important source of pollen and nectar for the pollinators.

Through a joint effort on the part of the animals and the farmers, the neighbors become convinced to stop spraying pesticides and do less mowing, saving the local pollinators. The children made seed packets of flowering plants that are good for pollinators, which they gave out after the show.

Donations were collected and given to Heifer International, where they will be used to provide a heifer, some hives of bees and other farm animals to families in need around the globe.

Editor's note: Windham gives a huge thank you to Leigh Merinoff and her staff at Meadows Bee Farm for making this program possible. The puppets are amazing, and are on display at the West Townshend Market and Café.



NEWS FROM CAMP KEEWAYDIN by Kathy Jungermann

The Windham Community Organization was happy to welcome Lillie Beshay, Madison Coolbeth, and Mary McDonald as guest speakers at our May meeting. These 5th grade students at Windham Elementary School met with us to describe the week they had spent at the Keewaydin Environmental Education Center in Salisbury, VT.

Our guests enthusiastically detailed their typical day starting with the wake-up gong! They were assigned chores, either in the dining hall as waiters and dishwashers (Hoppers), or outdoors recycling and composting. Daytime activities consisted of hands-on investigations of the environment, hikes in the forest, recreation time, and family-style meals. They enjoyed the opportunity to learn from counselors who came from all across the United States. Evening programs included a "Town Meeting", skits written and performed by the campers, and stories and songs by the campfire. Each student was given a Keewaydin Journal to record their observations and lessons learned.

It was clear that this week away from home was a fun-filled and educational experience.

Thank you to Lillie, Madison, and Mary for teaching us about tin-can cookery and a lively performance of the "camp song". You made our meeting truly memorable!

CORRECTION: WCO CHICKEN BARBEQUE SET FOR SATURDAY, JULY 16

Windham's Annual CHICKEN BBQ, hosted by the Windham Community Organization, will be on **Saturday, July 16 at 5 PM.**

Mark your calendar NOW! The last issue of N&N reported an incorrect date.

The party starts at 5 PM on the dot at the Meeting House. We will be serving Walter's celebrated BBQ chicken, potato salad, baked beans, sweet breads and strawberry shortcake topped with the "real deal" whipped cream for dessert. \$10/adult, \$5/child and \$25/family. There is also a raffle of

items hand-crafted by Windham residents. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. All proceeds benefit the Windham community through WCO. If you would like to help with the event or contribute to the raffle, please contact Imme Maurath at 875-1357 or Cindy Kehoe (for raffle) at 874-7028. See you there!

SUMMER SUN PROTECTION

by Marcia Clinton

With the summer weather now here, everyone wants to spend more time out-of-doors. The sun's ultraviolet rays can cause mutations of skin cells linked to cancer.

Infants under six months should never be in the sun due to their thin, sensitive skin, even if sunscreen is used. They should be completely shielded from the sunlight. Sunscreen for children is a must. A waterproof or sweat-resistant broad-spectrum sunscreen with a SPF of 30 to 50 that protects against all types of ultraviolet radiation should be used. Apply sunscreen liberally at least 30 minutes before going outside and then reapply it every 1.5 to 2 hours, or after swimming or sweating a lot. It is best to plan your outdoor activities before 10 in the morning or after 2 in the afternoon when the sun's rays are not at their brightest.

The Environmental Working Group, a consumer advocacy organization, has highly rated sunscreens made with zinc oxide or titanium oxide because they provide strong sun protection with few health concerns, and they don't break down in the sun. These substances are also more protective than other sunscreen ingredients against UVA rays, which can cause aging of the skin, immune suppression and sun-induced mutations in skin cells. The group's complete sunscreen guide is available online at ewg.org/2015sunscreen.

It is now clear that the risk of danger to the retina from the sun's rays is greatest in children less than 10 years of age, even though the consequences are not apparent until adulthood. Sunglasses for infants, children and adults should be ones that block out ultraviolet light to protect the eyes.

BEWARE OF POISON HEMLOCK

by Leila Erhardt

Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) is acutely toxic to people and animals and is common along roadsides and in open fields. It has already bloomed here in Windham during late May and early June, but the plants are still present up and down Windham Hill Road. Do not confuse poison hemlock with Queen Anne's Lace, which is similar looking and is in bloom now.

Poison hemlock has hairless stalks with purple blotches. The leaves look like those of carrots. It can grow quite tall, up to 8 feet, but is more commonly about 3-5 feet in our area. It produces many umbrella shaped flower clusters, white in color. All parts of the plant are poisonous, even the dead canes, which remain toxic up to 2-3 years. Symptoms appear 20 minutes to 3 hours after ingestion. Typical symptoms include dilation of the pupils, dizziness and trembling. Quick treatment can reverse the harm.

If you suspect poisoning from this plant, call for help immediately because the toxins are fast acting. Call poison control at 1-800-222-1222 if ingested by you or your animals.



STAY CLEAR OF THESE PLANTS!!!

WINDHAM FIRE CO. ACTIVITIES

by Marcia Clinton

Fire Calls:

Apr. 8 - Burpee Pond Road automatic fire alarm. 5 responded
 Apr. 16 - Weston mutual aid for fire at Weston Inn. 4 responded.
 Apr. 19 - Londonderry mutual aid for brush fire. 7 responded.
 Apr. 21 - Chester mutual aid for brush fire. 3 responded.
 Apr. 22 - South Londonderry mutual aid for brush fire. 6 responded.
 Apr. 23 - Chester mutual aid for structure fire in Andover. 6 responded.
 Apr. 24 - Chester mutual aid for brush fire. 4 responded.
 Apr. 25 - Glebe Mountain Road for illegal burn. 6 responded.



White Road Truck Fire

May 3 - Windham Springs Road for structure fire. 10 responded with mutual aid from Londonderry, South Londonderry, Jamaica, Chester, Winhall, and Weston.
 May 14 - Meeting House, smoke alarm activated. No smoke detected. 5 responded.
 May 15 - Grafton mutual aid to cover firehouse. 4 responded.

June 11 - White Road for car fire. 8 responded.

The annual Windham Fire Co. Auction and BBQ will be Saturday, August 13th at the Firehouse in North Windham, rain or shine. Preview of auction items begins at 9 AM along with the opening of the Flea Market. The Flea Market has numerous tables laden with treasures and payment is only by a donation! Breakfast of homemade donuts or an egg sandwich with coffee will be available.

Under the big tent at 10 AM auctioneer John Hall will rap the gavel to start the auction. A variety of gift certificates and new merchandise along with donated items will be auctioned off. Around noon time the winning ticket for the 50/50 raffle will be pulled.

The concession stand will be open offering hot dogs and burgers along with other snacks.

In the evening at 5 PM the BBQ will begin serving. For the price of \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids, there will be chicken, hot dogs, burgers, salads, homemade rolls, corn on the cob and drinks.

Around 7 PM, auctioneer John will start the infamous Pie Auction. Bidding is fierce for the homemade pies, cakes and other sweets.

The Fire Co. is accepting donations for the auction, but we will *not* accept: TV's, computers, exercise equipment, clothes, books, mattresses or records. We also ask that whatever you donate be in reasonable, working condition and have all working parts. If you need pick-up of large items or want to leave donations at the firehouse, please call either Ralph or Jan Wyman at 875-3373 to set an appointment time.

Tickets for the 50/50 raffle can be purchased from any of the Fire Co. members - \$5 for 6 tickets or \$1 each. The more you buy, the better your chances of winning!

To make the auction and BBQ a success many volunteers are needed. Please call Jan Wyman to find out how you can help. Also consider baking a cake or pie for the Pie Auction, which can be brought to the firehouse during the BBQ.



So far this year the members of the Fire Co. have gone out on 20 calls (24 calls in all of 2015). We continue to welcome new members (Jeff Weitzel joined in June). Meetings are the first Thursday of every month and training sessions are also scheduled every month. For a small town, the Windham Fire Co. is kept very busy. To maintain this level of expertise, we need the help of residents and second home owners. Join us on August 13th for a day of fun, good food, surprises and the acquisition of some treasures - a good day to see old friends and meet new neighbors.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL! SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

If you missed the first social, be sure you don't miss ice cream sundaes, banana splits and other creations of your choice on **Sunday, August 14 from 6 - 8 PM at the Windham Meeting House**. Donations are welcomed and support the Windham Summer Day Camp. Contact Dave or Ginny Crittenden to volunteer, or for more information at 874-4049. Hope to see you all there!

The Eleventh Hour in Montpelier

by Carolyn Partridge

After adjourning on May 6, the Legislature was called back to Montpelier for a veto session on June 9 after Governor Shumlin vetoed S.230, an act relating to improving the siting of energy projects.

Legal counsel for the administration had a different opinion than our own legislative council on several provisions in the bill, so for the sake of clarity, Democratic leadership decided to accept the governor's veto and craft a fix for those areas of disagreement. Also, in the haste at the end of the session, money for the regional commissions to do the required planning was inadvertently not included, so that was corrected as well.

One of the areas of concern was in Section 12 of the bill regarding temporary rules for wind turbine sound. The area of law under which the rules would have been promulgated would have indicated a public health emergency. While there are people who have been adversely affected by turbine noise and infrasound, this would not have been the appropriate place in law to promulgate rules. Rather than approach this in a short-term, emergent time frame, a normal process will occur that produces permanent rules about wind turbine sound.

A HUGE Thank You for your Support!

The Windham Community Organization thanks all those who supported our recent subscription drive for *News & Notes*. Your response was our best yet! We are an all volunteer staff, and all donations that are not spent on *News & Notes* become part of WCO's general funds. Our purpose is to assist Windham residents in time of need, provide the community with information and education about resources and activities, foster active involvement in the community and organize events that bring people together.

If you would like to join us, we meet on the last Wednesday of the month at 7 PM at the Meeting House. Our next meeting is July 27. There will be NO meeting in August. For more information please call Ellen McDuffie at 874-8183.

A Heartfelt Thank You to

Mary McCoy *from Ellen McDuffie and the News & Notes Staff*

Mac, thank you for all your work in writing wonderful articles for, and editing *News & Notes*. Our lives would be a bit duller without your enlightening articles on Lady bugs and black flies. Your knowledge and training in journalism have provided valuable guidance. We appreciate all your help and support and wish you all the best. We will miss you!

Also in Section 12 there was a problem because the sound rules would be reliant on the standard used in a small 150 kilowatt project in Vergennes. This was unintentional and the fix distinguishes between projects that are 500 kW or less and those that are greater than 500 kW.

Language in Section 11 could have created problems for residential homeowners with very small systems, so language was added setting 15 kW as a benchmark.

Finally, \$300,000 was inadvertently left out of S.230 that is needed for the regional planning commissions to do the energy planning work necessary for towns to achieve "substantial deference" for their town plans in future siting cases.

It was a long, eleven-hour day in Montpelier because the Republicans did not want to suspend the rules necessary to make this happen in one day. Ultimately, there was a realization that if we didn't do it all on June 9, we would be back the following week, costing Vermonters more. That was enough to stop the roll calls on the motions to suspend rules, and the fix, now known as S.260, was accomplished.

Editors Note: You can read S260 in its entirety at <http://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/status/2016/S.0260>

WINDHAM SUMMER DAY CAMP

July 11 -15 & July 18-22

It's not too late to sign up for Windham Summer Day Camp at the Meeting House. Hours are Monday - Thursday 9 AM to 1 PM and Fridays (swimming day) from 9 AM to 12:30 PM. Call Cindy Kehoe at 874-7028 for more information or to volunteer.



Teen Rx Abuse in Windham County

from Katelynn Venne, WRVT

Prescription drug abuse among teens is a significant problem affecting communities all over Vermont. Here in Windham County, 13% of our high school students have misused a stimulant or prescription pain reliever (2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey). According to a 2014 survey administered by West River Valley Thrives at Leland & Gray Middle & High School, roughly half of students polled didn't believe that taking a prescription drug not prescribed to them would put them at "great risk". Of those who have misused a prescription drug, they did so in order to help them sleep, get high, or cope with anxiety/stress. These drugs were primarily purchased.

This abused class of drugs targets the central nervous system and includes medications used to treat pain (e.g., Vicodin, OxyContin), ADHD (e.g., Adderall), and anxiety and sleep disorders (e.g., Xanax, Valium). Taken as intended, prescription drugs safely treat specific mental or physical symptoms. However, when taken in unmanaged doses or by someone without a prescription, these medications may affect the brain in ways similar to illegal drugs. A dangerous misconception is that these drugs are safer to abuse than illegal drugs because they are prescribed by doctors (teens.drugabuse.gov).

As a community, there is no doubt we are concerned about this issue. But what can we do to

address it? Fortunately, there is a lot of momentum around this issue and plenty of initiatives have already begun here and around Vermont. For example, medical providers and pharmacists track prescription of controlled substances in the VPMS, or the Vermont Prescription Monitoring System. This allows both parties to track and manage a patient's history and be on the lookout for signs of abuse or addiction. Here in Windham County, we have prescription drug take-back boxes, located at the Windham County Sheriff's Department in Newfane and the police stations in Bellows Falls, Brattleboro, Wilmington, and Winhall. Anybody can drop unused or unfinished medication here. Additionally, our schools have partnered with local substance abuse prevention coalitions to implement programs and curriculums within the school that educate youth about these drugs and their associated dangers.

While these strategies have had some success (the percentage of students who had ever misused a stimulant or prescription pain reliever dropped from 20% in 2013 to the 13% previously mentioned in 2015 (Youth Risk Behavior Survey)), there is still more work to be done around this issue. For more information about prescription drug misuse among teens, visit the National Institute on Drug Abuse for Teens at teens.drugabuse.gov or visit our local website at windhamrx.org. To get involved in local prevention efforts in the Townshend area, contact West River Valley Thrives at 802-365-4700 or wrvtdirector@gmail.com.

Eat Well to Age Well

Good nutrition is a key factor in lifelong health. Senior Solutions helps older adults access two programs that support healthy eating for seniors.

Meals on Wheels delivers meals to seniors who are having difficulty preparing or shopping for meals due to temporary health problems or longer-term challenges. This program is for people aged 60 and up, and there is no income qualification. There is a suggested donation, but no one is denied service due

to inability to pay.

3SquaresVT helps eligible Vermonters buy nutritious food by means of an EBT card that looks like a debit or credit card. If everyone in the household is 65 or older or gets SSI, then the benefits may be distributed as cash deposited directly into your bank account. 3SquaresVT is open to individuals and families who qualify based on household income.

To get more information or help applying, call the Vermont Senior HelpLine at 1-800-642-5119 or Neighborhood Connections at 824-4343.

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Selectboard Responds to Iberdrola “Suspend...this Project Immediately”

by News and Notes Staff

In response to a letter dated June 13, 2016, from Iberdrola Renewables, the Windham Selectboard voted 2 to 1 to send a strong reply to Iberdrola's request that an “independent and balanced committee” be appointed for the purpose of negotiating an agreement between the town and Iberdrola concerning the Stiles Brook wind turbine project.

The letter signed by Frank Seawright, Maureen Bell and the Town of Windham Planning Commission stated that Stiles Brook “is not appropriate for your proposed” project. It stated that because of Windham's high elevation and topography sloping to the east toward Grafton, “Windham will not support a project that places our downstream neighbors at increased risk for flooding.” The Stiles Brook forest contributes to three watersheds. The South Fork of the Saxton's River, which flows through Grafton and regularly floods it, initiates in the area proposed for turbine construction, an area which would require “extensive blasting, bull-doing and impervious surfacing” for roads and turbine base construction. Increased runoff and soil erosion were also stated concerns.

The letter also emphasized the negative effect the siting of this project would have on wildlife, fragmenting “one of the largest habitat blocks remaining in southern Vermont” (5,000 acres). In addition to bear and moose habitat, the tract is an important flyway for migratory birds and is also dotted with a significant number of wetlands.

But the strongest point made to Iberdrola is the

proximity of over 200 Windham homes “within 1.5 miles of at least one turbine.” The proposed turbines are some of the largest to be proposed for onshore use. According to the letter, “wind experts agree that noise and infrasound increase with turbine size.” The Selectboard is “unwilling to subject any of our town's property owners to the unknown short- and long-term effects of exposure to turbine noise, vibration, infrasound and shadow flicker.” It also cited a lawsuit pending against Iberdrola's Hardscrabble project in New York, brought by residents close to the project.

“Given the marked unsuitability of the Stiles Brook Forest for an industrial wind installation, we ask that you suspend your involvement with this project immediately. We will also propose to the land owner, Meadowsend Timberlands Ltd., that they engage the town in discussion that could lead to the town's acquisition of the property, so it might be preserved for the good of us all, as opposed to its being utilized to enrich parties with no concern for our town, our region, and our people.”

Selectman Kord Scott did not sign the letter. Kord told the *Brattleboro Reformer* “I refused to sign the letter because having a developer, in this case Iberdrola, asking a community to discuss, or negotiate the issues surrounding a complicated project such as this is not an unusual business practice. Iberdrola has said they will abide by a vote of registered voters about a negotiated project and not proceed... if the vote is negative.” He also cited a petition received by the Selectboard in April from over 60 residents asking for a committee to “do exactly what the developer is asking for.”

To read the letter in its entirety, go to the link at the end of the article at: graftonwindhamwind.org

CHOCOLATE CHEESE (AND NOW) CHILI FEST, Monday, August 1, 5-8 PM The Landgrove Inn

Three favorite foods under one tent! Sample tasty offerings from area chocolatiers, cheesemakers and chefs! Pre-buy tickets for \$15 at the Green Mountain Pharmacy, the Landgrove Inn or Neighborhood Connections. Tickets are \$20 at the door, children over 6 are \$10, under 6 are no charge. Guests also enjoy a large silent auction, live music and raffles, all under a tent on the beautiful grounds of the inn. This event is attended by over 800 people and is a significant source of support for Neighborhood Connections. WCO is showing our support by providing a table of homemade chocolate perfections.



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Compost



Reducing Wasted Food is Patriotic! *from Esther Fishburn*

On July 2, the Londonderry Solid Waste Group and the Northeast Recycling Council held a July 4th Celebration to raise awareness about wasted food reduction following the annual July 4th Parade in Londonderry.

As much as 40 percent of the food in this country is wasted. From restaurants to residents, we toss out a lot of food! Households account for about 47% of wasted food, with the average American family throwing out around a quarter of their food purchases. This amounts to about \$1,600 each year! Meanwhile 13% of all Vermont households are food insecure, meaning that they lack access to enough food to fully meet basic needs.

Taking a bite out of wasted food will help families save money, while benefiting communities and the environment. Reducing food waste helps to eliminate pollution through the entire food supply chain, reducing air and water pollution, conserving resources, and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. It can help to reallocate resources to feed hungry people. Recently the first-ever national food waste reduction goal was adopted in our country, calling for a 50-percent reduction by 2030.

In Vermont, food and other organic materials from residents make up 18% of the trash. Residents of the towns of Londonderry, Landgrove, Peru, Weston, and Windham can bring their food scraps to the Londonderry Recycling and Transfer Station to be turned into compost. Food scrap collection is offered at no cost to residents and helps participants to lower their trash disposal fees.

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GRACE COTTAGE EVENTS

July 9, Tour de Grace Bicycle Rally begins at 8 AM from the base of Stratton Mountain; call 365-9109 for info.

August 6, Grace Cottage Hospital Fair Day, 9AM - 5PM on the Townshend Common. Features a live auction, bargain booths, bingo, pony rides, face painting, jewelry, food, games, dunking booth, baby parade ("Valley Kids" born from 2002) and more. Arts and Crafts Show in the Townshend Church. Fun for the entire family!



GUIDE TO AREA FARMERS' MARKETS

BRATTLEBORO FARMERS' MARKET—Saturdays 9 AM -2 PM, Rte 9 near the covered bridge; Tuesdays 10 AM -2 PM Whetstone Pathway lower Main Street; No Dogs; 802-254-8885

DORSET FARMERS' MARKET—Sundays 10 AM -2 PM, Rte 30 outdoors at HNWilliams; rain or shine; 802-353-9656

LUDLOW FARMERS' MARKET, INC.—Fridays 4 -7 PM, front lawn of Okemo Mountain School; Main Street; 802-734-3829

MANCHESTER FARMERS' MARKET AT ADAMS PARK—Thursdays 3-6 PM; rain or shine; Rte 7A Manchester Center; mfmvermont@gmail.com

TOWNSHEND FARMERS' MARKET AT WEST TOWNSHEND COUNTRY STORE—Fridays 4-7 PM, Rte 30, West Townshend; rain location is in white church next door; live music and pizza 5-8 PM; 874-4800

WEST RIVER FARMERS' MARKET—Saturdays 9 AM -1 PM, Junction of Rte 100 and Rte 11; Londonderry; No Pets; 875-5004



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Meadowsend Timberlands Opens Office in Windham

from Laura Hayes

Meadowsend Timberlands Limited (MTL) is happy to announce open office hours now in Windham. On Tuesdays from 1 - 4 PM, representatives from both Meadowsend and Iberdrola will be at the MTL cabin at 140 Abbott Road, (take the dirt road that goes behind the yellow house at the top of Wheeler/Abbott) to

answer questions on the proposed wind project at Stiles Brook. Staff will be available for additional meeting times by appointment as well.

As a reminder, the MTL office in Grafton is located at 21 Route 121 East and is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 AM - 4 PM.

Any questions or concerns, or to set up an appointment, please contact Laura Hayes, Community Relations Manager at MTL; phone 843-4047, or email

MTLStilesBrook@vermontel.net

Save the Date!

Thursday, August 4th from 6 - 8:30 PM,

Meadowsend Timberlands will be hosting a BBQ at the MTL Cabin, open to all community members of Windham and Grafton. More details to follow.

Book Club at the Field House, July 11

Come to the Field House (previous Beck farm near Lawrence Drive) at 1276 Windham Hill Road in West Townshend to discuss *Holy Shit, Managing Manure to Save Mankind*. Discussion begins at 6 PM. Call Leigh Merinoff now to make arrangements to pick up a copy of the book at the Field House library, 874-7214 or email leigh@meadowsbeefarm.com

Trail Bikes Wanted

Leland and Gray is looking for used trail bikes for their afterschool program. Students will fix them up and use them on the trails around Townshend.

If you would like to donate, please call Thara at the Supervisory Union, 365-9510 ext. 118.

Get the Dirt on Wood Waste

Vermont's Universal Recycling Law, Act 148, bans wood waste from being disposed of in the trash as of **July 1, 2016**. **"Wood waste" means:** trees, untreated wood, and other natural woody debris, including tree stumps, brush and limbs, root mats, and logs." Please note, this refers to **clean wood only**, meaning that it has **not been treated** in any way by paint, varnish, glue, pressure treatment, etc.

The Londonderry Transfer Station accepts these materials for proper disposal, and welcomes anyone to take composted leaf and yard materials for personal use. Ask Keith where to leave woody/plant debris. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to let me know. Email me, Esther Fishburn, at londonrecycle@vermontel.net.



Success for Green Up Day

by Imme Maurath and staff

Seventy bags of garbage were collected in Windham on Green Up Day!

I think it's fair to say that some beer drinkers are BIG litterbugs. Consensus from the group who collected was that over 90% of the garbage on the side of the road was beer containers. So beer drinkers, this is your year to redeem yourselves. Take your garbage home!

At noon, lunch was served, compliments of WCO, at the Meeting House. Everyone attending received a 'Green up your Garden' dahlia.



Town Contacts

Town Clerk: Jo-Jo Chlebogiannis, phone: 874-4211; email: windham.town@gmail.com

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

Town Road Crew: Josh Dryden and Jon Gordon, phone: 874-7025 at the Town Garage

Town Listers: Michael Simonds, chair, phone: 874-4790; email: michael@windhamcountryhouse.com

Select Board: Frank Seawright, chair, phone: 875-1555; email: fseawright@vermontel.net

School Board: Beth McDonald, phone: 874-4015; email: 219woodburn@gmail.com

Windham Community Organization: Ellen McDuffie, phone: 874-8183; email: eflockwood@aol.com

Windham Volunteer Fire and Rescue: Rick Weitzel, phone: 874-4104; Ralph Wyman, phone: 875-3373

Health Officer: Marcia Clinton; phone: 875-3531; email: mclinton@vermontel.net

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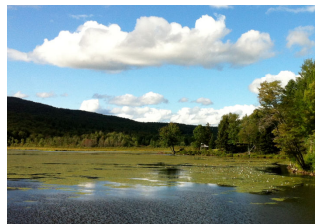
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submissions. Send articles of about
300 words to the above address or
by email to:

windhamnews@hotmail.com.

[Please keep us informed of any
address changes](#)

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REGULAR MEETINGS & SCHEDULES



Town Clerk:
Monday: Noon - 4:00 PM
Tuesday & Wednesday:
8:30 AM - Noon and
12:30 PM - 4:30 PM
**Closed - Thursday, Friday,
and Holidays** Call 874-4211.

Planning and Zoning:
Second Wednesday of the
month at 6 PM at the Town
Office: July 13 & Aug 10.
Call Bob Bingham at
874-9934 to confirm.

Select Board:
NOTE: TUESDAY, JULY 19
Then 1st & 3rd Monday
Aug 1 & 15 at 6:30 PM
at the Town Office; Open
meetings. Agenda posted.

Library:
Every Wednesday, 3-5 PM
at the Meeting House.
Book Group: 1st Wednesday
July 6 & Aug 3 at 3 PM at
the Meeting House.

School Board:
SUMMER SCHEDULE
NOTE: MONDAY, JULY 18
at 9:30 AM at the
Elementary School.
Call Antje at 874-4759.

Volunteer Fire Company:
First Thursday of the
month at 6 PM at the
Firehouse;
July 7 & Aug 4
Heavy refreshments
served.

**Windham Community
Organization:**
July 27, and Sept 28
7 PM at the Meeting
House. Call Ellen McDuffie
at 874-8183 to confirm.

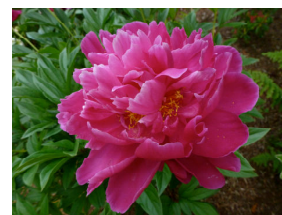
**Windham Congregational
Church (UCC):**
Sundays: Worship Services
at 9:30 AM at the Meeting
House.

Valley Bible Church:
Sundays: Sunday School,
9:55 AM; Morning Worship,
11 AM; Potluck, 12:10 PM;
Sun. Afternoon Service,
1:10 PM; Tuesdays: Bible
study/ Prayer, 7 PM.

Listers:
Every Wednesday
9 AM- Noon at the Town
Office.

SAVE THE DATES

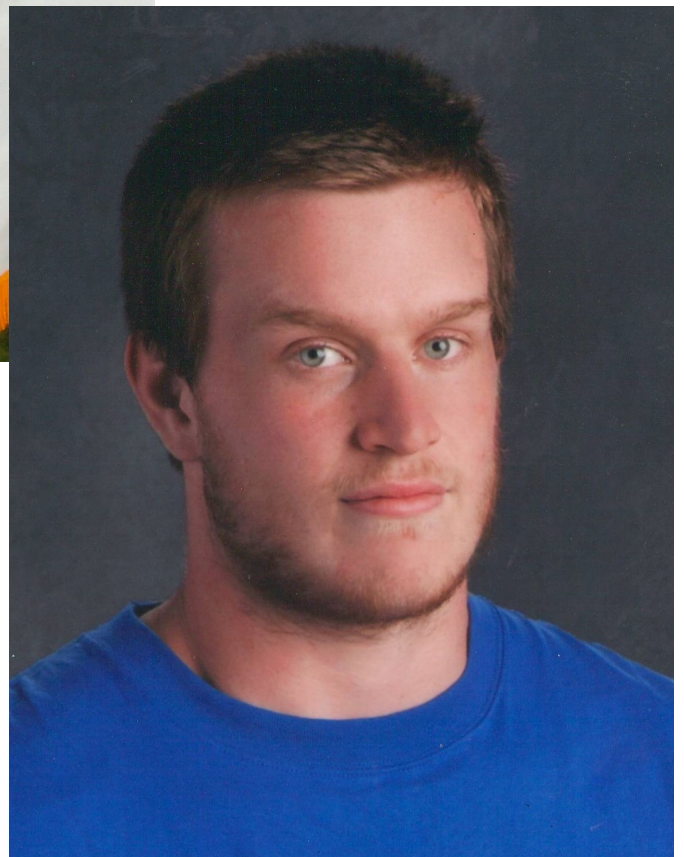
July 16: WCO Chicken BBQ and Raffle 5 PM
July 30: Energy Fair 1-4 PM
August 9: State Primary Voting 10 AM - 7 PM
August 13: Fire Company Auction 10 AM and BBQ 5 PM
August 14: Ice Cream Social 6-8 PM





Caitlin Persa

GRADUATES - Send your picture (or have your grandmother do it!) to:
windhamnews@hotmail.com
and we will put it the next News & Notes.
The next deadline is



Andrew Persa

THE FARM SHOW



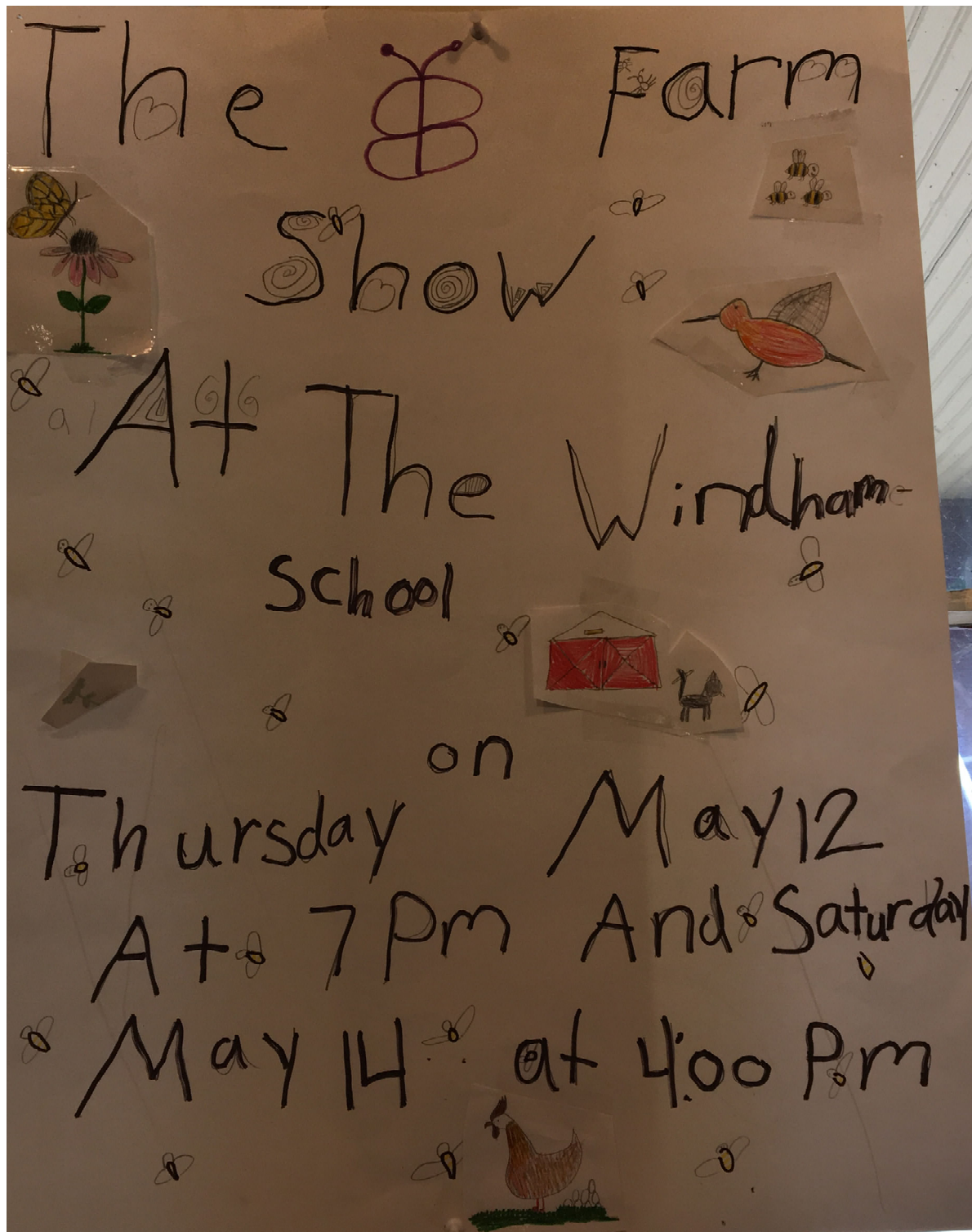
*Working at Meadows Bee Farm -
Getting inspiration for
The Farm Show*







Puppets on Display at the West Townshend Cafe





Meadowsweet
the sheep
Nyah Ryan



Firefly
the Jersey Cow
Luca Pizzi







Billina
the Hen
Abram Newton

The Sun
Kylie Kehoe



Poison Hemlock



Grown and Photographed in Windham, VT



August on Burbee Pond Windham, VT



Fuzzy Bee on Pee Wee Hydrangea



Rock Cairns Above Hamilton Falls