Volume 14, No. 6



May- June 2017



Windham News & Notes



Spring Is Finally Here! Windham Graduation is Coming! Thursday, June 15 at 6 PM



Windham Elementary School graduation is Thursday evening June 15 at 6:00 PM. Mary McDonald, Lillia Beshay and Madison Coolbeth are this year's graduates.

Please join us in celebrating their accomplishments!

WINDHAM HISTORY WEEK

from Gail Wyman

The last school week before Spring vacation was devoted to learning about the history of Windham. We discussed the book "Two in the Wilderness" by Mary Wolfe Thompson. It is a true story of two young children, Tabby and Zeke, who are left behind in Windham with the responsibility of taking care of their new homestead in the Vermont wilderness, while their father travels back to New Hampshire to get the rest of their family. Some of the interesting details are how to survive with not much more than a hatchet, cornmeal, snares and your wits. The book is about the settling of Windham, Vermont, and the strength and bravery of those who struck out on their own to make new lives for themselves.

On Monday, the highlight of our history lesson was browsing the historical pictures in the entryway of the Meeting House. The students learned some of the history of the building, then drew something they saw or learned that day in their journals. On Tuesday, we went to the Town of Stratton to visit an old preserved, historic schoolhouse. The children were able to sit in old-fashioned desks, ask questions about what school used to be like, make sketches and take notes about things they saw and heard. Later we visited the South Windham church. Pastor Griffin gave a very interesting talk about the history of the church. On Wednesday, Dave Crittenden, Walter Woodruff, Paul Wyman and Susan Persa came for a panel discussion of what Windham was like when they were growing up. Much conversation was about hauling wood into the house or school, hauling water for the teacher, working in the hay fields, and the impassable roads during mud season. School was usually cancelled back then for several weeks due to mud season, and for helping with sugaring. Our panel talked about electricity first coming to Windham, and the party line telephone where all the neighbors could listen in. Back in the day, they would often be left with a hammer, old nails and wood, and their imagination. They would spend hours outdoors building their own creations. On Thursday afternoon, we watched Chris Fisher's DVD of Windham a hundred years ago, "Wandering Through Windham." The students were fascinated by the way our town used to look, recognizing some places, and were also wowed by the music. We also visited the gravesite of Charles Gilbert Gould (May 5, 1845 - December 5, 1916) in the cemetery next to the Town Office. Charles Gould was a Union Army soldier in the American Civil War who received the U.S. military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor.



Lessons in drawing and storytelling were woven into the week. Each child is creating a page about the history of Windham, which will be compiled into a book. When the book is printed, we plan to have an evening celebration that includes a potluck, time for kids to share, and an old-time square dance. This will be scheduled in May. Watch for the date!

GREEN UP DAY, SATURDAY, MAY 6

Stop by the Town Office to pick up your green trash bags.



E911 Selectboard News

from Frank Seawright

This past winter a tree fell across a driveway along Route 121. Worse, it fell across a wire and was hanging just a couple of feet off the ground. Our road crew called Green Mountain Power to report it and was told that it was actually the telephone wire, but they would notify VTel for us. That evidently did not happen - the tree was still there several days later. The house obviously had not been visited recently, so VTel was called by the town to report the downed wire. Everything turned out well, but the absence of an E911 number visible from Route 121 was noted. The town sent a letter to the second homeowners to notify them of the fallen tree, and to urge them to obtain and post an E911 number. They were sent the web link to Vermont's E911 website so they could read all the reasons why it is important to do so. If you do not have an E911 number posted visible from the road, please contact the Town Office to obtain one.

While looking at the website, we ran across the E911 viewer and find it to be an excellent information source. The base map on the viewer is aerial photographs taken during the leafless season, so its easier to see roads, houses, culverts lakes, ponds, wetlands, VAST trails and a lot more. The link to the map viewer is: http://maps.vermont.gov/e911/Html5Viewer/?viewer=e911viewer.

When you first open the page (be patient, it takes awhile to load), it shows all of Vermont with the towns in various colors. Just zoom in on the town of interest until the details show. To see all

the things one can click on/off, look at the panel on the left and click on the tab labeled "Layers" at the bottom of the panel. Then click the little boxes beside the things that interest you, to turn that feature on or off. An enormous amount of information is available.

One last thing to note, is that an error was discov-

ered and was reported to the map webmaster. The Windham Congressional Church/Meeting House was located about a mile or more east of its actual location. A few days later, an email arrived from the map manager saying thanks! The map was wrong and it has now been corrected. So, if you see an error, make a report.

Also of note, Meredith Tips-McLaine, our newly elected Lister, is our new E911 coordinator.

Spring Selectboard Institute Report

from Maureen Bell

Did you know there are 18,818 total miles of roads in Vermont? That's just one of the interesting things I learned (or was reminded of) at the 2017 Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) Spring Selectboard Institute. I attended this workshop in March for the second year.

The statistic about road miles was part of a presentation regarding something called the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) which is a requirement of 2015's Act 64, the Vermont Clean Water Act. We learned about road standards, road erosion inventories and timelines from the MRGP program coordinator at the VT Department of Environmental Conservation. This all has to do with how road storm water is managed. The exact details of the program are still being hammered out. We will hear more about them before the end of the year.

Another presentation I attended was concerning management of conflicts of interest. Whether real or perceived, conflicts are inevitable, particularly in small towns. It just so happens that the timing was perfect, as we on the Selectboard in Windham, are in the midst of developing our own Conflict of Interest Policy. I was able to bring back some pertinent information which helped me write the first draft of our policy. It was recently submitted to the rest of the board. My hope is that our Selectboard will review the policy together and discuss it at Selectboard Meetings, which will lead to the eventual adoption of a Windham town policy. (Editor's Note: Please attend Selectboard meetings and share your ideas on this and other important policies.)

Be a Part of Green Up Day, May 6 PLEASE BE SURE TO USE TICK PREVENTION.

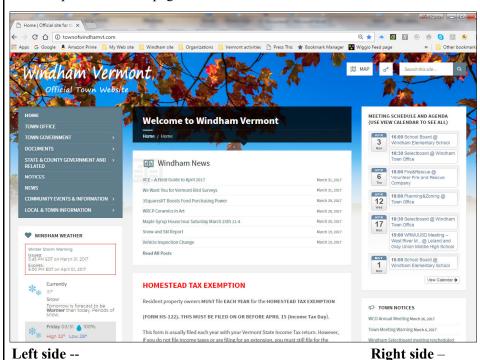
The first Saturday of May each year is Green Up Day all over Vermont. Green Up's mission is to promote the stewardship of our state's natural landscape and waterways and the livability of our communities. This is accomplished by involving individuals in Green Up Day, raising public awareness about the benefits of a litter-free environment. Please come by the Town Office and pick up some **GREEN** garbage bags. While there, please write down what sections of road you will be cleaning up. Filled **GREEN** bags can then be left at the side of the road for pick up by our town road crew. This year's Green Up Day is Saturday, May 6th. The bags are at the Town Office now for those who wish to do some trash-picking early, at your convenience. There will NOT be a lunch this year. Show your pride in Windham and be a part of its spring cleaning!

New Official Website for Windham

from Vance Bell

The new official website address for Windham is: http://townofwindhamvt.com. The site will comply with the requirements of the Open Meeting Law as directed by the State of Vermont. This means the requirements for posting of warnings of meetings and voting are the same as the postings required at the three sites in town. The agendas and minutes for all Windham offices, i.e., Selectboard, commissions, committees, School Board, and Fire Company meetings must comply and be posted on the site within five days of each meeting's conclusion. The site has been tested and is functional on PCs, phones and tablets, although the appearance is different on each device.

An example of the front page on a PC follows -



On the top left are the links to all the pages available on the site relating to Windham Town Government, with tabs for the various boards, commissions and committees. There are pages under each tab, which contain the minutes and other information related to the main category. For the State and County Government and Agencies there are links to some of their various departments. The Documents section contains the documents produced by the various boards and commissions within the town. The nongovernmental sections are below. The Notices section will contain quick notes. The News section will contain a wide variety of information loosely related to Windham people, activities and resources. The Community Events and Information section contains a calendar for all nongovernmental events requiring posting. Also the WCO and back issues of News and Notes are contained here. The last section is Galleries of photos of Windham. Anyone may submit up to ten photos as jpegs. The Local & Town Information section contains a wide variety of topics – too many to cover here. The bottom left contains the Weather

EVERYONE'S INPUT IS REQUESTED.

website.

Underground app which is updated upon opening the



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 Mia Clark Leila Erhardt

Kathy Jungermann Imme Maurath Ellen McDuffie Nancy Tips

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: June 15, 2016

ALL DOGS ARE
REQUIRED BY
THE STATE TO
BE REGISTERED
EACH YEAR IN THE
TOWN OFFICE

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The top contains the calendar of all government meetings. Clicking on the View Calendar at the bottom will pop up the main calendar in the center of the page with meeting agendas, as provided. Several options located on the top of the display are available for viewing the data. The "Read more" contains no info now, so use the "Expand All" option. The Town Notices and Recent News sections are condensed titles of the info. The Galleries contains photos of events that have occurred in town. If you have photos of town events, please forward them with a short story to the webmaster@townofwindhamvt.com .

Center -

This area always contains the same type of information until you click on some link request. All information entries are as a link, PDF, Word doc, jpeg and in some cases it downloads the data to your system.

If you have an idea for content or improvements for the website please email the webmaster. We would love to hear from you. But remember this is a site to provide access to town government information and provide information about the town and its people. Send an email to webmaster@townofwindhamvt.com with details or even just a general idea or thought to help start the process.

Town Meeting, March 7, 2017

from Minutes submitted by Alison Trowbridge

Voting by Australian Ballot on Act 46 school consolidation took place simultaneously with Town Meeting. Windham voted 74 to 66 to reject the merger. However, the other towns in our supervisory union voted to merge. Leland & Gray will become part of the Unified District so Windham will still need representation on this board. Nancy Dyke was elected by write-in vote on this ballot to be our Windham representative to the Unified District.

Michael McLaine, Moderator, reviewed rules of order before calling Town Meeting to order at 10:07 AM. Mike McLaine was elected as Town and School Meeting Moderators for the ensuing year. A motion was passed to move Town Officer elections to the next agenda item. Voting for the contested Selectboard position was by paper ballot, and the same procedure as for state elections was used. Results of elections are listed below. The Town Report for 2016 was accepted with corrections and a request for clearer presentation.

Dr. Roger Fox and Elsie Smith from the Mount Valley Medical Clinic in Londonderry informed us that Mountain Valley, which now partners with Springfield Medical, will not ask for money from the town this year.

Town Meeting recessed at 11:40 AM to move to the School District Meeting. Voters approved school directors' salaries of \$750 each annually, and authorized the school budget of \$378,842 for FY 2017-18. School District Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM and Town Meeting resumed, only to be recessed for lunch.

Following lunch, Town Meeting resumed, and the voters approved all other requested expenditures: \$192,461 for the general fund, \$410,602 for summer/ winter roads, \$90,000 for repaving and \$15,000 for bridges, \$60,000 for Replacement Road Machinery Fund, \$30,000 for the Windham Volunteer Fire Company, \$5,000 for the Windham Weatherization Fund., \$500 to Rescue, Inc., \$250 amended to \$350 for the Windham County Humane Society, and \$250 for the Townshend Food Shelf. Voters also approved for property owned by the Windham Fire Company to be held tax exempt for a 5-year period.

Leigh Merinoff, of West River Community Project, announced some of the many programs at the West Townshend Country Store. Vance Bell announced that an official Windham website is being developed and should be up and running in about a month. Alison Trowbridge reminded drivers to watch out for migrating salamanders and other amphibians on rainy spring nights.

Town Meeting was adjourned at 2:57 PM. (Complete minutes are available in the Town Office.)





2017 Officers Elected at Town Meeting:

Town Meeting Moderator, 1 year, Michael McLaine School Meeting Moderator, 1 year, Michael McLaine Selectman, 3 years, Kord Scott Lister, 3 years, Alison Cummings Lister, 2 years, Meredith Tips-McLaine Auditor, 3 years, Imme Maurath Delinquent Tax Collector, 1 year, Ernie Friedli Grand Juror, 1 year, James Scott Town Agent, 1 year, Michael Simonds

Windham Center Cemetery Comm., 5 years, Heath Boyer West Windham Cemetery Comm. 5 years, Peter Newton North Windham Cemetery Comm., 5 years, Carol Merritt Library Trustee, 5 years, Maureen Bell Leland & Gray Representative, 3 years, Howie Ires Windham School Director, 3 years, Carolyn Partridge Windham School Director, 1 year, Barbara Davis

2017 Officers Appointed by the Selectboard:

Road Commissioner, 1 year, Kord Scott Planning Commissioner, (Interim, 4 years), Robert Kehoe Rep. to Windham Regional Comm., 1 year, Carolyn Partridge Rep. to Windham Regional Comm., 1 year, William Dunkel Dog Counter, 1 year, Joeanne Chlebogiannis & Ellen McDuffie Tree Warden, 1 year, Walter Woodruff Town Service Officer, 1 year, Vacant Building Safety Officer, 1 year, Vacant Town Health Officer, 3 years, Marcia Clinton Rep. to Senior Solutions, 1 year, Joeanne Chlebogiannis Selectboard Clerk, 1 year, Claudia Voight Emergency Management Coordinator, 1 year, Imme Maurath Energy Coordinator, 1 year, William Dunkel Citizens Advisory Committee, 3 years, Jerry Dyke Citizens Advisory Committee, 3 years, Rudolph Behrendt Conservation Commissioner, 4 years, Dawn Bower Asst. Town Clerk, 1 year, (appointed by Clerk), Ellen McDuffie Asst. Town Treasurer, 1 year (appointed by Treasurer), Kathy Scott

Opening for Town Clerk Position

Our Town Clerk, Jo-Jo Chlebogiannis, has resigned effective May 1. It is the Selectboard's intention to appoint Jo-Jo as interim Town Clerk until a qualified candidate is found, appointed and trained. If you are interested in the position and have excellent office and computer skills, please contact the Selectboard chair, Frank Seawright at 875-1555 or discuss with Jo-Jo the demands of the position. A full job description will be made available in the Town Office.

Windham Fire Company

from Marcia Clinton

FIRE CALLS:

January 2 - Route 11, assist Londonderry Rescue Squad with lifting a patient.

March 26 - Popple Dungeon Road, chimney fire. Twelve responded.

Spring and fall are the primary fire seasons in Vermont. The term "wildland fire" includes all grass, brush and forest fires. Burning debris is the most common cause of wild land fires. To help prevent forest fires, town Forest Fire Wardens issue burning permits only if fuel and weather conditions are safe for outdoor burning. Fire Wardens have the authority to ban open burning when fire danger is high or when local conditions are hazardous.

In Windham Rick Weitzel is the Forest Fire Warden and can be reached at 874-4104. Ralph Wyman is the Deputy Forest Fire Warden and can be reached at 875-3373. Contact either of them if you are considering open burning which requires a burn permit.

PREVENT TICK BITES

from Health Officer Marcia Clinton

Prevention is the best means of dealing with ticks and the diseases they can transmit to humans. Lyme disease is caused by a bacteria called *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected black-legged tick. Symptoms begin anywhere from 3 to 30 days after the tick bite. They include: fever, chills, headache, fatigue, muscle and joint aches, swollen lymph nodes and the classic "bulls-eye rash".

Anaplasmosis is another tick borne disease transmitted to humans by the black-legged tick. Symptoms include: fever, headache, muscle pain, chills; and unlike Lyme disease also: nausea/stomach pain, cough, and confusion, but a rash is rare. Just like Lyme disease, anaplasmosis can be treated effectively with oral antibiotics if caught early.

Personal behavior is the key to prevention. Avoid places where ticks are common: tall grass, bushy or woody areas including gardens. Spray an EPA-approved repellent on exposed skin and spray permethrin on clothing. Wear pants and long sleeve shirts; tuck socks into pants. Wear light colored clothing which makes spotting ticks easier. Perform routine tick checks on yourself



and family members I ncluding your pets. Shower soon after coming inside and wash clothing in hot water.

Use tweezers to remove ticks. Get as close to skin as possible and pull up without using twisting or jerking movements. Clean bite area with soap

PERMIT REQUIRED BY LAW

from Fire Warden Rick Weitzel

Spring is here and you want to clean up your yards. Burning permits are required by law in the state of Vermont. Be safe and call for a permit. Burning trash and debris is illegal and releases harmful pollutants. If conditions are safe, a permit can be issued to burn only clean and natural materials (untreated wood, leaves and brush). You may not burn garbage, tires, rubber, plastic, waste oil, asphalt, asbestos, pressure-treated wood or plywood. Please call Rick Weitzel, Forest Fire Warden, 874-4104 or Ralph Wyman, Deputy Forest Fire Warden, 875-3373 for a permit for any outside burning.



and water. Dispose of the tick in the toilet, or place in a sealed bag. Monitor your health, and if you start feeling sick, consult your health care provider.

The booklet "Be Tick Smart", as well as tick identification cards, are available in the town office or the library.



In Vermont, mosquito season begins in the spring, but does not typically pose a health risk until the summer months. Some mosquitoes may be carrying viruses that

cause diseases like West Nile virus or Eastern equine encephalitis. The risk of getting infected is low, but it's not zero.

To prevent mosquito bites, limit the amount of time spent outdoors from dusk to dawn. Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants outside when mosquitoes are active. Use insect repellents that are effective against mosquitoes. Effective ingredients of repellents are DEET, picaridin, and oil of lemon eucalyptus. Cover baby carriages or outdoor play spaces with mosquito netting. Fix any holes in the screens in your house and make sure they are tightly attached to the doors and windows.

To reduce mosquitoes near your home remove standing water around your house and dispose of, or regularly empty any water-holding containers on your property. Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use. Don't allow water to stagnate in birdbaths, and change it every 3 to 4 days. Use landscaping to keep standing water from collecting on your property.



Your Help is Needed On Emergency **Questionnaire Update**

by Emergency Management Director Imme Maurath

Five years ago, an emergency questionnaire was sent to all Windham property owners and returned by many. I would like to update that information, and ask that every property owner please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it along with your new Windham News & Notes subscription form in the envelope provided to the Windham Town Office. Your information will be kept confidential and will be used exclusively by the team responsible for emergency response.

In Windham, there are three types of emergency most likely to require activation of an emergency team:

- 1)Extended power outages, defined as more than 48 hours. In addition to the usual weather-driven outages, there also exists the possibility of a general system failure similar to the one that blanketed the Northeast in 2003. In all power outages, water supplies are the first concern. One of the questions pertains to this.
- 2) Physical isolation due to road washouts, or snow and ice combined with downed trees. Windham was relatively fortunate during Tropical Storm Irene in that we did not lose access in and out of town by the washing out of Windham Hill Road or Route 121. However, there were places on both roads that were in danger of wash-out. Windham could easily have been isolated, as Wardsboro or Grafton, if the rain had continued. In such circumstances, emergency communications and knowledge of special needs would be critical.
- 3) Outbreak of virulent viral or bacterial disease. Public health experts advise that this should be a part of all comprehensive emergency plans. In the event of an outbreak, Windham should be prepared to ensure care for those stricken by illness, as well as to prevent further spread of disease.

Your help is requested and appreciated. Please return the questionnaire as soon as possible. Your neighbors appreciate your participation. Thank you in advance for taking time to return your completed questionnaire.

Windham Community Organization **Asks for Your Support!** by N & N Staff

The next issue of the Windham News & Notes begins our 15th year of Windham's bi-monthly publication. We have an all-volunteer staff and depend on your annual support to cover the cost of production and mailing. We ask you to contribute whatever you can, with the usual contribution being \$15. Your support will ensure that you and others receive Windham's own news source for another year. All Windham property owners and subscribers receive our May-June subscription issue free of charge. If you are a non-resident of Windham, a donation is necessary to receive the additional five issues per year.

Windham Community Organization is the non-profit organization under which Windham News & Notes operates. Your support helps us to fulfill our mission of helping residents of Windham and the surrounding communities with heating fuel, rent, gasoline and food assistance during times of financial emergency. Our major sources of funds come from the Chicken BBQ and Raffle in July, the Harvest Supper and Square Dance in November, and our annual Windham News and Notes subscription drive. Your support this past year has enabled us to provide help to Windham families directly and also through Neighborhood Connections and two neighboring food banks. Our budget is very small, so your support goes a long way!

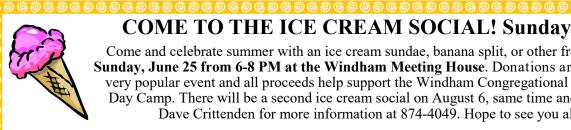
Now is a great time to fill out your subscription form, making sure we have your current correct address, and an email address if you are requesting our expanded electronic version (which comes to you in color as a link to a drop box). Return your subscription request and any donation in the provided envelope along with your Emergency Resource Questionnaire. Please note that our issues are not forwarded by the Postal Service because of our non-profit bulk rate postage, so be sure to notify us of any change in your address.

As always, we appreciate your comments, support, and contributions as we publish this coming year's issues

of News & Notes. We welcome new members to WCO and can always use your help with our events. Please join us at the Meeting House on the last Wednesday of each month at 7 PM.

Thank you so much for all you do to support our Windham community!





COME TO THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL! Sunday, June 25

Come and celebrate summer with an ice cream sundae, banana split, or other frozen creation on Sunday, June 25 from 6-8 PM at the Windham Meeting House. Donations are welcome at this very popular event and all proceeds help support the Windham Congregational Church Summer Day Camp. There will be a second ice cream social on August 6, same time and place. Contact Dave Crittenden for more information at 874-4049. Hope to see you all there!



From the Vermont Legislature by Representative Carolyn Partridge

The 2017 Legislative Session is winding down and may be adjourned by the time you read this. It has been a challenging year, most notably,

because of the FY 2018 budget. The proposal the governor sent us was not balanced and, as a result, the House Appropriations Committee had to start at ground zero to build something that was balanced.

We have made good progress closing what we call the "Alligator's Mouth". Several years ago, if you looked at a graph of projected spending versus revenue, you would have seen that the two lines diverged – dramatically in out-years. Under the guidance of then Appropriations Chair, Representative Mitzi Johnson, now Speaker, we were able to bring those two lines closer together. The goal is to make them meet.

We do not run deficits in the State of Vermont. We always balance the budget though we are not constitutionally required to do so. We have had to face some shortfalls over the last few years, which has involved making strategic cuts to the budget. Additionally, we have been applying Results-Based Accountability principles as we make decisions and assess whether programs are achieving our desired goals. By asking three questions – how much are we doing, how well are we doing it, and how many people are better off – we are able to determine if we should eliminate a program or invest more of our precious resources in it.

We want to make sure that our budget reflects our values, protects vulnerable Vermonters, and respects our taxpayers' pocketbooks.

Dear Windham, from Jo-Jo Chlebogiannis

It has been such a pleasure to serve as the Town Clerk for the time that I have. The support from so many of you with your words of praise, encouragement and sincere kindness have truly touched me. I am eternally grateful to you.

The Town Clerk work is a wonderful position, you learn so much and meet so many Windham neighbors. I intend to stay involved in the community, but not on an employed level. I wish to turn back the clock and go back to what I came to Windham for, spending peaceful times with my dogs, cooking, and catching up on years of neglected reading.

To my daily visitor, Bob Bingham, our wonderful chats, whilst sharing a chocolate or two in the Town Office, will not end, they will just be coffee at your house, or mine! Bob you have been a wealth of information about Vermont. Thank you so much, Bob.

To Elizabeth and Jonathan Stevens, I owe to you both a great big thank you. Such knowledgeable and polite people you are. We have had some wonderful conversations and your wealth of information about Windham is truly remarkable. Thank you, my friends.

Lastly, I wish to extend to my wonderful assistant Ellen, a heartfelt thanks, to consider herself loved and cherished by me for her never ending support when I needed her. I will miss working with you. You are smart, kind and truly compassionate. You have become a true

friend, and I hope our friendship will continue to bloom. Thank you, Ellen.

Enjoy the summer everyone.

Jo-Jo

Jo-Jo, We'll all miss you, too! Ellen

Energy Committee Report

by Energy Coordinator Bill Dunkel

The Windham Energy Committee met four times during March and has met once in April, thus far. Most of our time has been spent analyzing a proposal from the Green Lantern G

spent analyzing a proposal from the Green Lantern Group, a Vermont solar development company, to erect a solar array on a parcel of land the town owns east of the Windham cemetery and northeast of the Town Office. I want to emphasize that the committee is simply asking questions and gathering information at this point. The Energy Committee has no authority to make any decision about this, or any other project of this kind; only the Selectboard can do that. The Selectboard had an opportunity to meet with a representative of Green Lantern at our meeting on April 13 and ask him questions. The Board is not close to making a decision, and will not do so without soliciting feedback from Windham residents at a properly warned public meeting.

Work has been completed on weatherizing the office in the town garage. As reported at Town Meeting, Energy Committee funds were used to spray foam insulation underneath the floor of the office, hang a door between the office and the main part of the garage, and purchase an electric space heater. Early reports indicate that these measures have made the office more comfortable, but we will have to wait until next winter before we know for certain.

The Energy Committee has received proposals from Vermont Foam to add insulation to the attic areas in the Meeting House and the elementary school. No decision has been reached yet about whether to proceed with this work. The committee is considering hiring a professional to evaluate the school's heating system and make suggestions about how to improve its efficiency. Currently, the thermostats seem to be unable to regulate the temperature in the building, even when it is unoccupied on weekends or during school vacations. The Windham school board will be responsible for any decisions that involve work to be done on the elementary school building.

The members of the Energy Committee are Buddy Behrendt, Bill Dunkel, Michael Simonds and Cathy Stover. Meetings usually occur every other Thursday at 3:00 PM and are open to the public. Minutes of our meetings are posted on the town web page.

Windham Elementary School Board Forms Local Act 46 Study Committee



by Windham School Board Chairman Caroline Partridge The Windham School Board, as a result of the negative Act 46 vote on Town Meeting Day, decided to form a local Act 46 Study Committee to examine all of the various opportunities available to us. At our first meeting, fifteen people were in attendance, including some folks from Wardsboro.

It is unclear what our next steps will be but our goal is to explore all possibilities including formation of an Alternative Governance Structure (AGS). We have heard from one source that we are already an AGS by virtue of our vote in opposition to joining with the other towns. It may be necessary at some point, however, to make a case for why we should remain as we are, with our own budget and School Board. Rules are still being finalized regarding the formation of an AGS, so things should be clearer when that process is done.

We welcome everyone to join us – our meetings are generally right after the regular School Board meetings, which are the first Monday of the month at 4 PM at the Windham Elementary School.

The Windham Elementary School will be graduating three lovely young women this year and we would like to invite all community members to this wonderful and very meaningful event. It will be on June 15 at the school at 6 PM. Please make a point to join us as we send our young people off to Leland and Gray with our very best wishes!

New Union School District Visioning

by Union Board Representative Nancy Dyke

In March, three more new school district mergers were approved by the Vermont State Board of Education. A presenter for one of the mergers talked about their committee who wanted to do more than "smoosh" together some districts. They were excited about visioning a new thing. This is the spirit of the new West River Modified Unified School District made up of Brookline, Newfane, Jamaica, Townshend and Leland & Gray School Districts. Interested board members and community members met in an informal preliminary meeting which I attended.

As a write-in candidate, I was elected at Town Meeting to the Union Board as the representative from Windham. Why is Windham represented on the new Union Board, after Windham voters rejected membership in the new district? Leland & Gray High School is a member of the new union district. Since Windham students attend Leland & Gray, Windham needs a representative on the new board. As per the approved Act 46 articles, my voting will be limited to high school and general issues.

Those who attended the preliminary meeting see themselves as participating in a unique opportunity to build something new from the ground up. Seldom can school districts be involved in something exciting like this. At the first meeting on May 15, conversations will formally begin to build a vision for new levels of collaboration to improve education for our children. If you have ideas, you are, of course, invited to attend the meetings. You can also pass your ideas to me or to any Union District member.

BUY LOCAL - EAT FRESH!

Brattleboro: Season begins May 6 through October 28. Saturdays 9AM-2PM, Route 9 near the covered bridge. Tuesdays 4PM-7PM, May 30 through September 26 on Flat St. No Dogs Policy. 802-254-8885



Dorset: Open year round, Sundays 10AM-2PM at J.K. Adams, 1430 Route 30. Beginning on May 14, outside on the green at H. N. Williams store, 2732 Rt. 30. 802-353-9656

Ludlow: Season begins May 26 through October 6, Fridays 4PM-7PM, on front lawn of Okemo Mountain

THE FARMERS' MARKETS RETURN

School, 53 Main St. 802-230-7706

Manchester: Season begins May 25 through October 5, Thursdays 3PM-6PM at Adams Park, Rt. 7A in Manchester Center. mfmvermont@gmail.com

Townshend: Season begins May 26 through October 6. Fridays 4PM-7PM at West Townshend Country Store, junction of Route 30 and Windham Hill Road. Live music and pizza. 802-874-4800

Londonderry: Season begins May 27 through October 7. Saturdays 9AM-1PM. West River Farmers' Market, junction of Routes 11 and 100. No Pets. 802-875-5004

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SAVE THE DATE-SATURDAY, JULY 15

for BBO by Kathy Jungermann Happiness is a summer Barbecue, and you're invited to Windham's Annual

Chicken BBQ hosted by the Windham Community Organization (WCO) on Saturday, July 15. The party starts at 5PM under the tent at the Meeting House. All of your favorites are on the menu: Walter's celebrated BBQ chicken, homemade potato salad, baked beans, and sweet breads. And save room for dessert: strawberry shortcake featuring fresh strawberries and real whipped cream! \$10/adult, \$5/child, \$25/family. There will also be a raffle of items hand-crafted by Windham's very talented residents. Please don't be shy! We encourage you to submit an item (or two!) for our raffle. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

All proceeds benefit the Windham community through WCO. If you would like to volunteer to help with the event (it's fun!) contact Mia Clark at 380-4419 or Kathy Jungermann at 874-4606. If you would like to donate an item to the raffle, please contact Cindy Kehoe at 874-7028. Come for summer fun and relaxation!

Time to honor our Veterans

by Mary Boyer

A committee is forming in Windham to replace our decayed wooden memorial to the men and women of Windham who have served in our nation's wars. Their military service has contributed enormously to the freedoms we all enjoy. To have a more permanent structure would be a



fitting expression of our gratitude for their sacrifices.

Whether you have direct knowledge of a Windham soldier, have a veteran among your extended family or friends, or have served from Windham yourself, we invite you to participate in the planning of a Windham Memorial to honor our soldiers, a fitting remembrance to those who have made our freedom possible.

If you have any interest, please contact Susan Persa at 874 4057 for meeting times.

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Windham Summer Day Camp

by Cindy Kehoe

The Windham Meeting House will be the site of all kinds of fun again this

summer. I will be back to lead the group in many fun and exciting activities. I am pleased to announce that Kathy Jungermann will join us in the fun.

The dates are July 10-14 and July 17-21. Children three years (who are willing to leave Mom) and older are invited to join us. The hours are Monday through Thursday 9AM to 1PM, and Fridays 9AM to 12:30PM. The registration fees per week are as follows: \$20 for the first child in a family; \$10 for the second child in the same family; \$5 for the third child in the same family.

Fees are payable on Monday of each week. All children are welcome to attend. Children can come for a whole week or just a day or two. On Fridays, we go swimming and welcome parent's help with transportation.

Some of the favorite activities are tie-dying t-shirts; building, painting and filling flower boxes, making bead bracelets and necklaces; gluing and painting popsicle stick creations; building scrap wood creations; face painting; small projects with fleece; creations from recyclables; playing with bubbles; nature walks and scavenger hunts; and kickball or whiffle ball outside.

The sandbox is a favorite outside. Does anyone have any sand toys to donate? This summer I hope to have some sewing and crochet projects. The children love cooking, baking and making their own nutritious snacks and lunch each day.

If you have any ideas or special projects you might like to share with us, please let me know. Or just join us for a day. The more adults, the more projects we can tackle. Does anyone have any small wood scraps, yarn or fabric to share? The children love to create their own projects Any questions? Call me at 874-7028. See you in July!



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Chiropractor, Dr. Michele Doucette Now Offers Appointments at Grace Cottage on Tuesday mornings.

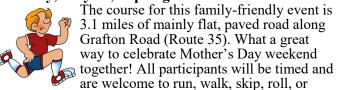
Dr. Doucette also practices chiropractic medicine at her office in Wilmington three days a week. By adding appointments in Townshend, her goal is to provide easier access for some people. "I see patients from all over southern Vermont, and some of them travel quite far for the combination of services I offer. I'm happy for this opportunity to offer a new location to existing patients and to see new patients as well," she said. Dr. Doucette received her training at the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic, earning her doctorate in 1989 with summa cum laude distinction. Her continuing education has included courses in nutrition, pediatrics, neurology, craniosacral therapy, and Zero Balancing, among others. She is also a Zero Balancing instructor and teaches classes to health care professionals

internationally. She has been certified by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners and the Vermont Board of Chiropractic since 1989 and has maintained a private practice in Wilmington for over 27 years, To make an appointment with Dr. Doucette at Grace Cottage, call 802-365-3637

Grace Cottage Summer Events Listings *from C. J. King*

Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital has a rich tradition of hosting annual events that bring together doctors and patients, friends and neighbors, parents and kids. The events promote health, wellness and fellowship while also raising money for our non-profit hospital. All events are held rain or shine. Event sponsors and volunteers are always appreciated! For more information on any of these events or to sign-up: call 802-365-9109 or visit our website: www.gracecottage.org.

Saturday, May 13, "Spring into Health" 5K Run:



stroll. Performance t-shirts are available for the first 100 registrants (sign up soon, they're going fast!). Online sign -up is available until noon on May 11. Same-day registration on May 13 starts at 7:45 AM. The 5K starts at 8:30 AM sharp on the Townshend Common. Free "Fun Run" for ages 8 and under at 9:15 AM. After the race, there will be awards, raffles, and general merriment. Healthy snacks and water will be available to all participants.

Friday, June 9, "Tee it Up for Health"
Golf Benefit: Enjoy a spectacular afternoon
of golf at the Hermitage Club at Haystack
Mountain in Wilmington. Grace Cottage's
"Tee It Up for Health" golf benefit helps to
support Grace Cottage Hospital's Patient
Care Fund. Shotgun start at 1 PM. Fee includes lunch at noon, greens fees, golf cart, logo wear,
contests, and an awards dinner in the clubhouse following
the tournament. Prizes will include longest drive, closest
to pin, lowest and highest-scoring teams, and more. There
will be a Chinese raffle and the opportunity to purchase
mulligans.

Saturday, July 8, "Tour de Grace" Bicycle Rally: The beautiful back roads course is 19 miles, mostly downhill, from Stratton Base Lodge parking lot to Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend. The family-friendly course goes over rivers and through the woods, and for the first time in years, through the historic Scott Covered Bridge. Healthy snacks and water are available at rest stops along the way. Average ride time is about two hours. The event is appropriate for anyone in decent shape who knows how to ride a bike! Sturdy tires are recommended and helmets are required. Start anytime between 8-10 AM. Bus transportation for riders and bikes back to Stratton is provided (or call 365-9109 to arrange to park at Grace Cottage and take the bus up to the beginning). Performance t-shirts for first 100 registrants.

Green Up Day Festivities, May 6, in Townshend: After your clean-up in Windham, join the Townshend Community Hope & Action group on the Townshend common for FREE live music and food! The group will be grilling up beef and veggies burgers from 12-3 PM and local band, Shelving Rock, will be performing in the Gazebo. Thanks to Heidi Russ, C&S, Grace Cottage Hospital, and the Calvary Chapel for their donations of food, time and energy! Thanks to all for your continuous support of Community Hope & Action events. We hope to see you there!



We Go Beyond Patient Care

185 Grafton Road (Route 35) Townshend, VT www.gracecottage.org 802-365-7357

ELECTRONICS COLLECTION EVENT **SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017 9 AM - 1 PM** FLOOD BROOK UNION SCHOOL

91 Route 11, Londonderry, VT WHAT TO BRING:

*Computers *Monitors *Televisions *Copiers *Microwaves *FAX Machines *Typewriters *VCRs and anything else with a cord For information call 824-3306.



WARNING!!! It's time to take in your bird feeders! The bears are hungry, and they find an easy meal at your feeders. Vermont fines anyone whose bird feeder

causes a bear to be killed because the bear becomes a danger or a nuisance. DO NOT FEED THE BEARS!

STRONG LIVING, Monday & Thursday, 10 AM at the Meeting House

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION **SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2017 9 AM - 1 PM** FLOOD BROOK UNION SCHOOL

91 Route 11, Londonderry, VT WHAT TO BRING:

Any substance with a label that says: Caustic*Toxic*Corrosive*Poison*Combustible *Warning *Danger *Caution BOTH LATEX and OIL BASED PAINT For information call 824-3306.

Change Coming at the Transfer Station

A change is coming to the Londonderry Transfer Station. Soon you will need to purchase punch cards to pay for trash disposal. Details to come in the next few months. Our auditors have requested that we take/keep the cash out of the transfer station. We are going to institute a punch card system but don't have a kickoff date at this time. This is just a HEADS UP!

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 Lister: Alison Cummings, 874-7223; cobbbrookfarm@gmail.com; John Hoover, 875-6224, johnjhoover@vermontel.net

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

School Board: Antje Ruppert, phone: 874-4759; email: antje@sover.net

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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Summer will be here soon!

Windham News & Notes 5976 Windham Hill Road Windham, VT 05359

Windham News & Notes welcomes submissions. Send articles of about 300 words to the above address or by email

windhamnews@hotmail.com.

Please keep us informed of any name or address changes.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS



Windham Community Organization:

Last Wednesday of the month at 7 PM at the Meeting House, May 31 & June 28. Call Ellen McDuffie at 874-8183 for information.

Town Clerk:

Monday: Noon - 4:00 PM Tuesday: 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM Wednesday: 8:00 AM - Noon Closed Thursdays, Fridays, and Federal Holidays. Call 874-4211..

Planning and Zoning: Second Wednesday of the month at 6 PM at the Town Office; May 10 & June 14. Call Bob Bingham at 874-9934.

Windham Congregational Church (UCC):

Sundays: Worship Services at 9:30 AM at the Meeting House. Call Dave Crittenden at 874-4049 for more info.

Select Board:

1st & 3rd Mondays May 1 & 15, June 5 & 19 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 May 3 & June 7 at 3 PM 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.

School Board:

1st Mondays, May 1 & June 5 at 4 PM at the Elementary School. Call Antje Rupert at 874-4759 to confirm.

Volunteer Fire Company:

First Thursday of the month, May 4 & June 8 at 6 PM at the Firehouse. Heavy refreshments servéd.

Listers:

Every Wednesday 9 AM-Noon at the Town Office. Unified School District: Third Mondays, May 15 & June 19, 7 PM at Leland & Gray

SAVE THESE DATES!

May 6 - Green-Up Day

May 13 - Electronics Collection, Flood Brook School, 9 AM-1 PM

June 3 - Hazardous Waste Collection, Flood Brook, 9 AM-1 PM

June 15 - Windham Graduation, Elementary School, 6 PM

June 25 - Ice Cream Social, Meeting House, 6-8 PM

July 15 - WCO Chicken Barbecue, Meeting House, 5 PM



How do you get Windham's news?



By supporting the Windham News & Notes

The next issue of the *News & Notes* begins our **15th** year of bi-monthly publication. We have an all-volunteer staff and depend on your annual support to cover the cost of production and mailing. Like public radio and public TV, we ask you to contribute whatever you can, with the average contribution being \$15. Your support will ensure that you and others receive Windham's own news source for another year.

Check the desired boxes below, and return this entire form in the enclosed envelope to:
Windham Community Organization, 5976 Windham Hill Road, Windham, VT 05359.

Include your check or money order made payable to the Windham Community Organization.

Please note on the memo line: News & Notes.

	My gift of \$ is enclosed.	
	Mail by post my black and white printed copy of the News and Notes to:	
Maili	ng Address:	
	I would rather receive the <i>News & Notes</i> online in color. I'd like both a mailed copy and an online copy. I currently rent my Windham property to:	
	They are Windham residents and should be added to your mailing list at my Windham addres I want to receive emailed notices of events in Windham and nearby towns. I want to receive emailed notices from the town office regarding town government.	S.
Му <u>re</u>	evised email address(es) is (are):	

and no changes are necessary,)

PLEASE COMPLETE SURVEY (TWO PAGES) and Return to

Town Office: 5976 Windha	m Hill Road, '	Windham, VT 05359	Emergency Survey Page 1
TOWN OF WINI	DHAM Inventory	of Emergency Needs and Re	esources
Last Name	First Na	ame	
Windham Address			
Other Address			,
Home Phone	Cell	Work Phone	
Email	OK to use this	email for other Windham town bus	iness?yesno
This is my primary residence	This is a "seço	nd home" for us	
Alternate Contact Name and Teleph	none Number		
Family members with: walkerwheelchairbed-riddenlimited visioncritical medicationsoxygen/ other special equipmerany life-threatening conditionsspecial needs children other 2. Do you have any equipment orportable generatorchain sawsnowmobile4-wheeler (ATV)portable water pump	resources you w		
tractor with: loaderb handheld radios (walkie-talkies	ackhoe or other)		
other			
3. Do you have any special training CPR first aid Red Cross DisasterTraining EMT RN MD PA Nurse Practitioner Mental Health Worker Firefighter Other First Responder Training		valuable in an emergency?	
			OVER PLEASE

4. Do you need electricity to cook?yesno 5. Do you need electricity to heat your home?yesno
5. Do you need electricity to heat your home?yesno
6. Do you need electricity for drinking water?yesno
7. Do you have an alternate source of safe drinking water that you would be willing to share in an emergency?yesno
8. Do you have pets/livestock that would need attention in case of an emergency?yesno
If yes, please list
9. Are you willing and able to shelter a few people in an emergency?yesnoovernightfor warming onlyhow many? Are pets okay?yesno
10. If this is your second home, would this be the place you would plan to come if there were an emergency at or near your primary residence?yesnomaybe
11. Have you made any preparations in case you are here, or arrive here, during an extended emergency?
yesno
extra drinking watershelf-stable food,
NOAA weather alert radio (battery or rechargeable)
NOAA weather alert radio (battery or rechargeable)flashlights, batteries
emergency supplies of critical drugs
first aid kit
Other

Resilience is the component in preparedness planning that can very often keep a sudden emergency from becoming an instant disaster. Resilience allows individuals and families to absorb an initial shock and face 24 to 48 hours of disruption, isolation, power loss and even damage to their homes so that Emergency Responders can assess the situation and prioritize the use of available resources. Even in a chaotic situation, this kind of basic preparation at the household level can enable the response to be more orderly and efficient.

Thank you for filling out this form. The information, once assembled, will be important in our efforts to help one another when help is most needed. While the subject is on your mind please visit the excellent emergency preparedness page at VT Emergency Management here: http://vem.vermont.gov/preparedness and click on "Simple Preparation Tips" and the "Family Emergency Preparedness Workbook" to see how you can maximize your personal resiliency and that of the entire community of Windham.

You can contact the Windham Emergency Management Team at: windhamEM@gmail.com

THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE IS PRIVATE

AND WILL BE USED ONLY BY EMERGENCY PERSONNEL IN AN EMERGENCY.



Businesses must call ahead to make arrangements

ELECTRONICS COLLECTION EVENT

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2017 9AM - 1PM



at FLOOD BROOK SCHOOL 91 ROUTE 11, LONDONDERRY, VT

For information call 824-3306, email <u>londonrecycle@vermontel.net</u> www.londonderryvt.org (click on link)

WHAT TO BRING:

*Computers *Monitors *Televisions *Copiers

*Microwaves *FAX Machines *Typewriters

*VCRs and anything else with a cord

HAZARDOUS WASGE COLLECTION DAY



Saturday, June 3, 2017 and Saturday, October 7, 2017 9am – 1pm



Flood Brook Union School Route 11, Londonderry, Vermont

Residents & Businesses of the following towns only:

\$\displays \text{Landgrove } \text{Londonderry } \text{Peru} \text{ Weston} \text{Windham } \text{Free to Households, Businesses Must Pre-register and Pay for Disposal}

WHAT TO BRING

ANY SUBSTANCE WITH A LABEL THAT SAYS "CAUSTIC, TOXIC, CORROSIVE, POISON, COMBUSTIBLE, WARNING, DANGER OR CAUTION"

FROM THE GARAGE: Antifreeze, Brake Fluid, Transmission Fluid, Engine Degreaser, Carburetor Cleaner, Gas Treatments, Creosote, Radiator Flusher, Roofing Tar, Asphalt and A/C Refrigerants.
FROM THE WORKBENCH: Rust proofer, Paint Thinners, Degreaser, Lead & Oil based Paints, Sealants, Solvents, Varnish, Wood Preservatives, W/Polish, Wood Stripers and Stains, Deck Wash.
FROM THE GARDEN SHED: Pesticides, Insect Sprays, Pool Chemicals, Flea Powder, Fertilizers, Herbicides, Rodent Killers, Muriatic Acid, No-Pest Strips, Lighter Fluid.

FROM THE HOUSE: Drain Cleaner, Floor Cleaner, Furniture Polish, Arts & Craft Chemicals, Mercury Batteries, Photo Chemicals, Oven Cleaner, Chemistry Kits, Metal Polish, Moth Balls, Toilet Cleaner, Rug & Upholstery Cleaners.

**Both latex and oil based paints will be accepted at the collection

WHAT NOT TO BRING

Electronics check the web site for dates of electronics collection

Empty Aerosol cans can be recycle with scrap metal at the Transfer Station

Rechargeable and Primary Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D etc) Bring to Londonderry Hardware, Sigda's Hardware, Londonderry Town Office, Londonderry Transfer Station Recycle Center

Automotive Batteries can be exchanged at or given to local garages and auto parts stores

Used Clean Motor Oil Can be brought to West River Auto or Hunter Excavating

Fluorescent Light Tubes/Bulbs can be taken to Londonderry Hardware Store or Sigda's Servistar Ammunition & Explosives contact your local police department

Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Propane Tanks can be exchanged or refilled at propane distributors or Londonderry Hardware Medical sharps (needles) place in rigid, puncture-resistant container such as a detergent bottle with cap sealed with duct tape. Label container "Not For Recycling, Sharps". Dispose of in trash.

Asbestos in any form. You will need to contact an asbestos abatement company.

For information email londonrecycle@vermontel.net Call Esther Fishman 824-3306 or visit www.londonderryvt.org





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LELAND & GRAY ADDRESSES RAPE CULTURE



from Kate Venne, WRVT

This winter, Leland & Gray has taken on the important task of educating its students on the topics of sexual assault, teen dating violence, consent and bystander intervention. With generous support from the Women's Freedom Center in Brattleboro and West River Valley Thrives, Leland & Gray was able to bring in Tim Collins, an expert speaker and solo performer. Tim performed a one-man show this February for the entire school in which he played five characters. The setting for his show was a college and he played three students, a brother of one of those students, a professor and an educational speaker. The premise of his show was a sexual assault that took place on campus during a weekend party. A woman was violated and no one stepped in to help, though there were plenty of witnesses. The main character, Brandon, a member of a sexual assault prevention club on campus, agonizes over the assault with his friends, brother and professor. Brandon is stunned when he finally discovers who photographed the incident. We learn from his brother the various reasons why a bystander might choose not to intervene in this situation or a similar one. These include fear of getting harmed or made fun of, insecurity about what exactly they should do to help and the belief that someone else will help instead. In a non-direct way, Tim encouraged students to think about what they would do in a situation like this and to also question whether or not they have contributed to the creation of a culture that has normalized violence and rape. Leland & Gray's counseling department worked with Anna Mullaney of the Women's Freedom Center to organize a series of discussions with faculty and students before and after the performance. Advisors stepped up to prepare students for this topic as well as debrief in groups after the fact. Overall, the show was moving and impactful; Tim encouraged all of us to consider the ways in which we contribute to "rape culture" and the normalization of violence toward all people, women in particular.

Community Leaders put their heads together in Townshend

from Kate Venne, WRVT

The Leland & Gray Above the Influence students spent time with the Community Hope & Action group of Townshend this week to discuss community assets as well as concerns. Students spent almost all of March preparing to facilitate this dialogue and were able to gather lots of input from Hope & Action members. Over coffee and donuts, the group brainstormed and created a comprehensive list of all the great things our community has to offer. These included Grace Cottage, the West Townshend Community Project, the Leland & Gray theater program, churches, the Food Shelf, and many many more!

This was followed by a short presentation of concerns that students had identified during a previous in-school dialogue. These included two important statistics from the 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey: "51% of high school students in the WCSU think peer consumption of alcohol is OK" and "more than half of students don't believe they matter to their community". The group brainstormed potential risk factors and solutions for each issue. Students made notes and plan to begin addressing such issues in the spring and fall. ATI students and advisor, Kate Venne, extend their thanks to Hope & Action members for welcoming them and for their commitment to bettering our small but mighty community!

This dialogue came as a result of the Getting to Y training that ATI students received this fall. The Getting to Y program helps students learn to interpret their own Youth Risk Behavior Survey results (a survey taken every 2 years by students state-wide) and bring meaning to them by having dialogue with fellow students and community members.

Notice From West River Valley Thrives: Talk to your children about alcohol and drugs before Prom.

