

TOWN OF UNDERHILL

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023



The American
Rescue Plan Act

Please bring this report to Town Meeting

Underhill Projects Funded



Underhill Central School
Garden & Playground upgrades



Town Clerk of Underhill
Record Digitization



Brewster River Mountain
Bike Club



Underhill Energy Committee
Generators & Electrical upgrades



Underhill Recreation Committee
Town Pond Park & Playground
Upgrades



United Church of Underhill/Harvest Crossing
Affordable Housing Project

The Town of Underhill received \$922,600 as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. We received our share of \$350 billion dollars that was delivered to state, local and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. Initially, and as an immediate response to the pandemic, Underhill spent \$226,370 of the dollars received to cover upgrades to technology and energy and unforeseen overages in infrastructure and paving and repairs directly due to the pandemic.

The balance of the funds received was nearly \$700,000 and the Selectboard of Underhill found themselves with some big decisions to make. After a very inclusive and somewhat exhaustive process, the Selectboard of the Town of Underhill, in Vermont recently announced that it has awarded several American Rescue Plan (ARP) awards, totaling over \$600,000 to fund approximately 14 organizations and or specific projects that will directly impact the residents of Underhill and help make the town more resilient, healthy and safe for decades to come.

These grant awards were made after the Town solicited projects and ideas from every resident. The ARPA Advisory Committee set out to make sure that all interested had an equal access to apply for these funds. It was an opportunity to get things done that normally we would not have the resources to do in our small town.

The ARPA Advisory Committee outlined an application and evaluation process aligned with the legal requirements of the SLFRF Final Rule. In addition to the regular posting locations physically and online, a postcard was sent to all Underhill residents soliciting projects. Project proposals were accepted from October through January; the committee received more than 50 proposals with funding requests exceeding \$3.5 million. Each proposal was reviewed by individual members of the committee, discussed at monthly public meetings, and evaluated by the committee with the criteria listed in the application.

After presenting their recommendations to the Selectboard, they made their funding decisions. This process was unique. We were able to give everyone a voice and believe that choices were made to have the greatest impact on the most residents in all areas of the town and its' impact will be felt beyond the Towns' border into neighboring Jericho and Essex with several jointly funded projects.

The Town of Underhill thanks the members of the ARPA Advisory Committee: Jill Cozzens, Bill Frank, Nori Geary, Luke Hasselbeck, Michael Oman, Emile Soisson, Roy Towlen, and staff coordinator Jennifer Silpe-Katz.

The ARPA Advisory Committee meeting minutes, evaluation criteria, list of proposals received and the Final Rule for SLFRF funds can all be accessed through the Town of Underhill Website at www.underhillvt.gov

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OFFICIAL WARNING
TOWN OF UNDERHILL ~ ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 5, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Underhill, in the County of Chittenden, State of Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at Browns River Middle School, in Jericho, Vermont on March 5, 2024 at 9 o'clock in the forenoon to transact the following business (Voting for all Australian Ballot articles will be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Browns River Middle School):

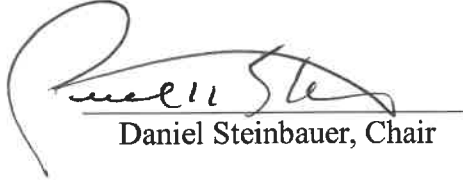
- Article 1 To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.
- Article 2 To hear the reports of the Town Officers.
- Article 3 Shall the voters approve total general fund expenditures of \$1,655,573 of which \$1,396,103 shall be raised by taxes, \$259,470 by non-tax revenues, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2664?
- Article 4 Shall the voters approve total highway fund expenditures of \$1,691,639 of which \$1,576,639 shall be raised by taxes, \$115,000 by non-tax revenue pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2664?
- Article 5 To transact any other non-binding business thought proper when met.

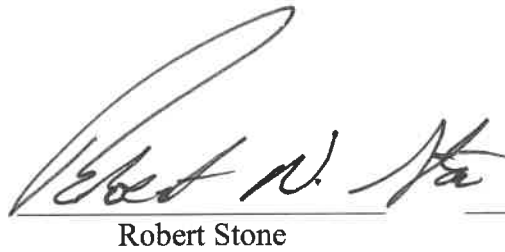
AUSTRALIAN BALLOT QUESTIONS

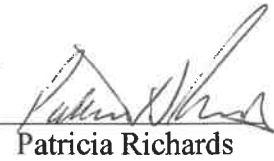
- Article 6 To elect all Town Officers and School Directors as required by law.
- Article 7 Shall the voters authorize the purchase of a dump truck and borrow an amount not to exceed \$290,000 for a term not to exceed five years, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1786 a(b)?
- Article 8 Shall the voters allocate \$100,000 that the town receives, for State Aid to Highways, into the Highway Capital Reserve for the next 5 years?
- Article 9 Shall the voters exempt the property of the Underhill Jericho Fire Department from taxation for municipal and school purposes for a period of 5 years, pursuant to 32 V.S.A. §3840?
- Article 10 Shall the voters allocate an additional \$485 to support Steps to End Domestic Violence?
- Article 11 Shall the voters allocate an additional \$1000 to support The Jericho Farmer's Market?
- Article 12 Shall the voters allocate an additional \$600 to Mount Mansfield Community TV (MMCTV)?

Article 13 Shall the voters approve expanding the selectboard from 3 members to 5 members?

Selectboard Members:


Daniel Steinbauer, Chair


Robert Stone


Patricia Richards

Received for record this 25th day of January 2024 at Underhill.

ATTEST: Scoti Amara, Town Clerk

To the residents of the Town of Underhill, as it relates to Article 13 on the 2024 Official Warning, increasing the number of Selectboard members from three to five will increase the bottom line of the budget by \$10,000.

NOTES

**ABSTRACT WARNING
2023 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF UNDERHILL
MARCH 7, 2023**

The legal voters of the Town of Underhill, in the County of Chittenden, State of Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at Browns River Middle School, in Jericho, Vermont on March 7, 2023 at 9 o'clock in the morning to transact the following business (Voting for all Australian Ballot articles will be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Browns River Middle School):

- Article 1 To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.
Dan Manz
- Article 2 To hear the reports of the Town Officers. **No action, review only.**
- Article 3 Shall the voters approve total general fund expenditures of \$1,383,026 of which \$1,173,656 shall be raised by taxes, \$209,370 by non-tax revenues, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2664? **Amended budget to \$1,184,156 and increase of \$10,500 to be raised by taxes.**
- Article 4 Shall the voters approve total highway fund expenditures of \$1,811,560 of which \$1,636,560 shall be raised by taxes, \$175,000 by non-tax revenue pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §2664? **Amended budget to \$1,736,156 and increase of \$100,000 to be raised by taxes.**
- Article 5 To transact any other non-binding business thought proper when met.

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT QUESTIONS

TOTAL BALLOTS CAST ~ 438

- Article 6 To elect all Town Officers and School Directors as required by law.
Patricia Richards 384
Sherri Morin 416
Barbara Yerrick 391
Kevin Campbell 366
- Article 7 Shall the voters authorize the purchase of an excavator to replace the 1997 excavator and borrow an amount not to exceed \$286,000 for a term not to exceed five years, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1786 a(b)?
YES 380 NO 49
- Article 8 Shall the voters authorize the purchase of a trailer to replace the 2005 trailer used for mobilizing heavy equipment and borrow an amount not to exceed \$45,000 for a term not to exceed five years, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1786 a(b)?
YES 378 NO 51

TOWN OFFICERS

Elected Town Officers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expires</u>
Moderator	Dan Manz	1 year	March, 2024
Selectboard	Dan Steinbauer	3 years	March, 2024
	Bob Stone	3 years	March, 2025
	Patricia Richards	3 years	March, 2026
Town Clerk	Sherri Morin	3 years	March, 2026
Town Treasurer	Sherri Morin	3 years	March, 2025
Justices of the Peace	Linda Almy (D)	2 years	Nov., 2024
	James Beebe-Woodard (D)	2 years	Nov., 2024
	Travis Beebe-Woodard (D)	2 years	Nov., 2024
	Nancy Geise (D)	2 years	Nov., 2024
	Bill Frank (D)	2 years	Nov., 2024
	Ellen Arrowsmith (D)	2 years	Nov., 2024
	Dan Steinbauer (D)	2 years	Nov., 2024
	Joseph O'Brien (D)	2 years	Nov., 2024
	Patricia Sabalis (D)	2 years	Nov., 2024
Mount Mansfield Modified	Eric Gildemeister	3 years	March, 2024
Union School Directors	Lisa Pawlik	3 years	March, 2025
	Kevin Campbell	3 years	March, 2026
Jericho Underhill Library Trustees	Connell Gallagher	4 years	March, 2024
	Ellen Arrowsmith	4 years	March, 2025
	Carolyn Greene	4 years	March, 2026
	Barbara Yerrick	4 years	March, 2027
Jericho Underhill Park District	James Massingham	3 years	March, 2024
	Dave Williamson	3 years	March, 2025
	Kim Spaulding- running for an unexpired term	3 years	March, 2026
Board of Civil Authority	Town Clerk		
	Selectboard		
	Justices of the Peace		

TOWN OFFICIALS

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expires</u>
Development Review Board	Charles Van Winkle	3 years	March, 2024
	Daniel Lee	3 years	March, 2024
	Shanie Bartlett	3 years	March, 2024
	Matt Chapek	3 years	March, 2025
	Brian Bertsch	3 years	March, 2025
	Karen McKnight	3 years	March, 2026
	Mark Green	3 years	March, 2026
	Mark Hamelin, Alt.	1 year	March, 2024
	Penny Miller, Alt.	1 year	March, 2024
	Meg Armstrong, Alt	1 year	March, 2024
Planning Commission	Brian Tijan	4 years	March, 2024
	Lea Van Winkle	4 years	March, 2025
	Roy Dunphey	4 years	March, 2025
	Bart Johnson	4 years	March, 2025
	Tim Frost	4 years	March, 2026
	Sandy Wilmot	4 years	March, 2026
	David Edson	4 years	March, 2026
	Boris Seagraves	4 years	March, 2027
	Carolyn Gregson	4 years	March, 2027
Conservation Commission	Vacant	4 years	March, 2024
	Vacant	4 years	March, 2024
	Karen McKnight	4 years	March, 2025
	Patrick Lamphere	4 years	March, 2025
	Betsy Chapek	4 years	March, 2026
	Vacant	4 years	March, 2026
	Vacant	4 years	March, 2026
	Trinity Schroter	4 years	March, 2027
	Laurie Graham	4 years	March, 2027
Energy Committee	Steve Webster	3 years	March, 2024
	Ravi Parikh	3 years	March, 2025
	Graham Chapek	3 years	March, 2025
	Dwight DeCoster	3 years	March, 2026
	Michael Oman	3 years	March, 2026
	Jon Boyson	3 years	March, 2026
	Vacant	3 years	March, 2026

TOWN OFFICIALS

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Expires</u>
Recreation Committee	Seth Friedman	3 years	March, 2024
	Isabel Gamm	3 years	March, 2024
	Anton Kelsy	3 years	March, 2024
	Rob Williams	3 years	March, 2025
	Gunnar Johnson	3 years	March, 2025
	Emilie Soisson	3 years	March, 2026
	Lynne Kemp	3 years	March, 2026
	Levi McEntee - youth	2 years	March, 2024
	Vacant – youth position	2 years	March, 2025
Highways Infrastructure And Equipment Committee	Russ Clark	1 year	March, 2024
	Mike Weisel	1 year	March, 2024
	Andy Rowe	1 year	March, 2024
	Clark Elliott	1 year	March, 2024
	Kurt Johnson	1 year	March, 2024
	Rich Heh	1 year	March, 2024
Zoning Administrator	Brad Holden, Interim	3 years	May, 2025
Animal Control Officer	Jennifer Silpe-Katz	1 year	March, 2024
Fire Warden	Parker Ripley	5 years	July, 2025
Assistant Fire Warden	Nate Goldman		
Health Officer	Deb Moore	3 years	May, 2024
Deputy Health Officer		3 years	May, 2025
Tree Warden	Don Tobi	1 year	March, 2024
Town Administrator	Brad Holden		
Planning Director	Brad Holden, Interim		
Finance Officer	Jennifer Silpe-Katz		
Assessor	Amanda Bosley		
Assistant Clerk/Treasurer	Nancy Bradford		
Emergency Management Director	Bob Stone		

DATES TO REMEMBER

**Town Meeting ~ 1st Tuesday in March
Dog Licenses ~ due by April 1st**

Property Taxes ~ 8/15, 11/15, 2/15 & 5/15

SELECTBOARD

2nd and 4th Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

1st and 3rd Monday at 6:30 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION

1st and 3rd Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.

ENERGY COMMITTEE

2nd Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

3rd Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

MOUNT MANSFIELD MODIFIED

UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

2nd and 4th Monday at 6:30 p.m.

DEBORAH RAWSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD

3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

HIGHWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

3rd Monday at 6:00 p.m.

MILLS RIVERSIDE PARK BOARD

1st and 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the
library

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Russ Clark, Supervisor
Scott Kilpeck, Dwayne Norway and Ken
Blodgett
(802) 899-9959

TOWN OF UNDERHILL

www.underhillvt.gov

12 Pleasant Valley Rd

PO Box 120

Underhill, VT 05489

Phone: (802) 899-4434

Fax: (802) 899-2137

TOWN CLERK AND TREASURER

Sherri Morin

smorin@underhillvt.gov

Monday – Thursday 7:30a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00am-12:00pm

(802) 899-4434 x1

FINANCE OFFICER

Jennifer Silpe-Katz

jsilpe-katz@underhillvt.gov

Call for an appointment

(802) 899-4434 x2

ASSESSOR

Amanda Bosley

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

abosley@underhillvt.gov

(802) 899-4434 x3

PLANNING AND ZONING

Vacant

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(802) 899-4434 x5

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Brad Holden

bholden@underhillvt.gov

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(802) 899-4434 x7

Town of Underhill - FY2025 Budget

Line	Category	FY2023		FY2024		FY2025		
		Budget	Actual	FY2024 Budget	Thru 12/21/23 Actual	Proposed Budget	Change Inc/(Dec)	% Change
	REVENUES							
1	PROPERTY TAXES							
2	General Tax Revenue	963,756	1,122,033	1,173,656		1,396,103	222,447	21.8%
3	Highway Tax Revenue	1,320,884	1,320,884	1,636,560		1,576,639	(59,921)	23.9%
4	Deficit Payment Tax Revenue			-			-	0.0%
5	Total Municipal Property Taxes	2,284,640	2,442,917	2,810,216	-	2,972,742	162,526	5.8%
6	OTHER PROPERTY TAXES							
7	Local Agreement Tax Revenue	102,000	82,669	85,000	81,421	82,000	(3,000)	-3.5%
8	Total Property Taxes	2,386,640	2,525,586	2,895,216	81,421	3,054,742	159,526	5.5%
9	FINES							
10	Delinq Tax Interest	4,000	2,714	4,000	722	4,000	-	0.0%
11	Late Homestead Penalty, Fees, Retainage	3,000	6,410	3,000		3,000	-	0.0%
12	Delinq Tax Penalty	15,000	14,279	15,000	5,237	15,000	-	0.0%
13	Total Fines	22,000	23,404	22,000	5,958	22,000	-	0.0%
14	LICENSES & PERMITS							
15	Dog Licenses/Animal control	4,000	2,662	3,000	117	3,000	-	0.0%
16	Zoning Permits	30,000	24,500	20,000	6,903	24,000	4,000	20.0%
17	Judiciary Fines & Fees	3,000	3,286	3,000	2,028	3,000	-	0.0%
18	Tax Research	4,000	3,060	3,500	1,048	3,500	-	0.0%
19	Miscellaneous Lic/Permits	1,500	1,202	1,500	495	1,500	-	0.0%
20	Total Licenses and Permits	42,500	34,710	31,000	10,591	35,000	4,000	12.9%
21	INTERGOVERNMENTAL							
22	State Aid to Highways	102,000	109,271	110,000	112,517	110,000	-	0.0%
23	Payment in lieu of Taxes	30,000	34,219	32,000	34,652	34,000	2,000	6.3%
24	State Current Use	55,000	57,791	57,000	72,184	57,000	-	0.0%
25	Grant Income	17,500	92,165	60,000	48,599	-	(60,000)	-100.0%
26	Reappraisal & Equalization Revenue	13,000	13,044	-		-	-	0.0%
27	Transfer In ARPA Funds					-	-	0.0%
28	HW Misc Income	30,000	13,660	5,000	10,050	5,000		
29	Total Intergovernmental	247,500	320,150	264,000	278,003	206,000	(58,000)	-22.0%
30	CHARGES FOR SERVICES							
31	Copies	2,500	1,621	2,000	819	2,000	-	0.0%
32	Recording Fees	30,000	26,488	25,000	13,240	25,000	-	0.0%
33	Total Charges for Services	32,500	28,109	27,000	14,059	27,000	-	0.0%
34	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE							
35	Savings Interest	9,000	22,720	7,000	22,945	20,000	13,000	185.7%
36	Rent - Post Office	12,000	11,981	12,000	5,000	12,000	-	0.0%
37	Miscellaneous Income	9,000	9,663	9,000	6,414	9,000	-	0.0%
38	.225% of 1% Muni Retained	10,000	12,441	10,000	-	10,000	-	0.0%
39	Town Meeting Floor Vote		952		110,000	-	-	0.0%
40	Total Miscellaneous Revenue	40,000	57,757	38,000	144,360	51,000	13,000	34.2%

Town of Underhill - FY2025 Budget

Line	Category	FY2023		FY2024		FY2025		
		Budget	Actual	FY2024 Budget	Thru 12/21/23 Actual	Proposed Budget	Change Inc/(Dec)	% Change
41	Other Revenue							
42	Bank Loans	462,000	542,000		331,000		-	0.0%
43	TH Building reserve	30,000			-	30,000	30,000	0.0%
44	Sidewalk Reserve			-	-	-	-	0.0%
45	Appraisal/Reappraisal Fees/Ed. Reserve	10,118	13,544			1,100	1,100	0.0%
46	Records Restoration Reserve	2,370		2,370		2,370	-	0.0%
47	ARPA Funds Usage	40,000					-	0.0%
48	General Reserve		-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
49	Highway Reserve			-			-	0.0%
50	Total Other Revenue	544,488	555,544	2,370	331,000	33,470	31,100	1312.2%
51	Use of Surplus							
52	Use of Surplus	25,000	25,000			-	-	0.0%
53	TOTAL OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE	953,988	1,044,673	384,370	783,970	374,470	(9,900)	-2.6%
54	TOTAL REVENUE	3,340,628	3,570,260	3,279,586	865,391	3,429,212	149,626	4.6%
55	EXPENDITURES							
56	SELECTBOARD							
57	Selectboard Stipends	4,500	4,500	4,500	15,000	15,000	10,500	233.3%
58	Payroll Taxes/Employee HRA Payments	8,000	30,397	18,000	6,612	26,354	8,354	46.4%
59	Post Employment Benefits	2,400	2,914	2,400	1,447	2,900	500	20.8%
60	Training/Prof Fees	300	8,883	300	5,334	10,000	9,700	3233.3%
61	Legal Fees	20,000	9,076	18,000	3,271	18,000	-	0.0%
62	VLCT Dues	5,044	5,044	5,225	5,225	5,385	160	3.1%
63	Human Resources Services	5,000	6,340	9,000	1,099	5,000	(4,000)	-44.4%
64	General Insurance & Workers Comp.	39,478	32,390	38,000	34,263	49,000	11,000	28.9%
65	Grant & Other Expenses	10,000	26,508	110,000	23,363	10,000	(100,000)	-90.9%
66	Total Selectboard	94,722	126,052	205,425	95,614	141,639	(63,786)	-31.1%
67	ELECTIONS							
68	Salaries	2,800	1,709	1,300		1,800	500	38.5%
69	Printing & Binding	3,500	2,661	2,200		3,000	800	36.4%
70	Outside Labor & Prof Fees	1,200		1,200		1,000	(200)	-16.7%
71	Supplies (post,sup,tech exp)	725	1,686	2,000	10	2,900	900	45.0%
72	Total Elections	8,225	6,056	6,700	10	8,700	2,000	29.9%
73	ADMINISTRATION							
74	Salaries	63,600	65,908	69,133	31,908	76,484	7,351	10.6%
75	Salaries - Insurance Opt Out						0	0.0%
76	Payroll Taxes & Benefits	20,400	20,368	22,612	9,769	23,877	1,265	5.6%
77	Training & Development	200		200		200	-	0.0%
78	Professional Fees	-	856	0			-	0.0%
79	Travel	700	475	500		500	-	0.0%
80	Total Administration	84,900	87,606	92,445	41,676	101,061	8,616	9.3%

Town of Underhill - FY2025 Budget

Line	Category	FY2023		FY2024		FY2025		
		Budget	Actual	FY2024 Budget	Thru 12/21/23 Actual	Proposed Budget	Change Inc/(Dec)	% Change
81	TOWN CLERK/TREASURER							
82	Salaries - Town Clerk/Treasurer	77,252	81,239	83,973	38,757	91,828	7,855	9.4%
83	Salaries - Insurance Opt Out	5,985	6,105	5,780	2,668	6,936	1,156	20.0%
84	Salaries - other	7,462	9,056	8,112	1,027	8,388	276	3.4%
85	Payroll Taxes & Benefits	16,453	16,114	17,718	7,359	19,579	1,861	10.5%
86	Training & Development	500	130	400	219	400	-	0.0%
87	Professional & Technical Services	175		150		-	(150)	-100.0%
88	Land Record Restoration	8,850	7,535	8850	13,341	8850	-	0.0%
89	Travel, Professional & Technical Exp.	1,000	738	1,200	169	1,350	150	12.5%
90	Total Town Clerk/Treasurer	117,677	120,916	126,183	63,539	137,331	11,148	8.8%
91	FINANCE/HUMAN RESOURCES							
92	Salaries	59,612	64,292	64,793	31,999	71,990	7,197	11.1%
93	Salaries: Health Benefit Adjustment	-		-		-	-	0.0%
94	Payroll Taxes & Benefits	27,777	30,270	28,613	12,910	41,627	13,014	45.5%
95	Training & Development	300	257	600	95	600	-	0.0%
96	Professional & Technical Services	15,000	19,738	20,000	18,000	24,000	4,000	20.0%
97	Travel (other= bank,Tech,supplies)	250	1,976	270	134	270	-	0.0%
98	Total Finance	102,939	116,533	114,276	63,137	138,486	24,210	21.2%
99	ASSESSING							
100	Salaries - Listers		-	0		0	-	0.0%
101	Salaries - Insurance Opt Out - Listers	-	-	0		0	-	0.0%
102	Salaries - Assessor	31,320	45,486	49,459	24,835	56,456	6,997	14.1%
103	Salaries - Insurance Opt Out - Assessor	8,409	8,577	8,121	3,748	9,727	1,606	19.8%
104	Payroll Taxes & Benefits	9,024	10,812	12,139	5,469	13,900	1,761	14.5%
105	Training & Development	1,800	950	800	749	1,100	300	37.5%
106	Professional & Technical Services	32,318	665	2,000	564	2,000	-	0.0%
107	Travel (other=supplies)	1,200	1,413	500	105	500	-	0.0%
108	Total Assessing	84,071	67,903	73,019	35,470	83,684	10,665	14.6%
109	BUILDING AND PLANT							
110	Custodial Services	4,800	4,300	4,800	1,900	4,800	-	0.0%
111	Parks & Landscaping	8,000	5,681	10,000	3,748	20,000	10,000	100.0%
112	Building Maintenance	10,000	2,276	10,000	3,033	10,000	-	0.0%
113	Postage Meter/Copy Lease	2,800	2,614	2,800	1,536	2,800	-	0.0%
114	Deficit Payment	-				75,000		0.0%
115	Telephone	4,300	4,698	4,500	1,995	4,600	100	2.2%
116	Postage	3,000	2,306	4,000	900	3,500	(500)	-12.5%
117	Technical Expenditures	15,000	28,256	20,000	18,295	49,300	29,300	146.5%
118	Janitorial Supplies	800	204	800	270	800	-	0.0%
119	Kitchen Supplies	600	1,356	600	378	1,000	400	66.7%
120	Office Supplies	10,500	8,295	10,500	2,903	10,500	-	0.0%
121	Electricity	3,300	3,012	3,400	1,144	3,400	-	0.0%
122	Street Lights/Park Lights	2,500	2,765	3,000	1,191	3,300	300	10.0%
123	Heating Fuel	3,000	3,508	4,000	2,847	4,000	-	0.0%
124	Total Building & Plant	68,600	69,271	78,400	40,141	193,000	39,600	146.2%

Town of Underhill - FY2025 Budget

Line	Category	FY2023		FY2024		FY2025		
		Budget	Actual	FY2024 Budget	Thru 12/21/23 Actual	Proposed Budget	Change Inc/(Dec)	% Change
125	POST OFFICE							
126	Maintenance & Repair	1,000	185	1,000		2,500	1,500	150.0%
127	Supplies & Property Taxes Paid	500	2,386	2,386	2,541	2,386	-	0.0%
128	Total Post Office	1,500	2,571	3,386	2,541	4,886	1,500	44.3%
129	SCHOOL HOUSE							
130	Maintenance/Repair/Supplies	1,700	1,813	2,300	2,002	2,150	(150)	-6.5%
131	Electric	260	376	260	150	300	40	15.4%
132	Heating Fuel	40		40		50	10	25.0%
133	Total School House	2,000	2,189	2,600	2,153	2,500	(100)	-3.8%
134	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	564,634	599,096	702,434	344,282	811,287	33,853	15.5%
135	PUBLIC SAFETY							
136	ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER							
137	Salaries	2,000	2,201	7,200	2,775	6,000	(1,200)	-16.7%
138	Telephone Allowance	300	325		50	-	-	0.0%
139	Payroll Taxes & Benefits	175	193		216	459	459	0.0%
140	Vet, Kennel, Impound Expenditures	700	4,919	1,000	861	1,000	-	0.0%
141	Supplies	300	1,969		224	600	600	0.0%
142	Travel	100	597			191	191	0.0%
143	Total Animal Control Officer	3,575	10,205	8,200	4,127	8,250	50	0.6%
144	PURCHASED SERVICES							
145	Chittenden County Sherriff	20,000	17,520	38,000	10,140	38,000	-	0.0%
146	Traffic Calming/Safety Init.	1,500	-	10,500	9,256	14,000	3,500	33.3%
147	Total Purchased Services	21,500	17,520	48,500	19,396	52,000	3,500	7.2%
148	SAFETY APPROPRIATIONS							
149	Essex Rescue	35,929	35,929	54,525	27,263	58,012	3,487	6.4%
150	Underhill Jericho Fire Department	251,106	251,106	319,121	159,561	354,936	35,815	11.2%
151	CUSI	5,737	5,737	5,737	2,869	2,577	(3,160)	-55.1%
152	Total Safety Appropriations	292,772	292,772	379,383	189,692	415,525	36,142	9.5%
153	HEALTH							
154	Public Health Officer	1,200	-	750		750	-	0.0%
155	Well Monitoring	9,000	8,874	9,330	4,451	9,730	400	4.3%
156	UVM-Home Health/Hospice	7,900	7,900	7,900	3,950	8,000	100	1.3%
157	Total Health	18,100	16,774	17,980	8,401	18,480	500	2.8%
158	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	335,947	337,271	454,063	221,615	494,255	40,192	8.9%
159	RECREATION							
160	ARPA Spending	40,000				-	-	0.0%
161	Prof & Tech Services	-		-		-	-	0.0%
162	Grounds/Pond Maintenance	7,000	7,000	5,000		6,000	1,000	20.0%
163	Supplies	5,500	6,628	3,900	5,645	4,000	100	2.6%
164	Total Recreation	52,500	13,628	8,900	5,645	10,000	1,100	12.4%

Town of Underhill - FY2025 Budget

Line	Category	FY2023		FY2024		FY2025		
		Budget	Actual	FY2024 Budget	Thru 12/21/23 Actual	Proposed Budget	Change Inc/(Dec)	% Change
165	PLANNING & ZONING				-		-	
166	Salaries	55,120	56,812	59,785	10,320	56,870	(2,915)	-4.9%
167	Salaries: Ins Opt Out	8,409				-	-	0.0%
168	Payroll Taxes & Benefits	12,467	17,913	20,957	789	29,909	8,952	42.7%
169	Training & Development	2,500	316	500		500	-	0.0%
170	Legal and Professional Fees	2,000	75	2,000	3,327	2,000	-	0.0%
171	Mapping	12,000	10,156	17,000	3,798	-	(17,000)	-100.0%
172	Advertising/Postings/Printing	3,500	2,049	3,500	498	2,200	(1,300)	-37.1%
173	CC Regional Planning Dues	4,677	4,677	4,882	4,882	4,865	(17)	-0.3%
174	Supplies & Technology	1,750	165	1,750		400	(1,350)	-77.1%
175	Travel	550	283	550		500	(50)	-9.1%
176	Total Planning & Zoning	102,973	92,444	110,924	23,614	97,244	(13,680)	-12.3%
177	CULTURAL SERVICES							
178	Underhill Jericho Library	114,805	114,805	110,812	55,406	119,117	8,305	7.5%
179	Total Cultural Services	114,805	114,805	110,812	55,406	119,117	8,305	7.5%
180	APPROPRIATIONS							
181	Local Agreement	102,000	82,669	85,000	81,421	82,000	(3,000)	-3.5%
182	Energy Committee	4,000		500			(500)	-100.0%
183	Cemetery Fund	5,400	2,500	3,000	1,800	3,000	-	0.0%
184	Community Cares Camp/Memorial Day	3,350	3,486	3,350	1,500	3,350	-	0.0%
185	VACD & FPF	200	200	200	100	200	-	0.0%
186	GMT Bus Route	15,597	15,597	16,221	16,220	16,500	279	1.7%
187	Conservation	2,275	228	2,675			(2,675)	-100.0%
188	Mount Mansfield Community Television	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,000	2,000	-	0.0%
189	Total General Appropriations	134,822	106,679	112,946	102,041	107,050	(5,896)	-5.2%
190	REGIONAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS							
191	Winooski Nat'l Resources	500	500	500	250	500	-	0.0%
192	Jericho Underhill Park	21,005	21,005	23,106	11,553	23,799	693	3.0%
193	Chittenden County Tax	18,098	19,564	20,253	19,730	19,983	(270)	-1.3%
194	Total Regional Service Appropriations	39,603	41,069	43,859	31,533	44,282	423	1.0%
195	SOCIAL SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS							
196	Steps to End Violence	700	700	940	480	940	-	0.0%
197	Child Care Resources & VT Assoc for Blind	200	200	200	100	200	-	0.0%
198	COTS	500	500	500	250	500	-	0.0%
199	Local Food Shelf	600	600	600	300	600	-	0.0%
200	American Red Cross	1,000	750	1,000	500	1,000	-	0.0%
201	Mills River Farmers market	1,000	1,000	1,000	500	1,000	-	0.0%
202	Howard Mental Health	900	900	900	450	1,150	250	27.8%
203	Senior Citizens	1,250	1,250	1,250	625	1,250	-	0.0%
204	CVA On Aging	1,500	1,500	1,500	750	1,500	-	0.0%
205	VCIL	200	200	200	100	200	-	0.0%
206	Total Social Service Appropriations	7,850	7,600	8,090	4,055	8,340	250	3.1%

Town of Underhill - FY2025 Budget

Line	Category	FY2023		FY2024		FY2025		
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Thru 12/21/23	Proposed Budget	Change Inc/(Dec)	% Change
207	NOTES AND BONDS							
208	Construction Bond - Principal			-			-	0.0%
209	Construction Bond - Interest			-			-	0.0%
210	Short Term Note - Principal	-		-			-	0.0%
211	Short Term Note - Interest	-	-	-	-		-	0.0%
212	Total Bond Redemption	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%
213	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
214	Other		3,295	16,000		15,998	(2)	0.0%
215	Town Hall	30,000	5,249		4,000	30,000	30,000	0.0%
216	TOTAL CAPITAL PURCHASES	30,000	8,544	16,000	4,000	45,998	29,998	187.5%
217	TOTAL GENERAL EXPENDITURES	1,383,134	1,321,137	1,568,028	792,191	1,737,573	94,545	10.8%
218	HIGHWAY							
219	SALARIES AND BENEFITS							
220	Salaries	299,207	250,835	341,750	113,733	288,148	(53,602)	-15.7%
221	Salaries - Part Time	12,138	15,449	15,000	15,566	25,000	10,000	66.7%
222	Salaries - Insurance Opt Out		8,577	0	3,748	0	-	0.0%
223	Payroll Taxes & Benefits	85,980	92,574	96,037	39,688	122,613	26,576	27.7%
224	Training & Licensing	200	-	6,000		6,000	-	0.0%
225	Total Salary and Benefits	397,525	367,435	458,787	172,736	441,762	(17,025)	-3.7%
226	CONTRACTORS AND OUTSIDE LABOR							
227	Tree & Brush Removal	30,000	13,235	37,500	6,925	37,500	-	0.0%
228	Culvert Maintenance	6,000	2,700	6,300	91	6,300	-	0.0%
229	Contractors & Professional Services	24,000	26,094	42,250	10	50,000	7,750	18.3%
230	Contractors - Misc	27,000	31,808	40,000	8,851	30,000	(10,000)	-25.0%
231	Hauling	10,000	4,283	10,000	625	43,250	33,250	332.5%
232	Total Contractors Services (prior year CO)	97,000	78,120	136,050	16,502	167,050	31,000	22.8%
233	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES							
234	Building & Grounds Maintenance	10,800	9,857	10,530	1,309	10,530	-	0.0%
235	Heavy Equipment Maintenance	15,500	28,170	15,000	5,208	20,000	5,000	33.3%
236	Dump Truck Maintenance	60,000	51,341	62,000	16,842	62,000	-	0.0%
237	Small Equipment Maintenance	3,100	157	3,000	300	3,000	-	0.0%
238	Vehicle Maintenance	2,100	892	2,000	426	2,000	-	0.0%
239	Equip and Vehicle Rental	2,500	2,068	2,500		16,500	14,000	560.0%
240	Technology		3,701		40	3,620	3,620	0.0%
241	Telephone	3,400	3,174	3,400	1,929	4,180	780	22.9%
242	Total Other Purchased Services	97,400	99,359	98,430	26,055	121,830	23,400	23.8%
243	GENERAL SUPPLIES							
244	Shed/Office Supplies	6,500	6,713	6,500	3,262	6,500	-	0.0%
245	Small Tool Purchases	2,000	1,232	2,000	1,815	3,000	1,000	50.0%
246	Small Equipment Purchases	1,000	4,358	1,000	4,410	1,000	-	0.0%
247	Total General Supplies	9,500	12,303	9,500	9,486	10,500	1,000	10.5%
248	ENERGY							
249	Heating Fuel	5,500	7,434	8,200	7,508	8,000	(200)	-2.4%
250	Gas/Oil/Fuel	45,000	77,429	76,500	25,832	66,000	(10,500)	-13.7%
251	Total Energy	50,500	84,864	84,700	33,340	74,000	(10,700)	-12.6%

Town of Underhill - FY2025 Budget

Line	Category	FY2023		FY2024		FY2025		
		Budget	Actual	FY2024 Budget	Thru 12/21/23 Actual	Proposed Budget	Change Inc/(Dec)	% Change
252	ROAD MATERIALS							
253	Gravel	80,000	84,813	100,000	28,958	90,000	(10,000)	-10.0%
254	Chloride	20,000	11,171	22,000	10,995	25,600	3,600	16.4%
255	Salt	50,000	38,117	52,000	3,886	54,000	2,000	3.8%
256	Sand	70,000	76,149	87,500	86,550	90,125	2,625	3.0%
257	Stone	15,000	15,378	28,000	10,368	15,000	(13,000)	-46.4%
258	Total Road Materials	235,000	225,627	289,500	140,757	274,725	(14,775)	-5.1%
259	OTHER EXPENSES							
260	Roadside Maintenance	20,000	14,388	22,000	10,904	22,000	-	0.0%
261	Sidewalk Maintenance	7,247	10,091	12,500	3,055	12,500	-	0.0%
262	Travel	250	989	700	141	700	-	0.0%
263	Electricity	3,500	3,281	3,750	1,341	3,750	-	0.0%
264	Bridges Culverts Guardrails	45,000	43,263	26,000	32,998	40,000	14,000	53.8%
265	Traffic Control Materials	7,000	17,377	7,200	6,975	10,000	2,800	38.9%
266	Pavement Repair & Retreatment	44,000	22,669	26,000	23,248	26,000	-	0.0%
267	Total Other Expenses	126,997	112,058	98,150	78,663	114,950	16,800	17.1%
268	NOTES							
269	Highway Notes - Principal	107,216	107,387	495,520	480,030	\$209,694	(285,826)	-57.7%
270	Highway Notes - Interest	10,178	9,992	15,922	29,379	27,128	11,206	70.4%
271	Total Notes	117,394	117,379	511,442	509,409	236,822	(274,620)	-53.7%
272	CAPITAL EXPENDITURES							
273	Building Improvement	38,400			15,275	-		0.0%
274	Vehicles & Equipment	217,098	200,520	-	40,797	20,000	20,000	0.0%
275	Infrastructure - Sidewalk		832					
276	Infrastructure - Roads	540,780	626,054	125,000	71,796	230,000	105,000	84.0%
277	TOTAL CAPITAL PURCHASES	796,278	827,407	125,000	127,868	250,000	125,000	100.0%
278	TOTAL HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES	1,927,594	1,924,551	1,811,559	1,114,816	1,691,639	(119,920)	-6.6%
279	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,310,728	3,245,688	3,379,587	1,907,007	3,429,211	(25,376)	1.5%
280	The firm of A.M.Peisch & Company, LLP was engaged to audit the financial statements of the Town of Underhill for the fiscal year ended June 3							
281	Copies of the audit report are on file at the Town Office and can be obtained on the Town Website at www.underhillvt.gov .							
282	A complete picture of the town's financial condition and results of operations can only be obtained by reading the whole audit report and the							
283	accompanying footnotes and schedules.							
		FY25						
284	Taxable Grand List - Estimate for FY2025	\$5,480,000		\$54,800 = \$.01 on the Tax Rate or approximately 2%				
285	Total Municipal Taxes	\$3,017,044		Municipal tax bill for a \$500,000 property \$2,752.78				
286	Tax Rate per \$100 value	\$0.5506		Local Agreement = \$74.82				

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Overview

The Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) is proposing an increase of *almost 19%* in their proposed budget. This amount will affect the taxes you pay to the Town of Underhill BUT that money does not fund the Town of Underhill. It goes directly to the schools; the Town of Underhill is merely the “go-between”. The Town of Underhill is only proposing a 3.09% budget increase over last year. We cannot provide the quality services that everyone expects and maintain our roads and infrastructure without paying for them and we balance these needs with the use of grants, debt, fees for services, and tax revenue.

I have created a *Budget 2025 Guide*, and it is uploaded to the Town website at www.underhillvt.gov and copies are also available at Town Hall and I am happy to email you or mail you copies if you request. I suggest you use this to help you follow along with the budget by line number. If you have questions or require more clarification, please reach out to me.

Overall total expenditures are only up 1.5% (LINE 279), while many line items have increased more than that, highway infrastructure is usually the biggest expense driver and we are not projecting much in the highway infrastructure line. We will, however be making up for a deficit from fiscal year 2023 (LINE 114) by adding \$75,000 revenue and because we are not earmarking the use of any reserves or grant income for fiscal year 2025, there will be an increase in tax revenue required to meet expenses. The bottom-line estimated tax increase for fiscal year 2025 is **3.09%** or **.0170** cents on the tax rate. **For reference, on a \$500,000 home, you will be paying \$80.00 more per year for the proposed budget attached.**

Our balance sheet is favorable. We have increased our assets, upgraded our equipment and trucks, and spent over \$1 million in paving and infrastructure upgrades to our roadways in the last year and a half. In my opinion where we need to turn a corner is with our unassigned fund balance. In order to do this, we have to run at budget or under, invest money into our reserve funds and continue to plan for unexpected events, and continue to invest resources into our staff and support systems.

Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I love talking about finance and I enjoy helping others understand how this all works.

Choose love and compassion and strive to find the good in your neighbors.

Jennifer

Jennifer Silpe-Katz, Finance Officer

01/26/2024

**Town of Underhill
Balance Sheet**

	As of 6/30/2023	As of 6/30/2022	As of 6/30/2021
ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,304,184	\$ 844,502	\$869,525
Receivables:			
Delinquent taxes	\$ 15,117	\$ 25,457	\$20,704
Delinquent tax interest	\$ 427	\$ 663	\$636
Delinquent tax penalties	\$ 751	\$ 1,527	\$1,363
Grants receivable	\$ 31,500	\$ 73,538	\$50,769
Lease receivable	\$ 178,250	\$ 63,500	
Prepaid expenses	\$ 37,983	\$ 9,103	\$15,359
Inventory	\$ 50,941	\$ 91,762	\$57,826
Other current assets	\$ 224	\$ 2,133	\$1,266
Total Assets	\$ 1,619,377	\$ 1,112,185	\$1,017,448
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 34,791	\$ 80,203	\$106,298
Accrued wages	\$ 20,041	\$ 17,237	\$14,886
Unearned grant revenue	\$ 3,007	\$ 3,007	\$3,007
Refundable advances	\$ 462,445	\$ 234,929	
Short term debt	\$ 350,000		
Total Liabilities	\$ 870,284	\$ 335,376	\$124,191
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES			
Lease	\$ 178,250	\$ 63,500	
Unavailable revenue- Property taxes	\$ 6,450	\$ 12,661	\$18,881
Total deferred Inflows	\$ 184,700	\$ 76,161	18881
FUND EQUITY			
Nonspendable			
Inventory	\$ 50,941	\$ 91,762	\$57,826
Prepaid expenses	\$ 37,983	\$ 9,103	\$15,359
Total Nonspendable	\$ 88,924	\$ 100,865	\$73,185
Restricted (Outside Sources)			
Listers education	\$ 2,815	\$ 3,265	\$3,265
Matching grant			\$15,000
Reappraisal	\$ 13,074	\$ 30	\$35,132
Restoration reserve	\$ 16,360	\$ 16,685	\$14,085
Tomasi Meadow Reserve	\$ 5,677	\$ 5,677	\$5,677
Total Restricted	\$ 37,926	\$ 25,657	\$73,159
Committed (Voters)			
Capital/ Building Reserve	\$ 26,704	\$ 26,704	\$50,250
Conservation	\$ 2,888	\$ 2,888	\$2,888
General Contingency	\$ 56,244	\$ 56,244	\$56,244
FY22 Expenditures	-	-	\$50,000
Solar Decomissioning Reserve	\$ 9,300	\$ 6,050	\$2,800
HRA	-	-	\$3,311
Highway-Capital Reserve	\$ 8,008	\$ 8,008	\$16,983
Highway-Contingency Reserve	\$ 20,684	\$ 20,684	\$80,684
Highway-Tree Warden Reserve (2021)	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$3,000
Highway- Garage reserve (incl. generator res.)	\$ 27,137	\$ 30,000	\$30,000
Recreation	\$ 1,451	\$ 1,451	\$1,451
Total Committed	\$ 155,416	\$ 155,029	\$297,611
Unassigned (for surplus calculation FY25)	\$ 282,127	\$ 419,097	\$345,204
Total fund balance	\$ 564,393	\$ 700,648	\$419,097
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources,fund balance	\$ 1,619,377	\$ 1,112,185	\$562,169

06/30/2023 audited balances

STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Real Value 571,416,400

Exceptions:

*Veterans Exemptions -	920,000
Current Use -	16,275,400
UJ Fire Department -	1,700,400
*Tax Stabilization -	6,068,800

Municipal Grand List 5,464,518.00
Tax Rates

Year	Grand List	Residential	Non-Residential	Local Agreement (included in tax rate)
2018	3,852,175.00	2.0472	2.1351	0.022
2019	3,906,784.00	2.0098	2.1203	0.0205
2020	3,935,448.00	2.0499	2.2124	0.0217
2021	3,965,202.00	2.1846	2.3341	0.0227
2022	5,438,754.00	1.6080	1.7504	0.0152
2023	5,464,518.00	1.6900	1.8643	0.0149

*Local Agreement is made up of Veterans Exemptions and Tax Stabilization contracts

ASSESSMENT OF TOWN OWNED PROPERTIES 2023

<u>CODE</u>	<u>PROPERTY</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
BE097X	Beartown Rd – Gravel Pit – 11.18 Acres	\$163,900
FU012X	Land- Fuller Rd - .33 Acres	\$3,500
FU054X	Best Land – Fuller Rd – 17.0 Acres	\$25,000
MT002X	Casey's Hill/Tomasi Meadow – 24.75 Acres	\$337,100
NR077X	Garage/Salt Shed – 77 Acres	\$791,300
NR141X	Land – New Rd – 10.19 Acres	\$2,800
PA004X	Park – Underhill Flats – 0.20 Acres	\$13,200
PV002X	Park – Underhill Center – 0.30 Acres	\$800
PV011X	Edwin Moore Park – 1.4 Acres	\$130,800
PV012X	Town Hall Building – 0.98 Acres	\$619,200
PV032X	Old Schoolhouse No. 5 – 0.83 Acres	\$207,600
RV249X	Sand Hill Cemetery – 0.75 Acres	\$33,700
RV286X	**Post Office Building – 0.50 Acres	\$136,300
ST010X	Town Pond – 2.0 Acres	\$161,500
VT539X	Land – 3.10 Acres	\$12,500
	Grand Total	\$2,639,200

** Property is taxable

LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Long-term liabilities at June 30, 2023 consist of the following:

Union Bank- note. Highway Infrastructure(300K), recreation (6K), Interest 2.04%, maturing September 8, 2025, payments of \$64,995 due annually beginning September 8, 2021.	\$188,552
Union Bank – 2021 Ford F350 note, interest 1.58%, maturing December 11, 2025, payments of \$14,671 due annually Beginning December 11, 2021.	\$42,594
Union Bank-2022 International Truck note, interest 1.59%, maturing August 10, 2026, payments of \$37,735 due annually Beginning August 10, 2022.	\$145,127
Union Bank-2023 International Truck note, interest 4.75%, maturing October 28, 2027, payments of \$44,041 due annually Beginning October 28, 2023.	\$145,127
Total long-term debt	\$ 568,273
Accrued compensated absences	\$ 30,337
Accrued post-employment benefits	\$ 8,713
Net pension liability	<u>\$ 434,898</u>
Total long-term liabilities	<u>\$ 1,042,221</u>

MATURITIES FOR BONDS AND NOTES PAYABLE

Maturities for existing long-term debt are as follows:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Totals</u>
2024	145,520	15,922	161,442
2025	149,196	12,244	161,440
2026	154,229	8,415	162,644
2027	77,282	4,495	81,777
2028	42,046	1,997	44,043
Totals	<u>\$568,273</u>	<u>\$43,073</u>	<u>\$611,346</u>

Total Interest Expense on long-term debt for the year ended June 30, 2023 was \$9,992.

The Town of Underhill maintains a long- term capital equipment and infrastructure spreadsheet. For information or details contact the Finance Officer.

Town of Underhil
Wages-Salaries-Stipends
Fiscal Year 2024

Name	Position	2024 Budget	Hours/WK Budget	Date of Hire
Stipends - Annual				
	Selectboard Member	\$ 5,000.00	NA	NA
Jennifer Silpe-Katz	Animal Control-paid monthly	\$ 6,000.00	NA	NA
Salaries-Weekly				
Sherri Morin	Town Clerk/Treasurer	\$ 1,614.86	40	7/1/2003
Brad Holden	Town Administrator	\$ 1,329.48	40	5/4/2021
Brad Holden	Zoning Administrator - temp.	\$ 430.00	NA	8/1/2023
Wages - Hourly				
Amanda Bosley	Town Assessor	\$ 30.00	35	5/15/2017
Jennifer Silpe-Katz	Finance Officer/H.R. Admin	\$ 41.53	35	1/17/2019
Nancy Bradford	Assistant Town Clerk	\$ 25.35	NA	3/8/1993
Donna Griffiths	Selectboard Notetaker	\$ 23.91	NA	10/6/2020
Russel Clark	Highway Supervisor	\$ 31.00	40	7/5/2022
Scott Kilpeck	Road Crew	\$ 25.44	40	5/12/2010
Dwayne Norway	Road Crew	\$ 25.44	40	12/1/2011
Kenneth Blodgett	Road Crew	\$ 23.00	40	11/13/2023
Other				
	Health Officer			
	Highway-Equipment Operators	\$ 25.00	NA	
	Highway-Temporary/Part-time	\$ 21.99	NA	
	Health Officer	\$ 18.99	NA	
	Board of Civil Authority	\$ 13.18		min. wage
	Election Worker	\$ 13.18		min. wage

1. Full-time employees receive 100% employer paid medical, dental, vision, life and disability insurance
2. Employees may qualify & elect payment in lieu of Town paid health insurance which increases their wage or s
3. Full-time employees are required to be part of Retirement System (VMERS)
4. VMERS Rates for FY24 are 11.25% mandatory employee contribution and 8.5% Town Contribution
5. Full-time highway employees also receive a clothing allowance of \$600/yr. and a winter on call stipend of \$20

SELECTBOARD REPORT

You can tell a lot by an organization's culture. If words such as cohesion, communication, collaboration and cooperation can be used to describe that culture, then we've hit the mark. Our community is strong, healthy and vibrant.

The Underhill Selectboard (Dan, Bob, and Patty) along with the depth of knowledge of our department-head leaders (Amanda, Sherri, Jennifer, and Brad) certainly incorporate these healthy attributes. The work completed for our town is being accomplished by people who bring a high level of expertise and who are driven by a priceless sense of purpose and community involvement. We all strive to take action that is in the best interest of our town. The municipal office culture reflects that positive attitude and commitment. As you may know, the Town is currently without a Zoning and Planning Administrator, which is being advertised. Applicants are scarce and when they do have applicable skills, the market is competitive. Until the right person is found, the position is being covered by our flexible and talented staff.

The Underhill Highway Department (Russ, Dwayne, Ken and Scott) has a few new faces and two employees with impressive longevity. It's worth mentioning as there's a shortage of highway workers in neighboring towns. Cohesion and cooperation have been enhanced by the promotion of Russ Clark to Highway Supervisor. With Bridge 7 in a deteriorating state, the Selectboard made the difficult decision to limit heavy traffic over bridge 7, which is at the intersection of Pleasant Valley and Deane Road. Max weight is 24,000 for the bridge. There will be no overweight permits issued. No exceptions.

Not to be forgotten is the army of volunteers. Moving our community forward would not be possible without the many volunteers that populate the committees and commissions. We can see the efforts of those by just looking around our community.

We enjoyed an influx of money this past year from the federal government through the Recovery Act (ARPA) which were creatively distributed by an innovative and engaging selection process. Awards were many, including, a sidewalk study for approximately \$80,000 which will connect town facilities, overdue improvements at the town hall, digitization of land records, etc. Please read the ARPA report for a more comprehensive reporting.

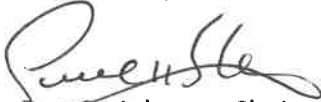
Over the past summer, a University of Vermont (UVM) Senior Environmental Science student, Jonny Givelber volunteered for the Town. Under the guidance of Don Tobi, Tree Warden, Jonny walked roughly 52 miles of roads to identify where the ash trees are, their size and condition. The inventory is nearly 100% complete as is the Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan (EABP).

The Selectboard and staff have been busy preparing the budget for the ensuing year. With the cost of materials, supplies, market rates for positions, and equipment, capital planning, etc., there's a small increase in the budget. When reviewing the budget, one will notice a small

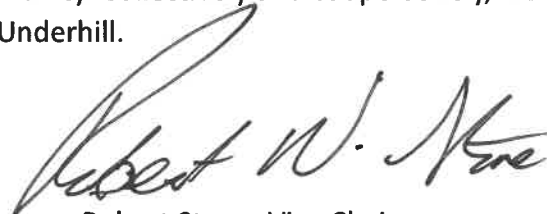
deficit from the prior year. We are required by Vermont statute (24 V.S.A. §1523) to include in the tax rate funds needed to cover any deficit for the town when we are made aware of it. While we are not running at a "deficit," in terms of how it is commonly thought, our revenues were not enough in fiscal year 2023 to cover expenses AND provide enough cushion to meet the town financial policies. Underhill has a policy that requires a 15% contingency balance be maintained in our unassigned fund balance at all times. It is our "emergency fund" so to speak. It is calculated as 15% of the town budget for the year ahead. This amount reflects about 3% or just less than .02 cents on the tax rate. Included in our fiscal year 2025 budget is \$75,000 to correct for the additional funds needed to meet the policy. The impact is \$68.43 per year for a homeowner assessed house value of \$500,000.

The Selectboard looks forward to seeing everyone at Town Meeting and engaging in a great day to discuss interests of our community. Collectively and cooperatively, we will make decisions that are in the best interest of Underhill.

Respectfully,



Dan Steinbauer, Chair



Robert Stone, Vice Chair



Patricia Richards

Town Administrator's Report

Fiscal year 2023 had its share of transitions and difficult decisions. After a wonderful summer and a mild fall, in 2022, mother nature ended on a strong note, once again catching us all by surprise. On December 23, 2022 we experienced high winds, torrential rain, flooding, and wide spread power outages. To add insult to injury the temperature plummeted. Our town garage was nearly cut off due to the flooding of the Crane Brook. River Road was cut off due to high water, the Roaring Brook almost leapt its banks. A new resident on Pokerhill lost their home due to fire, and our roads were left a mess. I can't tell you how much I appreciate the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department in times like these. UJFD is made up of a large dedicated group of volunteers who were right out in the storm assisting the highway department and town staff as well as our residents. Once the damage was done, the Town of Underhill and its residents, picked up the pieces and carried on into 2023.

State grants are not plentiful and are often hard to come by. The Town was faced with the difficult decision to consider rescinding a grant we were awarded, the year prior, on Mountain Road that would replace an aged concrete box culvert with a bridge. At the same time, we discovered that a bridge on Pleasant Valley Road, which we knew was in poor condition, was deteriorating faster than anticipated. The Selectboard made the difficult decision to give back the grant to the State in order to put the Town in a better position to hopefully receive a larger grant to replace the Pleasant Valley bridge more quickly. This decision was not taken lightly, but under the guidance and expertise of knowledgeable people, I'm confident that the Selectboard made the best decision for our Town.

The Highway Department continues to gain headway on stormwater and water quality improvements. Improving drainage and doing their best to ensure that we protect our water quality. It's a long and dedicated commitment but we've made vast improvements over the last ten years and it's really starting to show. We were fortunate to receive a \$70,000 Better Back Roads Grant this year which will enable the Town to carry out drainage improvements and replace a large drainage structure on Lower English Settlement Road.

The Selectboard authorized the formation of a Class 4 Roads Study Committee, which I had the fortunate opportunity of staffing. The nine-member committee included some residents who live on or own property that is accessed from a Class 4 road and others who have no property interest regarding these types of roads. The Committee worked very hard, visiting each of the Class 4 roads, and over the last two years, they held monthly meetings. Their work, which will result in a non-binding report to the Selectboard, is nearly finished. Stay tuned to the Town of Underhill's website: www.underhillvt.gov to view the committee's final report.

Aside from my regular duties I serve on the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Board (CCRPC) of Directors, as Underhill's representative. Kurt Johnson serves as alternate. In addition, I represent CCRPC on the Lamoille Basin Water Quality Council and represent Underhill on the Chittenden County Communication Union District. If you'd like to learn more about any of these positions, please contact me at bholden@underhillvt.gov or 802-899-4434 Ext 7.

As I enter my 3rd year with the Town, it's hard to believe how fast the time has gone. It's a pleasure to work alongside all our town staff to serve the residents of Underhill, and I hope to see you in March..... Brad Holden

2023 ASSESSOR'S REPORT

Each year the Assessor's Office prepares the Grand List, which is comprised of assessed values of all properties in town. In 2023 there were almost 50 building permits issued which includes 6 new houses. Permit inspections are usually completed by April 1st. If you have an open building permit and I have not contacted you yet, I will be soon. Thank you for your cooperation.

Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)

This is a term used by the Department of Taxes and it affects every Vermont property owner's school tax calculation. The common level of appraisal is an adjustment to listed property values. The state calculates a CLA annually for each town to adjust the listed value of properties to reflect fair market value as nearly as possible. Underhill's 2023 Common Level of Appraisal was 105.79.

Coefficient of Dispersion (COD)

This is a measure of the average deviation between the selling prices of recently sold properties from the average town-wide level of appraisal. A COD of 10% or less is considered to reflect a relatively high level of equity across taxpayers' assessments. By State Statute, if a town's COD is greater than 20% the State is required to withhold education, transportation and other funds from the offending town. Historically, Underhill's COD has fallen well within the State requirements, indicating a relatively high level of fairness between property owners. Underhill's 2023 Coefficient of Dispersion was 8.12.

Homestead Declaration & Property Tax Adjustment (HS-122)

The State of Vermont requires all residents to file a Homestead Declaration and Property Tax adjustment claim. This must be filled out yearly and is due by April 15th. Claims are allowed up until October 15th, but late filing penalties will apply.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions

Amanda Bosley
Assessor
abosley@underhillvt.gov
802-899-4434 Ext. 3

2023 Highway Supervisor Report

2023 started out with many snow and ice events to keep our Road Crew busy plowing, sanding, and salting. Between storms we perform maintenance on our equipment to make sure everything is ready to go in a moment's notice.

Spring came with little to no mud issues and allowed us to move right into the construction season. Storm Water Projects (MRGP) keep our dedicated Road Crew busy along with keeping up with normal ditching & drainage maintenance along with culvert replacements, road grading, and dust control. Our TEAM performed many hours of road improvements on Beartown Rd, Irish Settlement Rd, Pine Ridge Rd, Poker Hill Rd, Sugar Hill Rd, Meadow Lane, TH25, Krug Rd, Lower English Settlement Rd, and Downes Rd. These projects included ditching, stone lining, de-berm, culvert replacements, brush cutting, gravel, and grading. I would like to thank Jed Abair, Leon Kinsley, and Gordon Williamson for their expertise and helping this past summer and fall. We were able to grade all our roads at least twice and 3 to 4 times on our main grave routes.

In July we were very fortunate to not have the flooding that many neighboring towns had. Our road crew was honored to be able to assist the Town of Bolton with three trucks for a couple of days hauling gravel to help rebuild Notch Road. Working with other towns creates valuable relationships.

Other important projects include updating our aged road signs to meet 911 standards, cutting and removing hazard trees, improving sight distance at intersections, and hauling in 7000 tons of winter sand.

We would like to thank the residents for approving our request for a new excavator and equipment trailer. Be on the lookout for a beautiful new machine working this summer throughout the town.

I, along with the Road Crew, Scott Kilpeck, Dwayne Norway, and Ken Blodgett, would like to thank the residents of Underhill for your continued support with updating our valuable town equipment. We continue to research new and improved ways to replace our aging equipment. This will allow us to be more productive, efficient, and financially responsible. We look forward to 2024 with projects to improve the safety and beauty of our wonderful town that we live, work, and play in.

Please feel free to reach out anytime by calling 802-899-9959 or emailing rclark@underhillvt.gov

Respectfully,

Russ Clark
Highway Supervisor

**Town of Underhill
Highway Vehicles Equipment**

Description	Year Acquired	Life	Initial Cost
1997 Caterpillar Excavator	1997	10	\$ 56,340.62
2000 Caterpillar Grader	2000	10	\$ 205,500.00
2005 Rogers Tag along Trailer	2007	10	\$ 14,000.00
2008 International Dump Truck - single	2008	10	\$ 111,333.00
2009 Wood Chipper - Bandit	2010	10	\$ 23,100.00
Culvert Thawer/Power Washer plus Trailer	2010	10	\$ 11,748.79
Motorola Radios, Antenna and set up	2013	5	\$ 10,994.00
2015 International Dump Truck	2015	10	\$ 141,532.20
Garage - Heat Exchanger	2015	15	\$ 97,110.03
2015 Caterpillar Loader Model 930M	2016	20	\$ 159,900.00
Mulcher/Chopper - Skid	2016	5	\$ 5,670.00
2018 International 7600 Dump Truck	2017	10	\$ 188,988.62
2020 F350 with Plow and Sander	2021	10	\$ 67,675.00
2022 International HV613 Dump Truck with Viking Body	2022	10	\$ 203,272.00
2023 International HV613 Dump Truck	2023	10	\$ 233,573.00
Total Highway Vehicles and Equipment			\$ 1,474,396.64

Planning Commission Report

The Underhill Planning Commission meets the first and third Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm in Town Hall. Meetings are open to the public both in person and remotely. Remote access instructions are included in the meeting warnings and posted on our town's website. We encourage anyone interested in the planning process to review our meeting agendas and attend our meetings.

The Underhill Planning Commission is comprised of 9 commissioners appointed by the Underhill selectboard. While there are currently no vacancies, if you are interested in volunteering for the Planning Commission, please email the chairperson, Brian Tijan, at btijan@gmail.com and he can contact you when we have our next vacancy.

This past year was an eventful one on both the volunteer and town staff level. Sadly, Val Stori resigned as a commissioner since she was moving out of Underhill; however, we were lucky enough to not only fill Val's empty seat, but also our additional vacancy. Boris Seagraves and Carolyn Gregson joined us and have been wonderful additions. On the staff front, our Planning and Zoning Administrator, Nick Atherton, resigned in June and the town has not yet been able to hire a replacement. We'd like to thank Brad Holden and Amanda Bosley for going above and beyond to help fill Nick's shoes until someone can be hired.

As always, our work this past year was guided by the Town Plan that the residents of our town adopted in 2021. The Town Plan sets forth a common vision of how we would like our town to tackle many of the most important issues of the day, including climate resilience, housing growth, and natural resources.

In 2022, a Climate Change Task Force was formed. Their recommendations, in the form of a Climate Action Plan, were submitted to the Planning Commission in Fall of 2023 and we have begun the process of reviewing the plan. Commissioner Sandy Wilmot has taken the lead on scheduling several expert speakers to educate the Planning Commission on some of the recommendations in the report (for example, the role climate change will have on river hydrology and increased flooding risk).

The State of Vermont passed new legislation with respect to Accessory Dwelling Units (more commonly known as "Mother-in-law" or "Granny" suites). Given the grant funded Housing Study that we had completed several years ago, we were in a good position to review our regulations with respect to accessory dwelling units. We have drafted a set of proposed changes to our regulations that we'd like to get to the residents of Underhill this year for their review and comment.

We also spent time this year reviewing language regarding nonconforming lots and proposed a few clarifications that we'd like to get to the residents of Underhill this year for their review and comment.

To round out the list of "hot topics" we reviewed this year, we spent time reviewing the state's new cannabis rules and whether we had to make any adjustments to Underhill's regulations.

Finally, we spent a large amount of our time this year in a review of our Unified Land Use & Zoning Regulation. We have a long way to go and expect this work to occupy much of our time in 2024.

Thank you. The Underhill Planning Commission:

Carolyn Gregson	Sandy Wilmot
Lea Van Winkle	Bart Johnson
David Edson	Tim Frost
Roy Dunphey	Brian Tijan (Chairperson)
Boris Seagraves	

TOWN OF UNDERHILL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REPORT 2024

The Underhill Conservation Commission (UCC) is a nine-member commission appointed by the Underhill Selectboard. The UCC meets monthly at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. The UCC agendas are posted in the following places: Online at underhillvt.gov; the Town Hall, 12 Pleasant Valley Road; the Sharing Shed in Moore Park; and as a courtesy on Front Porch Forum.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 the Vermont legislature passed the law allowing meetings to be conducted remotely without requiring a physical meeting location. Currently the UCC continues to offer a hybrid meeting format of both in-person meetings and virtual meetings via remote access. If you wish to “attend” the meetings, you are welcome to attend in person or by the Go-To-Meeting virtual meeting link or by phone. If you miss the live meeting, videos of the meeting are now available to review at your convenience at Mount Mansfield Community Television (<http://mtmansfieldctv.org>).

As mandated by the Vermont legislature, up to nine commissioners may be appointed to a town’s conservation commission. Vermont conservation commissions’ duties as defined by the Vermont Legislature (See: 24 V.S.A. 4505.) are to: 1. Create inventories and conduct continuing studies of the natural resources of the municipality including ground waters, prime agricultural, forest and other open land; 2. Maintain an inventory of town lands with historic, educational, cultural, scientific, or archaeological values of interest; 3. Recommend the purchase or rights to property; 4. Receive appropriations for operating expenses through the town’s budget; 5. Receive money or grants for the purposes of conservation commission duties; 6. Receive gifts of land or other property; 7. Administer the lands or other property for conservation purposes; 8. Assist the Planning Commission and the Development Review Board by providing advisory environmental evaluations made to those bodies for permits for development; 9. Cooperate with the Selectboard, planning commission, DRB, and the highway committee on matters affecting the local environment or natural resources of the town; 10. Encourage through educational activities the public understanding of local natural resources and conservation needs and best practices.

The UCC mission is to serve the Underhill community. Currently there are three open positions on the UCC. We encourage anyone with an interest in conservation, Underhill’s natural resources, or the future of Underhill in a changing climate to become involved with the UCC. If you are interested in serving on the UCC, please contact one of the UCC commissioners or Brad Holden, Town Administrator.

Underhill Conservation Commission Activities:

1. **Big Tree Contest** jointly sponsored by the NRIMC and UCC.
2. **How Vermont Forests Help Mitigate Climate Change and What You Can Do to Help** with **Ali Kosiba, PhD** , UVM Ext. Assistant Professor of Forestry, Underhill Town Hall, March 23, 2023.
3. **Jumping Worms – What’s New? With Josef Gorres, PhD, Associate Professor, UVM Dept of Plant and Soil Science.** Online presentation, March 30, 2023. Prof. Gorres gave an introduction to the threat that Jumping Worms pose to our forests, gardens, and agriculture and presented the latest research on how to manage this threat.
4. **Green Up Day, May 6, 2023.** Educational information about jumping worms, invasive species, Lyme Disease and ticks, and barbecue celebration of Green Up Day at the Town Garage and Crane Brook Conservation District (CBCD).
5. **How to Measure a Big Tree Workshop, with Don Tobi, MS, Underhill Tree Warden & UVM Plant and Soil Science Dept,** Crane Brook Conservation District, May 6, 2023.
6. **Spring Birding with Rebecca Waterman Workshop** at the CBCD, May 21, 2023.
7. **Monarch Butterfly Workshop Series with Trinity Schroeter, Summer 2023** at CBCD and DRML. This workshop series traced the metamorphosis of the monarch butterfly from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis and ultimately, to adult butterfly. Participants learned why helping the monarchs is important, how to care for the caterpillars and chrysalis, to test for disease, and to tag monarch butterflies then send them on their 2,000+ mile journey to Mexico for the winter.
8. **Underhill Conservation Commission Webpage.** The UCC webpage is revitalized with informative and interesting information. The new UCC page includes announcements, meeting information, and news articles that are of public interest. Special thanks to Betsy Chapek and Amanda Bosley.
9. **Natural Resource Inventory and Mapping Committee (NRIMC)** is a short-term committee to assist the Planning Commission and the UCC in completing an inventory of the town’s natural resources including wetlands and riparian areas, forest blocks, and wildlife corridors. The inventory and mapping will provide data to help guide local town planning and conservation decisions. Phase I is completed, and Phase II of the project which includes field work to verify map data and add wildlife habitats and corridors to the maps is underway.

The UCC could not accomplish assigned duties without the support and help from the town administration and citizens of the town. Many thanks to Brad Holden, Amanda Bosley, Sherri Morin, Jennifer Silpe-Katz, the Underhill Selectboard, Anton Kelsey and Recreation Committee, and the residents of Underhill for your support and involvement in the Town of Underhill Conservation Commission activities and programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen McKnight, Chairperson

Laurie Graham, (Secretary),

Betsy Chapek

Patrick Lamphere

Trinity Schroeter

Annual Report for 2023

The **Natural Resource Inventory and Mapping Committee** is a short-term committee formed in 2020 to assist the Planning Commission and the Conservation Commission to complete an inventory of the town's natural resources. The natural resources inventory and mapping will provide data to better inform us about the health and functioning of our natural communities and help guide local town and conservation planning.

Arrowwood Environmental completed Phase I of the mapping project in 2023 and provided the committee with draft maps and listings of the natural communities and important natural resource features. They were hired to complete Phase II of the project, which will include field work to verify map data and adding wildlife habitats and corridors to the maps. Their work will be done largely during the winter of 2024, making use of snow to track wildlife.

The mapping should be completed by the end of June 2024. The Conservation Commission has included funds in their budget to pay Arrowwood to assist in presenting their findings to Underhill residents. Public forums can be expected over the summer and fall. Town committees can apply the map results to a number of future efforts. To name a few:

- inform land use and conservation planning,
- provide educational opportunities for residents,
- connect landowners with supporting organizations and incentives programs for wildlife and land management practices,
- assist residents with understanding the natural communities on their properties,
- work with neighboring communities for conservation planning at a more regional scale.

Working with the Conservation Commission, we were able to highlight the Big Tree Contest winners from 2022 during Green Up Day. No additional work was done with inventorying Big Trees this year.

Karen McKnight
Penny Miller
Ryan Ochs
Sandy Wilmot

ZONING PERMITS						
Permit #	Permit Type	Property Code	Address	Date Effective	Property Owner/Applicant	Project Description
Z-22-22	Building	VT419	419 VT Rt 15	7/6/2022	Suzanne Tomlinson	Expansion to add walk-in cooler
Z-22-23	Building	PV020	20 Pleasant Valley Rd	7/7/2022	Michael Diffenderfer	Build 22' x 25' garage; relocate 22' x 80' hangar
Z-22-24	Building	PH348	348 Poker Hill Rd	7/15/2022	Matthew Bean	After-the-fact permit for deck and roofed-over porch
Z-22-25	Building	PH097	97 Poker Hill Rd	7/31/2022	Howard & Lee Hendrickson	806 SF poured concrete patio
Z-22-26	Building	HV028	28 Hidden View Rd	7/31/2022	David & Cheryl Ferry	192 SF shed on gravel
Z-22-27	Building	UE014	14 Upper English Settlement Rd	7/31/2022	Justin Fisher	After-the-fact building permit for shed
Z-22-28	Building	HC032	32 Hillcrest Lane	8/3/2022	William Dave Davis	10' x 10' saphouse
Z-22-29	Building	PH008	88 Poker Hill Rd	8/4/2022	Michael Nadeau	480 SF covered deck
Z-22-30	Building	VT779	779 VT Route 15	8/4/2022	Gretchen DeHart	36'x36' garage, 2 story
Z-22-31	Building	IS646	646 Irish Settlement Rd	8/6/2022	David & Sally Baker	20' x 20' covered patio
Z-22-33	Building	ST151	151 Stevensville Rd	8/26/2022	Daniel & Jessica Heath	Garage w/ ADU
Z-22-34	Building	VT640	640 VT Route 15	8/31/2022	Carole Ann & Jeffrey Williams	Garage with storage space above
Z-22-35	Building	FE010	10 Fern Hollow	9/1/2022	Ken & Sue Bahr	Detached garage
Z-22-36	Building	KR042	42 Krug Rd	9/3/2022	Bruce Garappy	Patio
Z-22-37	Building	PN022	23 Pinnacle Rd	9/3/2022	Jonathan Chia	Solar Carport
Z-22-38	Building	RO002	2 Romar Dr	9/13/2022	Kelly Bernasconi	Garage with storage space
Z-22-39	Building	DA014	14 Daudelin Rd		Erik Preiss	Barn

Z-22-40	Building	DW082	82 Downes Rd	10/11/2022	Alex Angelino	Sugarhouse
Z-22-41	Building	AR004	4 Acer Ridge	10/20/2022	Todd Mackenzie	entry porch
Z-22-42	Building	PH444	444 Poker Hill Rd	10/20/2022	Shaun King	Solar Carport (Suncommon)
Z-22-43	Building	TR009	9 Timber Ridge Rd	10/3/2022	Angelo Dorta	Covered deck structure
Z-22-44	Building	DW041	41 Downes Rd	11/13/2022	Timothy Putzier	ADU to existing barn; addition to main house
Z-22-45	Building	HA059	59 Harvey Rd	11/17/2022	James Granzow	WITHDRAWN
Z-22-46	Building	PY019	19 Piney Grove	11/19/2022	Alex Antczak & Vanella Molla	Carriage House w/ attached carport
Z-22-47	Building	VT850	850 VT Rt 15	12/4/2022	Stephen & Teresa Sorrell	Storage shed construction
Z-22-48	Building	JH041	41 Jackson Hill Rd	12/4/2022	Gunnar Johnson & Anne O'Connor	Barn construction
Z-22-49	Building	PH621	621 Poker Hill Rd	12/25/2022	Eric Daigle & Nancy Renaud	2-Story House & Garage Outbuilding
Z-22-50	Building	MU049	49 Mullen Rd	12/8/2022	Michael & Stacy Lang	Expansion to add 1 bed; finish basement
Z-22-52	Building	HA059	59 Harvey Rd	12/28/2022	James Granzow	Garage construction (new build)
Z-23-01	Building	HA059	59 Harvey Rd	1/26/2023	James Granzow	Dwelling - Single Family
Z-23-02	Building	ML097	97 Maple Leaf Rd	2/8/2023	Dennis Curran	Dwelling - Single Family
Z-23-03	Temporary Structure	PH505	505 Poker Hill Rd	1/18/2023	Jacob Kesze	Dwelling - Single Family
Z-23-04	Building	WH026	26 Wheeler Rd	2/19/2023	John & Angela Hermoian	Dwelling - Single Family
HB-23-01	Home Occupation	PV079	79 Pleasant Valley Rd	2/22/2023	Liam Ferrell	Home Occupation
Z-23-06	Conversion/Change of Use	ML081	81 Maple Leaf Rd	2/28/2023	Jennifer Silpe-Katz	Dwelling - Accessory

Z-23-07	Building	BV029	29 Beaverbrook Hill	3/6/2023	Dean Jones	Accessory
HB-23-02	Home Occupation	LE099	99 Lower English Settlement Rd	3/12/2023	Christine O'Neill	Home Occupation
Z-23-08	Building	LE099	99 Lower English Settlement Rd	3/12/2023	Christine O'Neill	Accessory
Z-23-09	Building	HV016	16 Hidden View	3/24/2023	Edward Beebe	Addition
Z-23-10	Building	IS214	14 Irish Settlement Rd	3/22/2023	Jay & Cindy Labare	Accessory/Addition
HB-23-03	Home Occupation	ED008	8 Edgemont Rd	3/17/2023	Betsy Evans	Home Occupation
Z-22-40A	Building	DW082	82 Downes Rd	4/5/2023	Alex Angelino	Accessory
Z-23-11	Building	KR016	16 Krug Rd	4/19/2023	Kate & Patrick Stevens	Dwelling - Single Family
Z-23-12	Building	MT071	71 Mountain Rd	4/11/2023	Boris Seagraves	Accessory
Z-23-13	Building	RE85	85 Repa Rd	4/11/2023	Pete Czaja	Accessory
Z-23-14	After-the-Fact Building	KR046	46 Krug Rd	4/17/2023	Lindsay Pigeon	Conversion
Z-23-15	Conversion/Change of Use	IS339	339 Irish Settlement Rd	4/17/2023	Christopher & Michelle Case	Conversion
Z-23-16	Building	PH600	Poker Hill Rd		Eric Kelley	Dwelling - Single Family
Z-23-17	Building	KR042	42 Krug Rd	5/2/2023	Bruce Garrapy	Accessory
Z-23-18	Building	WC037	37 Warner Creek Rd	5/9/2023	John Mitiguy	Dwelling - Single Family
Z-23-19	Building	BT024	24 Bridle Trail	5/16/2023	Philip Bolen & Sara Paradis	Accessory
Z-22-12 E	Building	MN005	5 Mins Lane	5/12/2023	Elena & Theodore Alexander	In ground Pool
Z-23-20	Building	PC017	17 Paul Cook	5/26/2023	Teri Edgerley	Deck
Z-23-21	Conversion/Change of Use	SO13	13 South Hill Drive	6/22/2023	Keith Johnson	Accessory
Z-23-22	Building	MD025	25 Meadow Lane	6/1/2023	Kellen Ingalls	Shed
Z-23-23	Building	VT863	863 VT RT 15	6/23/2023	Timothy Janson	Mudroom/deck
Z-23-24	Building	TU033	33 Tupper Road	6/30/2023	Mark Osborne	Deck

CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY						
Permit #		Property Code	Address	Date Effective	Property Owner	Project Description
CO-22-03	Certificate of Occupancy	IS319	319 Irish Settlement Rd	10/8/2022	Michael Moore	Single Family Home
CO-22-04	Certificate of Occupancy	CD075	75 Cloverdale	10/6/2022	Darah Zurit	Accessory Dwelling
CO-22-05	Certificate of Occupancy	PV170	170 Pleasant Valley Rd	10/10/2022	Dave McDonnell, III	Single Family Home
CO-22-06	Certificate of Occupancy	HA087	87 Harvey Rd	9/22/2022	Jesse & Rachel McEntee	Accessory Dwelling
CO-22-07	Certificate of Occupancy	NU075	75 North Underhill Station Rd	11/2/2022	Antoine Catudal	Single Family Home
CO-19-15	Ceritificate of Occupancy	PV625	625 Pleasant Valley Rd	2/28/2023	David Sills	Single Family Home

BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT/AGREEMENTS PERMITS						
Permit #		Property Code	Address	Date Effective	Property Owners	Project Description
BLA-22-01	Boundary Line Adjustment	IS339 & IS319	339 & 319 Irish Settlement Rd	11/15/2022	Case & Moore	Boundary Line Adjustment
BLA-22-02	Boundary Line Adjustment	ST065 & ML117	117 Maple Leaf Rd & 65 Stevensville	1/27/2023	Durbrow & Underhill Farm	Boundary Line Adjustment
BLA-23-01	Boundary Line Adjustment	MD049 & MD053	49 & 53 Meadow Ln	6/13/2023	Bernasconi & Cameron	Boundary Line Adjustment

HOME BUSINESS PERMITS						
Permit #		Property Code	Address	Date Effective	Property Owner	Project Description
HB-22-02		UE014	14 Upper English Settlement RD	7/31/2022	Tommy Fisher	Cannibis cultivation
HB-23-02		LE099	99 Lower English Settlement Rd	4/18/2023	David Johnson	Yoga Studio

SUBDIVISION PERMITS						
Permit #		Property Code	Address	Date Effective	Property Owner	Project Description

EXEMPTIONS						
Permit #		Property Code	Address	Date Effective	Property Owner	Project Description
AG-22-01		DW086	86 Downes Rd	9/23/2022	Benjamin Butler	28' x 40' Barn
		DA014	14 Daudelin Rd	4/25/2023	Erik & Lori Preiss	24' x 32' Barn
		IS419	419 Irish Settlement Rd	4/17/2023	Alex & Monica John	14' x 10' Sauna

Access Permits						
Permit #		Property Code	Address	Date Effective	Property Owner	Project Description
A-22-04	Access Permit	PH621	621 Poker Hill Rd	8/13/2022	Eric Daigle	Access to a pre-existing lot
A-22-05	Access Permit	HA059	59 Harvey Rd	9/30/2022	James Granzow	Moving driveway
A-22-06	Access Permit	KR016	16 Krug Rd	10/11/2022	Kate & Patrick Stevens	Access to a pre-existing lot
A-22-07	Access Permit	BB007	7 Brook Bend	10/29/2022	ason & Sara Ritte	Expanding Driveway
A-22-08	Access Permit	UE165	165 Upper English Settlement Rd	12/22/2023 3	Michael Fullem	WITHDRAWN
A-22-09	Access Permit	PY019	19 Piney Grove	10/11/2022	Alek Antczak & Vanessa Molla	Access to a pre-existing lot
A-22-10	Access Permit	DA014	14 Daudelin Rd	10/19/2022	Erik Preiss	New curb cut to new barn

A-22-11	Access Permit	DW041	41 Downes Rd	12/7/2022	Rhonda Dinwiddie	New driveway to new accessory dwelling
A-22-12	Access Permit	PV071	71 Pleasant Valley Rd	9/22/2022	Keith Lane-Zucker & Martha Lane	Access to a pre-existing lot
A-22-13	Access Permit	MT002X	2 Mountain Rd	12/1/2022	Town of Underhill	Season parking area on Tomasi Meadow
A-23-01	Access Permit	PH497	497 Poker Hill RD	1/23/2023	Reginald Mathieu & Margaret Mongeon	Access to a pre-existing lot

DRB Docket						
DRB Docket #	Status	Property Code	Address	Date of Hearing	Property Owner	Project Description
DRB-22-02	Approved	VT422	422 VT Route 15	03/02/2022, 09/19/2022, 04/03/2023	Philip Jacobs	Sketch Plan Review
DRB-22-03	Approved	IS319	319 Irish Settlement Rd	08/29/2022, 02/06/2023, 05/15/2023	Michael Moore	Subdivision
DRB-21-11	Approved	PH497	497 Poker Hill Rd	10/3/2022	Reginald Mathieu & Margaret Mongeon	Subdivision
DRB-21-07	Approved	PG040	40 Page Rd	07/18/2022, 10/03/2022, 11/07/2022, 01/09/2023	Peter & Pamela Bates	Subdivision

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The more things change the more they stay the same. The opening of the 2022 Development Review Board (DRB) town report highlighted the addition of Nick Atherton as our new Planning and Zoning Administrator. Well the 2023 report may sound familiar as Nick departed for greener pastures taking a planning position with the city of South Burlington, something he was passionate about. While we wish Nick well in his new job, here we are again, opening the search for a new Planning & Zoning Administrator. Again, the Board thanks Brad Holden, the Town Administrator, who has been performing the permitting and zoning functions, in addition to the town administrator responsibilities since Nick's departure in the spring. We are actively seeking candidates to fill the position. If you, or anyone you know, are perhaps interested in the position, please review the job posting on the town website.

The past couple of years featured some discussion of the pandemic and the paradigm shift in our quest to define the new way of doing business for the DRB. Since the Vermont legislature has passed the law permitting public meetings to be conducted remotely without requiring a physical location for the public to gather, our new normal process has integrated a hybrid meeting structure that allows interested parties to participate in the meeting either in person or via remote teleconference. While there are some occasional technology hiccups, the new format allows for easier public participation.

The hybrid meeting structure also allows for the town to conduct its business from anywhere there is a broadband connection. The benefit of the hybrid meeting is the increased availability for the public to participate in the review process. At the DRB, we value public participation and plan on continuing to offer the meetings in hybrid mode. If you miss the live meeting, videos of the meeting are now available to review at your convenience at Mount Mansfield Community Television (<http://mtmansfieldctv.org>). We continue to feel the remote participation option provides another opportunity for transparency in the review process.

The DRB consists of a seven-member board with three Alternate positions appointed by the Selectboard and functions in a quasi-judicial capacity for purposes of interpreting and making land use decisions which go beyond the authority granted to the Zoning Administrator. The DRB is an interpretative board which typically reviews cases that involve subdivision of land, variance requests, and conditional uses and is the appellate board to decisions made by the Zoning Administrator. In November 2018, the voters assigned components of the road ordinance to the jurisdiction of the DRB. The quasi-judicial aspect of the Board means that we follow specific rules of procedure when considering a case that is brought before the Board and our decisions are appealable to the Environmental Division of VT Superior Court. We try to maintain a high level of transparency in the evidentiary and decision-making process and are guided by the Town Plan when encountering a conflict in the regulations.

Many of us choose to live in a rural environment like Underhill for the quality of life, quality of schools, small town atmosphere, and access to the outdoors. The Development Review Board serves as a feedback conduit to the Planning Commission, the town board charged with crafting our development regulations. We often communicate specific issues, situations, or concerns encountered during the development review process. Land use and development is sometimes an emotionally charged affair that affects our greatest attribute—the town.

While our board contains a diverse cross section of the Underhill population, we are only as good as the level of participation. There are no prerequisites, qualifications, or minimum experience levels required to be on this board. We encourage anyone with an interest in the development process, the growth of the town, or the future of Underhill to become involved with either the Development Review Board or the Planning Commission. The Development Review Board has regular meetings on the first and third Mondays of the month at 6:30 PM. Meetings are open to the public and held at the Town Hall and remotely. Remote access instructions are included in the meeting warnings and posted on the town website. Contact Brad Holden, the interim Planning & Zoning Administrator, at 802-899-4434 x7, (bholden@underhillvt.gov) with questions, technical questions, or to request the meeting link. We will continue to maintain the remote access option as part of the Development Review Board process and encourage anyone with an interest to attend a meeting either live online, in-person, or via recorded link from MMCTV.

The Development Review Board members are:

Charles “Charlie” Van Winkle, Chairperson
Matt Chapek, Co-Clerk
Karen McKnight
Daniel Lee
Meg Armstrong (2023 Alternate)

Brian Bertsch, Vice Chairperson
Mark Green, Co-Clerk
Shanie Bartlett
Penny Miller (2023 Alternate)
Mark Hamelin (2023 Alternate)

Underhill Energy Committee Annual Report, 2023

The Energy Committee (UEC) was created by the Underhill Selectboard in 2008. The mission of the Energy Committee is to:

- Study and make recommendations that reduce energy consumption in town assets: buildings, equipment, etc.
- Provide public forums that educate Underhill citizens on how to reduce energy consumption in their homes, buildings, motorized equipment, and lifestyles.
- Encourage the community to move to clean sources of low carbon energy such as solar.
- Assist in analyzing and/or implementing energy projects as designated by Selectboard.
- Help in the development or revision of a town energy plan.

As in previous year(s), the UEC has undertaken to expand its information, education, and outreach activities. This is based on our understanding that the vast majority of energy demand and greenhouse gas (GHG) generation in Underhill are a product of our individual decisions as residents. Activities in furtherance of this include:

- In cooperation with the Jericho Energy Task Force (JETF) we have continued to staff a roughly monthly energy booth at the Jericho Farmers Market (JFM). This booth included information, exhibits, and demonstrations, including solar appliances and electric tools as well as members of both organizations to promote our activities and answer questions.
- In cooperation with the Jericho Energy Task Force for the second year, we offered an EV demonstration event at BRMS. This event was well attended with more than a dozen EV owners joining in with their vehicles. Both GMP and Drive Electric Vermont also attended and supported the event with staff, information, and display materials as well as a well-attended presentation by Drive Electric VT at DRML in conjunction with the event.

After lengthy delays, mostly for Covid, our planned pre-audit program for weatherization assistance is up and running full speed. We completed our third audit at the Heh home on Saturday 9 September. We have completed four audits including evaluation and recommendations for the Historical Society's schoolhouse building and three private residences with about 11 more requests in the queue who answered the Front Porch Forum post. We are working on a tracking system and we hope to work through the list as quickly as possible. In one or more instances we have found a number of issues for the homeowner and we have offered to extend our involvement to work with them to help correct them. This is as envisioned to move homeowners down the path through testing, analysis, consulting, and assistance. We believe that this program could be of real assistance to individual Underhillians and help us achieve reduced energy demand and GHG generation.

For the time being we have enough prospects in our queue to keep busy for quite a while, but when we have made a bit more progress, we hope to open it up for more of our neighbors to join in. We will be announcing in FPF.

The UEC has participated with two town committees: the ARPA projects committee and the Climate Task Force, to assist them in performing their missions especially with energy and GHG related issues.

- The ARPA committee advanced four energy-related projects to the Selectboard, three of which were accepted directly and are in the process of being implemented, e.g., electrical upgrades to the Town Hall including (finally) replacing all lighting with LEDs and emergency generators for both the Town Hall and Town Garage to enable reliable operation under increasingly dubious climate/weather conditions such as the flooding experienced by many VT communities in this and recent years
- A fourth recommended project--for Town Hall solar--was referred back to the Energy Committee for further refinement before implementation and is currently under development.
- The Climate Task Force has completed a Climate Action Plan and has forwarded it to the Planning Commission.

UEC has submitted an application under the VT MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience Program) to perform energy resilience assessments for four Town structures, including Town Hall, Town Garage, Schoolhouse, and Underhill Center Post Office. As of this writing we are waiting to hear from the State. Facility audits to begin in early Q1 2024.

UEC is currently developing a solar "farms"/access program designed to facilitate solar energy for individual home/landowners and possibly for one or more community solar array(s) (CSA). This program is currently being formulated and we expect to unveil it in 2024. Please stay tuned for future information and announcements.

Energy Committee Members for 2022: Michael Oman: Chair, Dwight DeCoster, Vice-Chair, Steve Webster, Ravi Parikh, Jon Byson, and Graham Chapeck; and thanks to our emeritus members who continue to contribute: Gerry Adams and Peter Bennett (previous Chair),

Underhill Recreation Committee Report

Summary:

The Underhill Town Recreation Committee continued to increase recreation opportunities and utilization of our town parks in 2023. The following actions were completed by the Committee:

1. Maintained the skating rink in Moore Park.
2. Organized three music and food truck events at Moore Park.
3. Worked with Mansfield Nordic Club to organize the second annual *Tomasi Meadow Trot*, to promote and support winter trail maintenance in Tomasi Meadow.
4. Submitted proposals to secure funding through ARPA for a rebound wall and playground equipment at the town recreation area.
5. Continued to champion efforts to build a sidewalk In Underhill Center resulting in a significant commitment from the Town to support the effort.
6. Maintained the Town Pond and held an opening day celebration to encourage utilization of the newly improved Town Recreation Area.
7. Held a rainy pumpkin carving event to create a spooky pumpkin display in Moore Park.

Details:

Fall/Winter Recreation: The Recreation Committee was excited to bring back the fall pumpkin carving event this year due to another generous donation of pumpkins from Chamberlin's Farm. Despite some rainy weather, there was a good turn out and it resulted in the best pumpkin display yet! In November, the committee again organized a fun run and fundraising event in Tomasi Meadow but this year partnered with Mansfield Nordic Club which resulted in improved race logistics and participation. The committee is looking forward to working with MNC for trail maintenance and future events. In the winter, the committee, along with a number of local volunteers, again worked hard to keep the ice clear and smooth for residents to enjoy all winter. The committee also continues to support and promote sledding and nordic skiing at Casey's Hill and Tomasi Meadow.

Summer Recreation: In the spring, the committee's attention turned to planning food truck nights and opening the town recreation area on Stevensville Road. The recreation committee has made several improvements to the recreation area in the past two years so an opening day celebration was held for residents to join friends and neighbors to enjoy these improvements. As anticipated, the improvements have increased the popularity of the recreation area.

We hope that residents have enjoyed these enhancements to the town recreation program and thanks to all who have volunteered or helped in any way. Feedback is always welcomed and can be directed to the committee chair, Anton Kelsey. If you know of a young person who wants to be a part of the Recreation Committee, please contact the Chair, Anton Kelsey, or the Town Administrator at the Town Hall.

The Committee would like to thank long time Underhill resident Peter Davis for his efforts in maintaining ski trails in Moore Park. In addition, we would like to thank Adam Terko and Mansfield Nordic Club for their help with the Tomasi Meadow Trot. Finally, thank you to Paul Chamberlin for providing pumpkins for the pumpkin carving event.

2024 Committee Members: Anton Kelsey (Chair), Emilie Soisson (Communications Director), Seth Friedman, Rob Williams, Isabel Tuck, Lynne Kemp, Levi McEntee and Gunnar Johnston.

Underhill Highways Infrastructure and Equipment Committee

Members : Clarke Elliott, , Kurt Johnson, Andy Rowe, Russ Clark, Mike Weisel

The major infrastructure project this year was the repair of the Poker Hill / North Underhill Station culverts. The rainy weather this summer made it difficult to schedule this project, but fortunately, we finally got a break in early October that was long enough to complete both culvert repairs together. The work was done by Anchor Foundations with assistance from our road crew in getting the stream water diverted. We expect this repair work will extend the useable life by a good 10-15 years. This project prompted us to inspect the 50 plus large culverts in Town to see if there are any other large ones in marginal shape that would benefit from this type of repair. Fortunately, most of the ones we inspected are in very good condition. However, there are a few that we found that are candidates for repair within the next 5 years and they have been incorporated into the 10 year capital spending outlook. In addition, the committee initiated a project to mitigate beaver issues at the Corbett Road bridge that was built a few years ago. The baffle pipe built at that time was plugged and the beavers began building a dam under the bridge, so after considerable research we recommended the Town hire a specialist to address the problem. As such Skip Lisle was brought in and built a state of the art beaver baffle upstream of the bridge after the road crew rebuilt the beaver dam. We're interested in the approach he uses to enable beavers to coexist with us in a fashion that works for both. Unfortunately, Mother nature intervened with two major water events that compromised the man-made beaver dam. We are in the midst of working through the next steps to take.

At the beginning of the year we submitted a grant application for a VTRANS grant to pave a section of Pleasant Valley Road. We were not on the priority list again this year and after discussing it with them, it looks like we're another 2-3 years away from getting an award. As such we will not be applying for one this spring and now plan to pave Irish Settlement Road in 2024. In 2022 we doubled up on paving projects, so no paving was done in 2023. Crack sealing was performed again by Freshcoat Sealcoating for the 2nd year of 3 year contract with them for this. We also submitted a grant for replacing bridge 7 on Pleasant Valley Road at the intersection of Deane Road. This bridge has been on our radar for quite a while. Due to salt use it's degrading faster than the Mountain Road box culvert that we just received a grant for. After talking with Vtrans and the selectboard about the probability for a grant award for bridge 7, it was decided to return the Mountain Road grant to improve our position to obtain a grant for bridge 7 this year. Unfortunately, and not surprisingly, the rules for this don't allow the Town to reallocate funds for a different project. This lead to getting the upstream wingwall fortified to buy some additional time on the Mountain Road structure.

To avoid some redundancy, equipment plans won't be reported here, but instead should be available in the Road Supervisors report.

As always, we updated cost figures for future equipment, infrastructure and paving projects included in the 10 year capital spending outlook. This helps guide the SB during budget development for FY25 and beyond.

The committee welcomes constructive feedback from the community on major capital infrastructure, equipment and paving projects.

FOREST FIRE WARDEN REPORT

We have issued 346 burn permits as of Dec. 29th, 2023.

A permit is required for outdoor burning of brush, weeds and grass. A permit is not required if there is snow on the ground at the site of the fire. The warden may refuse to issue a permit if in his judgment the weather or site conditions create a dangerous situation. A permit in no way relieves the person starting the fire of any responsibility for any damage that might occur. This person may be billed at the State rates for suppression of the fire.

Feel free to call Nate or myself any time for a permit or with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Parker Ripley - (802) 734-7114

Nathan Goldman - (802) 363-3548

Monday through Friday 7:00 am to 3:30 pm you can also call Deputy Chief Andy Forsberg at the Underhill Fire Station at (802) 899-4025

A quick reminder:

The State of Vermont has banned the use of back yard burning barrels. You cannot burn garbage, paper, cardboard, building materials, plastic, asphalt, Styrofoam, or synthetic materials. You can burn natural wood (untreated and unpainted) grass and weeds.

Underhill Forest Fire Warden
Parker Ripley

Town Health Officer Report

The role of a Vermont Town Health Officer has been in existence for well over 100 years. Initially this role involved controlling the spread of communicable disease. Today, the majority of a Town Health Officer's work has shifted toward environmental health issues revolving around rental housing sanitation, failed septic systems, unsafe drinking water, and animal bites. Essentially my role is to investigate and mitigate any potential or existing public health hazard in our community. I work in close consultation with the Vermont Department of Health.

My background is that I am a retired Nurse Practitioner. I have a lengthy history of working with Federal Government teams during various disasters as well.

I was appointed my commission as Town Health Officer for Underhill on 6/1/2022 for a three-year term by Mark A. Levine, MD Vermont's Commissioner of Health. Prior to this I served as Deputy Town Health officer for Underhill with Patrick Lamphere as the Town Health Officer (THO) for 3 years.

With the small number of rental properties in Underhill, there were no rental housing complaints for 2023. Animal bites are the most common complaint I receive. Those numbers were 5 dog bites, 1 cat bite, and 1 raccoon bite. (It appears our community animals are mostly well behaved!) I am typically notified by Emergency Department staff and Urgent Care Centers regarding these as health care providers are required to report to the THO within 24 hours the name, age, and address of any person who has been bitten by an animal. Rabies, of course, is the main concern. If a health care provider was not seen, veterinarians or persons bitten by an animal should report it to the THO.

Please do not hesitate to call on me for any concerns or questions that you need more information. I have a number of resources readily available to assist with a wide variety of health and safety concerns. It is a privilege to serve as Underhill's Town Health Officer. Here's to a healthy and safe 2024!

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Moore

Underhill Town Health Officer

802-373-3744

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Child	Sex	Parents
Brynleigh Renee Butler	F	Mikaela and Tristan Butler
Kaia Margaret Butler	F	Robin and Andrew Butler
Diego John Comforto	M	Krystina and Richard Comforto
Cosmo William Story Corbin	M	Adwoa Adu-Damoan
Lily Renee Dvorak	F	Lauren and Thomas Dvorak
Adeline Fleu Gruet-Matthews	F	Nicol Gruet-Matthews and Christian Matthews
Evelyn Marjorie Hazelton	F	Caitlin and Bryant Hazleton
Maeve Amelia Japp	F	Carolyn Crotty and Kevin Japp
Laramie Mae Krusch	F	Jessica and Sean Krush
Mira Joan Mihok Larson	F	Jennifer Mihok and Christopher Larson
Leo John Robert Levesque	M	Tayler and Daniel Levesque
Reminton Scott Miller	M	Ceres Porter and Kyle Miller
Warren Sage Mulcahy	M	Kelly and Tyler Mulcahy
Fern Kennedy Orlandi	F	Jennifer Kennedy and Simone Orlandi
James Brian Paroline	M	Julie and Micah Paroline
Lyla May Premo	F	Michelle Nukic and Cole Premo
William Gregory Raymond	M	Katelyn and Dylan Raymond
Mason Mandeville Robet	M	Emily and Justin Robert
Rhiannon Sophie-Liyne Sexton	F	Jessica and Nicolas Pileggi
Ezra Hawkes Simpson	M	Sabra and Ira Simpson
Ryker Reminton Sterling	M	Brittany and Mark Sterling
Callie Mae Whitcomb	F	Naomi and Benjamin Whitcomb
Lettie Jane Wilson	F	Maci Heal and Stephen Wilson
Naomi Jean Wyckoff	F	Rachel and Jordan Wyckoff
Beckett Antonia Kimbell Yeates	M	Kady and Braden Yeates

DEATHS

Name	Age	Place of Death
Shelia Aiken	76	Colchester
James Bedell	63	Burlington
Margaret Beloin	71	Georgia
Catherine Carlson	95	Colchester
Katherine Clark	88	Colchester
Jean Danaher	93	Underhill
Elliot Danforth	89	Colchester
David Del Toro	61	Underhill
Diane Dufresne	65	Colchester
Brian McLaughlin	53	Colchester
Roger McLaughlin	84	Colchester
Julia Northrop	95	Underhill
David Rines	81	Burlington

Joyce Rines	83	Burlington
Marion Sturtevant	93	Underhill
Marie Tedford	99	Burlington
Marilyn Weir	91	Essex

CIVIL MARRIAGES

Katherine Beauregard & Michael Ringuette December 5, 2023	Jayananda Carr & Nina Lorenz July 18, 2023
Keegan Cummings & Karly Meacham October 13, 2023	Colin Riggs & Diane Abruzzini July 14, 2023
Kaylee Mumford & Jason Hartman October 3, 2023	Holly Greenleaf & John Murphy August 12, 2023
Julia Balionis & Matthew Irwin September 16, 2023	Cristine O'Neill & David Johnson February 5, 2023
Emily Charland & Raymond Moore September 16, 2023	Jenna Katzman & Tom Atkins July 8, 2023
Louis Kindt & Heidi Durkee October 6, 2023	Rebecca Wolff & Alec Jacobson June 10, 2023
Matthew Maskell & Jessica Turner September 2023	James Duke & Alexandria Doyle March 4, 2023
Andrew Mackechnie & Lauren Patter September 9, 2023	Luca Dolan & Inez Bouzon May 18, 2023
Ashley Ostrander & Brandon Davis August 12, 2023	Judith Contompasis & Henry Kellogg June 24, 2023
Sydney Little & Gregory Vredenburgh July 22, 2023	Courtney Liberty & William Macone June 18, 2023
Melissa Petersen David Brandt July 29, 2023	Elodie Reed & Adron Pitmon November 8, 2023

CASEY'S HILL

FOR WINTER RECREATION USE

Casey's Hill is owned by the Town of Underhill and is for sledding only.

Sled at your own risk. Sledding is permitted during daylight hours and only when snow conditions permit. Sledding is not allowed on the Mountain Road side of the hill.

The designated parking area, on Mountain Road, is for Casey's Hill and Tomasi Meadow users only, and is for the safety and convenience of recreators and families with children. If the lot is full, park at the Underhill Central School. Please **DO NOT** park on Mountain Road, Pleasant Valley Road or New Road. These roads must be kept open for emergency vehicles at all times.

No snowmobiles, RV's or other vehicles are permitted on Casey's Hill or the Tomasi Meadow

Thank you for your cooperation.

TOWN SKATING RINK

Thanks to the efforts of the Underhill Recreation Committee, augmented by additional volunteers, the Town Skating Rink at Moore Park in Underhill Center is open seasonally. Note that skating conditions will not always be perfect! Beware of soft spots and rough edges. Always skate according to the prevailing conditions.

Please adhere to the following:

- Hours of Operation: Dawn to dusk unless otherwise posted.
- Do not use the rink/ice when the Closed sign is posted.
- Skate at your own risk.
- Helmets are recommended.
- No glass containers.
- No drugs or alcohol.
- All skaters age 8 and under must be supervised at all times by an adult.
- While on ice, skaters are not allowed to carry children or other people.
- No running, horseplay, or unruly behavior.
- No food or beverages allowed on the ice.
- No hockey sticks or pucks except as hours of operation permit.
- Skating in a manner that endangers or interferes with other skaters' safety or pleasure is prohibited.

Thank you for your cooperation.

TOMASI MEADOW

In early 2018, the Tomasi family started talking with Jericho Underhill Land Trust (JULT) and Vermont Land Trust (VLT) about the family's need to sell their property along Pleasant Valley Road. They very much wanted to see if there were an option to keep the meadow leading up to Casey's Hill undeveloped while satisfying their family's needs. A Town acquisition of the property was agreed upon, with the family, and they generously sold the land to the Town for less than its appraised value.

Based upon the Interim Management Plan adopted August 2020

Allowed activities on the property during the interim period include:

- Continued haying of the meadow.
- Use by the general public for low-impact, non-motorized, activities such as walking, running, and skiing.
- Grooming for cross-country skiing.
- Mowing a path around the exterior of the meadow.
- Erecting appropriate signage.
- Boundary marking.
- Maintaining pre-existing trails.
- Birding and Wildlife observation.
- Outdoor education for all ages.
- Dogs on leashes.

Activities that are prohibited during the interim period include:

- Recreational use of motorized vehicles (prohibited in the conservation easement).
- Recreational snowmobile use.
- Camping.
- Hunting (prohibited to protect public safety on a relatively small, open meadow with significant public recreational use)
- Horse-back riding.
- Mountain biking.
- No discharge of firearms.
- No fires.

The designated parking area, on Mountain Road, is for Casey's Hill and Tomasi Meadow users only, and is for the safety and convenience of recreators and families with children. If the lot is full, park at the Underhill Central School. Please DO NOT park on Mountain Road, Pleasant Valley Road or New Road. These roads must be kept open for emergency vehicles at all times.

Thank you for your cooperation.

TOWN OF UNDERHILL ORDINANCE FOR WINTER PARKING AND OPERATIONS PLAN

The Winter Parking Ordinance is in effect from November 1st through April 30th. No vehicles are to be parked on town roads during these months. **VEHICLES WILL BE TOWED AT OWNER'S EXPENSE.**

Plow routes are set up to open the major traffic routes and school bus routes first. The road crew usually starts operations at 3:30 am to have these roads clear by 7:00 am. In most cases there will be no maintenance between 8:00 pm and 3:00 am. Each road crew member has a specific route that takes approximately 4 ½ hours to complete. After 16 hours on the job, they are required to stop operations and take off a minimum of 6 hours. The Town does not plow Class IV and private roads. Salt will be applied to paved roads with a minimum amount of sand added as necessary. (Salt is not effective when the road temperature is below 20 degrees). Sand will be applied to the gravel roads.

The road crew makes every effort to avoid mailboxes. However, because of snow conditions or on-coming traffic, the plows occasionally hit them. The town has permitted mailboxes to be located in the Town right-of-way. If the mailboxes are damaged as a result of snow or ice clearing operations, the town will not repair or replace them. However, if you are certain that your mailbox was hit by the snowplow, directly, and not pushed over by snow, please contact the Town Administrator.

Please note: according to 23 VSA§1126a, it is illegal to plow snow from private property on or across public highways.

Chittenden County Service Delivery

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Disaster Response

In the past year, the American Red Cross has responded to **52 disaster cases** in **Chittenden County**, providing assistance to **118 individuals**. Most commonly, these incidents were home fires. Red Cross workers were on the scene to provide food, clothing, lodging, emotional support, and more to families during their hours of greatest need. Our teams also provide Mass Care to first responders. Things like food, water, and warm drinks strengthen the brave people of your local Fire and Police Departments as they answer the call to keep your residents safe.

Town/City	Disaster Events	Individuals	Town/City	Disaster Events	Individuals
Burlington	25	43	Shelburne	1	5
Essex Junction	4	15	South Burlington	1	1
Jericho	2	7	Westford	1	1
Milton	9	18	Williston	1	3
Richmond	1	4	Winooski	7	21

Home Fire Campaign

Last year, Red Cross staff and volunteers worked throughout Chittenden County to educate residents on fire, safety and preparedness. We made **25 homes safer** by helping families develop emergency evacuation plans.

Blood Drives

We collected **13,147** pints of lifesaving blood at **507** drives in Chittenden County.

Training Services

Last year, **2,329 Chittenden County residents** were taught a variety of important lifesaving skills such as First Aid, CPR, Babysitting Skills and Water Safety.



Service to the Armed Forces

We proudly assisted **56 of Chittenden County's Service Members, veterans, and their families** by providing emergency communications and other services, including counseling and financial assistance.

Volunteer Services

Chittenden County is home to **162 American Red Cross Volunteers**. We have volunteers from all walks of life, who are trained and empowered to respond to disasters in the middle of the night, to teach safety courses, to help at our many blood drives, and so much more. The American Red Cross is proud that 90% of its staff is made up of volunteers; they are truly the heart and soul of our organization.





Scouts BSA

Troop 627

The Underhill/Jericho Scouts BSA Troop has been a proud member of this community since 1963. Our communities are blessed with some outstanding members who volunteer their time, every week, to the advancement of our youth through the Scout program. Without the adult leaders, our program would not survive. “Thank You” to everyone who has been a part of this program over the past 60 years. Our Troop recently celebrated its 87th Eagle Scout! A very proud accomplishment! We currently have 25 scouts enrolled in our program. We are fortunate to have one of the most active troops in Vermont. Through our volunteers, we are able to provide a wide range of activities for the scouts to participate in. In 2023, we had five more Scouts achieve the rank of Eagle Scout! The Eagle Scout projects have benefited; MMU Music program, the Josh Pallotta House, Mills Riverside Park, Essex Rescue, and MMU disc golf course. In the coming months and in 2024, we have more Scouts in the process of completing their Eagle projects. This year we continue to have enthusiastic and energetic families who want to administer an excellent program for our youth to meet new challenges and to explore the outdoors.

Jason Ritter
Scoutmaster

Honalee Jones
Committee Chair

Steven Bailey
Charter Organization
Representative

Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) Fiscal Year 2023 Summary

The Chittenden Solid Waste District is a municipality created to implement solid waste management mandates legislated by the State of Vermont. The District is governed by a Board of Commissioners representing the communities of Chittenden County, Vermont.

OUR MISSION

The Chittenden Solid Waste District's mission is to reduce and manage the solid waste generated within Chittenden County in an environmentally sound, efficient, effective, and economical manner.

FINANCIALS

Thanks to continued conservative budgeting and belt-tightening, the Chittenden Solid Waste District remained on strong financial footing in Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023). The District's unaudited FY23 total operating expenses were \$11,977,611.33 and operating revenues were \$13,697,757.70 for a net surplus of \$1,720,146.37 to be used for general reserves.

SOLID WASTE GENERATION AND DIVERSION

The residents, businesses, and institutions of our 18 member towns and cities generated an estimated 309,781 tons of materials to be managed in calendar year 2022, compared with 305,404 tons in 2021, with the increase likely due to increased construction and overall economic activity. Chittenden County continues to be among the national leaders in landfill diversion, with an estimated 67.8% of those materials recovered in 2022 via composting (food scraps, leaves, and yard trimmings), anaerobic digestion, blue-bin recycling, recycling of construction and demolition materials and other special materials recycling. The [2022 Diversion Report](#) is available on our website.

MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

New Materials Recycling Facility Bond Approved by Voters

In the November 2022 General Election, Chittenden County voters approved authorization for the Chittenden Solid Waste District to issue general obligation bonds to fund a new Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) to sort and process blue-bin recyclables, and which will replace our current thirty-year-old MRF. The results showed over 80% voted in favor of the MRF ballot initiative.

CSWD will supplement the \$22 million in approved general obligation bonds and notes with funds from reserves and grants. The loans will be repaid from MRF operating revenue. The District will begin permitting and design in 2023 with construction completed in 2025.

Improvements Made at Organics Recycling Facility

Significant improvements were made at the CSWD Organics Recycling Facility (ORF) including site reconfiguration to improve operations and traffic flow, relocation of the commercial scale, renovation of an existing building to house the main office and the installation of a waterline to bring water further down Redmond Road. The improvements were made to increase efficiency in operations, improve traffic safety entering and exiting the facility, and to add yard waste collection for the public.

CSWD Administration Moves to South Burlington Offices

COVID-19 demonstrated the necessity of healthy and safe working facilities and the shortcomings of CSWD's Administration offices at 1021 Redmond Road in Williston. Initially, CSWD planned to build its own administration building on its Williston property. After receiving several high estimates for the build, CSWD leadership decided that leasing office would be a more fiscally responsible choice. In April, CSWD staff moved into a property owned by the City of South Burlington and shared with the South Burlington Police Department at 19 Gregory Drive.

The complete CSWD Annual Report will be available in February 2024 at [CSWD.net](https://www.cswd.net).



Paul Ruess

Chair, Board of Commissioners



Sarah Reeves

Executive Director



ESSEX RESCUE, INC.

**1 Educational Drive
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Phone (802) 878-4859**

November 2023

It is with immense pride that Essex Rescue provides emergency medical transport services to Essex Junction, Essex Town, Jericho, Underhill, and Westford. During all times of the day and night, and regardless of weather conditions, our providers, ranging from EMT to paramedic, respond quickly to the sick and injured to deliver basic and advanced emergency life support services.

- In 2022, received 3,044 requests for service
- Ambulance requests increased 10.5% since 2021
- Our crews average 8-10 calls per day

Commitment to Service

We remain committed to the high-quality service we have provided for the last 51 years. Our service continues to make changes to meet the needs of the communities we serve while providing patient-centered, pre-hospital emergency care. Although COVID-19 has created a significant strain on our organization, we remain ready to fulfill our duty and serve our communities. We are grateful for all the community support which we have received over the years and especially during the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Organizational Challenges

Essex Rescue, like many other EMS agencies, continues to navigate significant staffing shortages, increasing call volume, and limited funding sources. We are working diligently to onboard and train new personnel with the goal of increasing the number of staffed ambulances available to respond to calls. Staffing more ambulances means that the organization must adjust its strict historical practice of depending predominantly on volunteers. The high turnover rates and diminishing volunteer leadership have forced many organizations to consider alternative workforce models, which comes with an additional cost. And while Essex Rescue remains committed to retaining volunteer opportunities for those with interest, the reality of solely relying on them is no longer possible.

Changing Workforce

There is no doubt that the pandemic changed volunteering for many, however, it is not the sole cause of the loss. For years, volunteer interests have been slowly decreasing; the pandemic simply accelerated the loss. EMS is also very different today than it was 10 years ago. EMS provider safety and proficiency relies heavily on regular field practice and experience, which takes intensive training. Due to this, many EMS providers have come to expect compensation for their work. Hard work which is certainly worthy of pay.

Essex Rescue cannot immediately pay all its providers, but we are working towards a model that provides some compensation for the provider's time, much like our fire departments do today. We have learned that not compensating trained and experienced personnel will result in losing them to another organization that will compensate them for their hard work. Emergency medicine is viewed as a profession today; to ensure quality, experienced providers we must welcome this transition while aligning our workforce practices with like services.

Financial Update

We are relieved, yet cautious in expressing that we have seen some improvement in our financial situation. Between internal billing adjustments, this year's patient payor mix, and the generosity of our communities, we were able to move funds into our Capital Reserve account this year. Our Capital Reserve account funds future projects, the upgrading of equipment, and the purchase of new ambulances. Essex Rescue has been unable to appropriately fund this account for the last few years due to the negative financial balance of our annual operating budgets.

Fiscal Year Ending 2023 *	
Expenses	\$ 1,312,600
Revenue	\$ 1,616,532
Capital Reserve	\$ 303,932
<i>*Capital campaign expenses/contributions removed</i>	

It is very difficult to gauge transport reimbursement outcomes year-to-year because there are so many variables that affect it. This year's transport revenue increase had less to do with the number of calls billed and more to do with who the patient's insurance carrier was. We were quite surprised to learn last year's reimbursement total came in above what was anticipated, but there is no telling where it will be at the end of this year. Contrary to popular belief, the increase in revenue is not due to higher call volumes. In fact, Essex Rescue billed sixteen more calls in 2021 than in 2022 and received less insurance reimbursement.

Billing Statistics					
Year	Total Call Volume	Transports	Non-transports	Cancelled / Mutual Aid	Insurance Reimbursement
2020	2,476	1,765	200	711	\$ 874,956
2021	2,754	1,642	112	1,224	\$ 861,519
2022	3,044	1,749	180	1,115	\$ 1,106,554

Essex Rescue is responding to an increased number of non-emergent/non-transport requests than in years past. These services are not without cost to Essex Rescue and only seldomly result in insurance reimbursement. Although Essex Rescue has billed for non-transport services for years now, it has never held the patient responsible for the unpaid balance. In 2022, Essex Rescue wrote off more than \$30,000 in unpaid non-transport expenses. Changes to Vermont EMS Protocols now require every patient to receive a full assessment by a licensed EMS provider, regardless of their complaint and/or desire to be transported. Starting January 1, 2024, Essex Rescue will begin billing for all services it provides regardless of the patient's insurance coverage. This means that all patients will be responsible for paying any non-covered costs associated with services provided by Essex Rescue. Residents are strongly encouraged to consider subscribing to Essex Rescue's annual subscription plan. For \$50 a year, everyone in the household will be protected from any non-covered expenses associated with the need for emergency ambulance services provided by Essex Rescue. Essex Rescue bills the patient's insurance and under the subscription all non-covered expenses are then written off.

Volunteer Service

Essex Rescue is always seeking community volunteer involvement. There are many opportunities within our organization which include both volunteer clinical and non-clinical roles. If you are interested in joining a motivated team, committed to providing high quality pre-hospital emergency medical care, please give us a call or check out our website at www.essexrescue.org to learn more about us.

Capital Campaign and New Building Project

Essex Rescue continues to battle the daily inefficiencies operating out of our current building. With a new ambulance on order and the inability to physically fit the unit inside its building, other building arrangements are critical. We are excited to announce the purchase of a parcel of land in the area of Essex Way through the generosity of the Lang Family. The initial payment for the land was drawn from funds raised through the "Next 50 Years Capital Campaign Drive". Although some money had been raised, the campaign was placed on hold due to the rapid increase in building costs as well as other organizational challenges/priorities. Essex Rescue hopes to reinvestigate this effort soon.

Annual Subscription

Are you enrolled in Essex Rescue's Subscription program? Program subscribers pay an annual \$50 per household subscription fee and pay nothing else out-of-pocket for expenses relating to emergency ambulance service

provided by Essex Rescue. Our subscription mailing is sent out during the month of November. For more information visit our website: www.essexrescue.org. It is important to note that services provided by another ambulance service are not covered under this plan agreement with Essex Rescue. The subscription program benefit only applies to services provided by Essex Rescue.

Lastly, Essex Rescue will always accept donations, large or small, and are grateful for the ongoing generosity demonstrated by the communities we serve.

Thank you,
Colleen M. Ballard, NRP
Executive Director



ESSEX RESCUE, INC.

1 Educational Drive
Essex Junction, VT 05452
Phone (802) 878-4859

September 21, 2023

Selectboard
Town of Underhill
12 Pleasant Valley Road
Underhill, VT 05489

To the Town of Underhill Selectboard,

With tremendous pride, Essex Rescue responds to requests for emergency medical services in the Underhill community. Around the clock, through all weather conditions, our clinicians - paid and volunteer alike - answer the call to help the sick and injured, delivering basic and advanced life support. Essex Rescue takes great care to ensure that the members of your community receive safe, efficient, and appropriate pre-hospital emergency medical services. Regular training and expert consultation with emergency medicine physicians at the University of Vermont Medical Center, ensures that when a request for emergency medical services is received, Essex Rescue stands ready to deliver this essential public health service.

The Essex Rescue leadership team is committed to ensuring the delivery of excellent pre-hospital care while at the same time practicing fiscal responsibility. It remains our mission to be the EMS provider for the communities we have so proudly served for the past 51 years! We remain extremely grateful for your continued support and funding, especially over the last couple of years. Your contribution made it possible for our organization to remain standing and ready to answer the call.

While we continue to navigate both staffing and funding challenges there has been some relief as we were able to fill two of our three open full-time positions. Our organization, although fatigued remains optimistic that everyone's hard work will soon pay off. We are working towards improving our response capabilities by gradually bringing an additional ambulance online when staffing allows. We have been able to do so a few times within the last year, which is a step in the right direction and is more than we have been able to do in the last couple of years.

Our rates for services will increase 3% to assist with standard inflation. The 2025 rate for service will be \$18.54 per capita for all the communities we serve. The calculated portion of population served by Essex Rescue is 3,129. For the fiscal year 2025, Essex Rescue is requesting from the Town of Underhill \$58,012.

On behalf of Essex Rescue, we are grateful for your continued financial support of our service. We look forward to serving your community and delivering the very best in pre-hospital emergency medical care.

Thank you,

Colleen M. Ballard, NRP
Executive Director
Essex Rescue, Inc.

DRML Report

Board of Trustees Report 2023

The past year has reminded us that our relationships in the community are fundamental to our survival and growth. It is our responsibility to work towards a balance where we together can thrive.

This year we – the DRML staff, Board of Trustees, and volunteers – wanted to do more for you than we did last year. Considering the changing needs of the community, we set out a vision in the Library's Strategic Plan.

This plan encompasses a three-year evolving and adaptable window. We welcome hearing from you throughout its life and ask that our patrons help the Board keep the plan in line with community needs.

After one year, we self-assessed our progress towards meeting these goals. We have made great progress in increasing the number and variety of programs. This equates to more people coming to the library. Right now, the only limits to growth are staffing for the size of children's programs, and space to let all the programs run.

Books are the main resource, though not the only one, which the library keeps. It also has public computers and access to digital libraries. It hosts programs for people of all ages – some of these were revived while other are new. There is also a room that the community can use for meetings.

This sentiment melds well with words I read recently: "And in the very room in which he sat, there were books that could take you anywhere, and things to invent, and make, and build, and break, and all the puzzle and excitement of everything...His thoughts darted eagerly about as everything looked new-and worth trying."

The area where more work needs to be done, and help make this vision more real, is the library's physical space. Our dedicated staff needs better personal and workspace. And we are now looking at how to not just better use the space but also how to expand the physical space of the library. All this goes hand-in-hand with more programs and increased services.

Everyone in Jericho and Underhill is important to the life of the library. You have kept us going and helped us strive to keep reviving our collections. You have helped us devise new programs that benefit our community. We ask that you keep letting us know what we as a library can do for you.

The Deborah Rawson Memorial Library has now been around for 25 years, and we look forward to the next 25. As this year closes and a new one begins, the Board is especially thankful for the staff and leadership of the library for their dedication and outlook to their work.

Thank you for your support. You are what makes the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library a special place.

Sven Lindholm, Chair

Library Director's Report by Holly Hall

Library Statistics and information:

The Deborah Rawson Memorial Library had 19,360 visitors the library. This past year 59,938 items were checked out. Programs for youth and adults are being held in person as well as a few on Zoom. Combined we had 428 programs. The library continues provided books to the Jeri-Hill Apartments. Contactless homebound delivery is available if you physically are unable to come to the library. Call to arrange a visit, 802-899-4962. You can place your items on hold through our online catalog and staff will contact you when your item is ready to be picked up. You can come in or use curbside pickup.

Currently the library has 24,531 items that include books, magazine subscriptions, DVDs, Books on CD and Music CDs. New this year the library added Hoopla to our growing list of online databases. Hoopla offers downloadable ebooks and audios as well as movies, music and TV shows for streaming. All our items can be found on our website www.drml.org as well as our consortium member libraries items. No fines are charged on late items.

WiFi is available 24/7 with no password needed. It is available anywhere around the perimeter of the library including our parking lot!

The library appreciates the many volunteers that help make our library incredible! Our Master Gardeners and volunteers keep the grounds of the library vibrant with color in our many gardens around the library including the theme garden which this past year was the very popular Harry Potter. Vegetables and flowers were delivered to the Jericho Underhill food shelf and Jeri-Hill Apartments. Our inside volunteers offered us programs and helped keep the inside looking great also. Local artist displays offer vibrant color inside as well.

The library hours are:10-8 Tuesday and Thursday, 10-6 Wednesday and Friday, Saturday 10-2 and Sundays 1-4 September to May. We do have computers available as well as faxing and copying. The library staff and Board of Trustees thanks you for another wonderful year. Please visit us soon! We look forward to welcoming you.

Friends of the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library 2023 Report

The Friends of the DRML provide the library with requested program support, supplies, and equipment that enhance the DRML. Recently the Friends has invested a variety of diverse museum memberships throughout the state to support both youth and adult interests. This year the book bins in the Children's room were replaced, allowing for more efficient book storage and access, and increased available space in that designated area.

Revenues are raised by way of donations to the Friends of the DRML, the sale of puppets, books, tote bags, and bumper stickers. Opportunities to engage with the Friends of the DRML and support the important and valuable asset our community library are posted on the Friends of the DRML bulletin board above the library photocopier. Hope to see you!

Friends of the DRML

Christine Ryan, Secretary/Treasurer

Jericho Underhill Water District Board of Trustees' Annual Report

P.O. Box 174 Underhill, Vermont 05489

October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023

The Jericho-Underhill Water District provided drinking water and fire hydrant access to 326+ residential and business connections representing about 900 people within the District. During the past year drinking water supplied to the District averaged about 40,000 gallons per day. Water delivered to District customers this year was of high quality and adequate quantity and met all State and Federal requirements.

Simon Operation Systems of Waterbury, VT was hired to be the licensed and certified chief operator of our system. We were fortunate to hire Brian Picotte of Underhill as our Assistant Operator. Brian has provided excellent day to day service and smooth operations. The Trustees consisted of Joseph P. O'Brien, President from Underhill, Tanner Palmer, Trustee from Jericho, and Stephen Jennings, Trustee from Underhill. Nancy Benson served as Clerk and Treasurer. Andy Foresberg served as Delinquent Bill Collector and back-up support for the system. Auditors were Vicki Milton, Harland Blodgett, and Bill VanDeVenter. Marc Maheux continued to manage our website and was available for consultations. Helen Miller was our local water tester.

The fiscal year, October 1, 2022, started with planning to clean our two larger tanks on Maple Ridge and Poker Hill. The contractor who cleaned the 10,000 gallon cistern earlier in the year decided to withdraw from cleaning the larger tanks. The Trustees decided to plan cleaning in the spring of 2024. The yearly required State Sanitary Survey was submitted to the State for review in November with all results reported being positive with the exception of three services to homes off the cistern on Maple Ridge. Surveyors questioned the pressure readings to the three homes that may have been below standard. These homes use booster tanks to increase inline pressure. After historic document review of over twenty-five years ago, the district provided information of exemptions to the pressure standards.

Champlin Associates of Essex notified us in December that they were no longer providing system operations. The trustees searched for a new operator and contracted with Simon Operations Systems (S.O.S.) of Waterbury, VT. S.O. S. became our certified Chief Operator in January 2023. Beavers were active in November at the well site off of River Road. A number of trees were felled by the beavers, with one tree falling on the data wires that connect well heads to the control building. Clean-up required tree removal from the line that was stretched from the poles on each side of Browns River but not severed. ECI Construction Co. completed the work of reinstalling the wired back on the poles at the original heights across the river.

The District flushed hydrants twice last fiscal year, once in October and again in late April. Flushing removes mineral deposits that settle in the main lines. We also do extra flushing on some blow-off small hydrants where there is more mineral sediment. Some minerals found in water include calcium, magnesium, sodium, iron and zinc. A few customers have experienced discolored water during flushing and at other times. The cloudy water is caused by these minerals, mostly magnesium, being stirred up from the bottom of customers' 5/8" supply lines. Running outside spigots for three to five minutes will usually clear lines of the cloudy water.

This has been a very successful financial year in providing safe and quality water that has met all State and Federal standards. The Trustees wish to thank our employees and contractors for their work this past year.

Joseph P. O'Brien, President
Tanner Palmer, Trustee
Stephen Jennings, Trustee



Jericho Underhill Park District P. O. Box 164 Underhill, VT 05489

802-899-2693

www.millsriversidepark.org

JUPDistrict@gmail.com

Jericho Underhill Park District Annual Report 2023

Mills Riverside Park continues to be a popular destination with a 30% increase in visitors. The park remains available year-round, whether strolling, biking, horseback riding during the warmer months, or cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and walking in the winter. Soccer fills the playing fields from April through October with a slight summer break. The Farmers' Market encompasses the front lawn from May through the first week of October. Five free summer concerts entertain our community in July and August. The pavilion hosts many family gatherings and serves as a platform for the Burlington Dancers. The pond and river attract school groups for scientific study. And of course, dog walkers visit throughout the day and in all kinds of weather. Our annual average of doggie bag usage is high at 25,000 a year! Mills Riverside Park draws visitors from many towns and has become a tourist destination, as well.

The Jericho Underhill Park District is responsible for creating a safe experience for park visitors while protecting the park's wildlife habitat. This year the Board of Trustees has focused on several improvements. The well-used playing fields had their first aeration and overseeding in many years. This attention will continue with one-step fertilization and aeration. The cost is significant, so one field will be improved per year. This annual maintenance is necessary as the ground compacts and becomes nutrient-deprived over time.

The West Fieldstone Loop is also a focus. This Loop has always been the most difficult to restore. Ledge, clay soils, and water seeps keep large sections muddy. In 2017, slightly over one-third of the trail was improved. This year, a grant from the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation is assisting with half the cost of fixing the remaining portion of the West Fieldstone Loop. This work began in early August. The rain-soaked summer slowed progress and so, trail work will continue again following winter and mud season.

With increased visitor activity, we also have car parking issues. The Park District was extremely pleased to receive support from the Towns of Jericho and Underhill to improve the entrance and exit driveways and double the parking area size. This federal ARPA funding will create a much more pleasant experience for those driving to the park. Drainage issues on the front lawn will also be addressed. This work started in October 2023.

The Park District Board of Trustees is continuing to put some funding aside annually to replace the "cover" on the bridge. This project became too expensive to consider as the abutments would need to be replaced and most likely relocated further from the Browns River. The expectation is that Mills Riverside Park will, once again, have a covered bridge at a future date.

Assisting with park maintenance, there is a new gate from the neighboring Balch Drive. This access allows heavy vehicles, such as gravel-filled dump trucks, to enter the park. Emergency vehicles can also use the gate.

The Jericho Underhill Park District wishes to thank all of our volunteers who helped with park work this year. In particular, thanks to Camden Yandow, who built a bench located in the off-leash dog area and restored trail signs for his Eagle Scout project. Other improvements include new seating at Eagles Meadow Picnic Area courtesy of Boy Scout Troop 627 and honeysuckle removal by the Jericho Families in Nature. Mills Riverside Park runs on volunteerism, and we are very appreciative.

Special thanks also go to the Jericho Underhill Park District Board of Trustees, seven individuals who are dedicated to managing Mills Riverside Park. For more information about the park, please visit our website at www.millsriversidepark.org. Board meetings are the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7: 00 p.m. at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library's project room. The public is always invited.

Livy Strong (Chair)
Dave Williamson (Vice-chair)
Donna Pratt (Treasurer)
James Massingham (Secretary)

Bruce Blokland (Projects, trail work)
Chris Tardie (Projects, outdoor stewardship)
Kim Spaulding (Projects, outdoor stewardship)



Jericho Underhill Park District
P. O. Box 164 Underhill, VT 05489
(802) 899-2693
JUPDistrict@gmail.com

www.millsriversidepark.org
338 Vt Route 15, Jericho, VT 05465

Towns of Jericho and Underhill Vermont
Jericho Underhill Park District (JUPD) FY25 Budget

Thanks to the Towns of Jericho and Underhill funding and ARPA award, a Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation grant and use of reserve funding the JUPD was able to complete the following projects in Fiscal Year 2024: athletic field - fertilization, aeration and over seeding, installation of a new park kiosk, driveway, parking lot and front lawn reconstructed, the Fieldstone West Loop trail reconstruction and so much more.

The mission of the Jericho Underhill Park District is to serve its member communities by owning and operating the Mills Riverside Park for education, conservation and recreation.

This budget represents the JUPD's comprehensive financial plan & priorities for providing park and recreation services for community residents and visitors for the coming fiscal year FY25 and years to come.

Drivers - Achieving Financial Stability (needs, wants, savings) with guidance from - The JUPD Management Plan & Strategic Business Solutions.

Taking care of what we have – Provide for annual maintenance throughout the park with vendor contracts. Contract budgets increase 3% annually due to inflation.

Build a Foundation to support needed change & Nurture a love for the park - Bridge and Trails capital reserves need to be supported annually in anticipation of future needs. Annual stewardship projects are needed to preserve the natural resources and wildlife habitats, and maintain open space.

To support this plan for FY25, JUPD needs to raise the assessment rate by 3% or to \$62,629 with Jericho paying \$38,830 or \$12,943.30 every third and Underhill paying \$23,799 or \$5,949.75 every quarter.

The JUPD's Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Proposed Budget is respectfully submitted for your review.

FY25 Proposed Budget

Statement of Revenue & Expenditures			FY2023		FY2024		FY2025	Change Inc/(dec)	% change
			Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual Thru 9/30/24	Proposed Budget		
Receipts									
1	Donations	Concert Donations	1,200	1,194	1,200	1,379.75	1,230	30	0.02
2		General	1,000	1,807	2,960	150.00	1,988	(972)	(0.33)
3	Town Assessments	Jericho	34,272	34,272	37,699	12,566.33	38,830	1,131	0.03
4		Underhill	21,005	21,005	23,106	5,776.50	23,799	693	0.03
5	Rentals	Pavillion/eagles meadow	1,400	2,850	5,600	100.00	2,936	(2,665)	(0.48)
6		Fields	3,800	3,953	4,395		3,963	(432)	(0.10)
7		Commercial Permits	200	200	200	100.00	206	6	0.03
8		Electrical	-	255	525	-45.00	263	(262)	(0.50)
9		Portalet Usage Fee	100	1,700	1,500	100.00	1,751	251	0.17
10	Other Income	Interest	663	1,702	663	663.63	1,872	1,209	1.82
11	Grant		-	-	-				
12	AARP Award			16,340		26660		-	
13	Use Of Reserved Funds								
14	Trails				65,948	24,952.80	-	(65,948)	(1.00)
15	Jupd2020				-	0.00	4,191	4,191	
16	Parking & Drive Area			-	-	27,330.00	-	-	
17	Bridge Reconstruction		2,535	-	2,500		-	(2,500)	(1.00)
18	Total Receipts		66,175	85,277	146,296	99,734	81,028	(65,268)	(0.45)
Expenditures									
19	Concerts & Events	Concerts	500	500	500	500.00	1,000	500	1.00
20		Dog waste pickup & supplies	1,837	1,501	2,399	1,127.63	2,666	268	0.11
21		Snowplowing	2,000	1,135	1,127	0	1,283	155	0.14
22		Mowing	11,800	1,540	12,154	0.00	10,630	(1,524)	(0.13)
23	Contract Work	Field	-	19,900	11,116		11,200	84	0.01
24		Utilities	320	300	300	79.36	309	9	0.03
25		Portalets	4,400	4,740	6,973	2,980.00	5,940	(1,033)	(0.15)
26		Web Site	2,848	888	853	207.00	828	(25)	(0.03)
27		Banking & Accounting fees	50	30	-		2,500	2,500	
28		Legal fees	150	-	-		-	-	
29		VLCT Membership	950	998	1,028		1,206	178	0.17
30	Business Expenses	Insurance	1,644	1,410	1,144	335.50	1,378	234	0.20
31		Postage & PO Box	300	98	240		100	(140)	(0.58)
32		Publicity, signage, printing	125	265	361	24.05	265	(96)	(0.26)
33		office supplies (QB + Zoom)	125	547	164	0.25	600	436	2.66
34		Parking & Drive	3,000	3,400	3,502	27330	800	(2,702)	(0.77)
35		Grounds		583	2,583	26.50	1,000	(1,583)	(0.61)
36		Field	2,500	-	-		-	-	
37	Stewardship Projects	Ponds & Drainage	1,245	600	406		1,500	1,094	2.70
38		Trails	5,000	-	64,948	24,952.80	1,500	(63,448)	(0.98)
39		Web Site	500	-	-		-	-	
40		Structures & Bridge	2,535	5,211	6,500	859.25	1,322	(5,178)	(0.80)
41		25th Updates & Activities					15,000	15,000	
42	Transfer to Reserves	Per Board decision			30,000		-	(30,000)	(1.00)
43	Cash			949				-	
44	Bridge Reconstruction			-			10,000	10,000	
45	Parking & Drive Area			16,340	-	26,660.00	-	-	
46	Jupd2020		-	-	-		-	-	
47	Trails		24,346	30,000	-		10,000	10,000	
48	Total Expenditures		\$66,175	\$90,935	146,296	58,422	81,027	(65,268)	(0.45)

Looking at FY23, FY24 and FY25 comparatively, the **total budget** (receipts / expenditures) show a large swing year to year. This is due to the receipt and use of grant, ARPA and reserve funding for covering expenses of large stewardship projects. Note - Annual town assessments increase 3% due to inflation.

Please contact me with any question.

Donna Pratt, JUPD – Treasurer
(802) 922-6119
donnaipratt@gmail.com

Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV)

MMCTV offers a digital platform for good old fashioned Vermont civic discourse with Town Meeting Day live streams, as well as providing info year-round and leading up to town meeting day so you can be informed of the issues.

Have you ever dreamed of hosting your own TV program or podcast? Make it happen with MMCTV! Helping people learn the skills to tell our important local stories is another key part of what we do, serving Jericho, Richmond and Underhill since 1997.

5 MOST-VIEWED VIDEOS IN 2023

- #1 MMU Graduation Livestream
- #2 Jericho Town Plan Kickoff Highlights
- #3 Richmond July 2023 Flooding - compiled from footage from you!
- #4 Richmond Selectboard Meeting 7-5-2023
- #5 "Sue Morse: Enjoying Our Trails with Wildlife in Mind"

2023 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Editing/archiving **369** local meetings and related videos, including many streamed live on Comcast Cable and Youtube!
- Producing 39 videos for over 20 not-for-profit/public organizations.
- Increasing MMU sports and cultural live streams coverage & holding middle school workshops/TV camp.
- Digitizing and uploading VHS content online from our archives.
- "Haunting" the Richmond Town Center on Halloween, with animations in windows
- Applying for a Low Power FM radio license with the FCC.

HOW TO WATCH MMCTV:

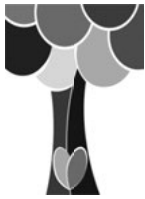
On Cable: Comcast channels 1076 (public/educational) and 1086 (government) **Online:** Youtube (mmctv@youtube) OR Internet Archive (<http://bit.ly/MmctvVideos>)

HOW TO SUPPORT MMCTV

We are a 501c3 nonprofit organization with an annual budget of \$200,000 in 2023. We have one full-time staff, 3 part-time staff, 2 hybrid meeting producers and a great team of field producers, including accomplished MMU alums and area students and volunteers of all ages.

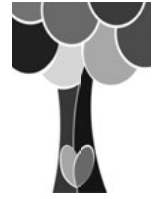
MMCTV is largely supported by franchise fees from Comcast cable viewers in our three towns - thank you! In recent years, we have worked to diversify our income – a necessity due to cable "cord-cutting". Municipal support has become key in covering part of our labor costs for streaming and archiving a growing number of local meetings. Since the pandemic, we started to receive short-term funding from the state of Vermont and are working – as Vermont's 24 community media centers – on a new funding bill seeking to find a non-cable funding source for our work. ***We also rely on donations to continue to serve our communities and do more. Please consider setting up a monthly donation of any size at www.MtMansfieldCtv.org/donations***

Contact: Angelike Contis, Director, MMCTV, 203 Bridge St., 3rd Floor/P.O. Box 688, Richmond, VT 05477. Tel. 802 434-2550. Online: MtMansfieldCtv.org, e-mail angelike@mmctv15.org



Our Community Cares Camp, Inc.

PO Box 503
Richmond, VT 05477
Email: occcvermont@gmail.com
802-434-6006



Jana Brown ~ Connie van Eeghen ~ Jessica Johnson ~ Gretchen Muller ~ Kyle Silliman-Smith

2023 Our Community Cares Camp was another fun summer! We completed our 14th summer offering a free camp! Each summer seems to pose its own uniqueness. This year, we had the flood disasters, which people are still reeling from today. The camp and MMUUSD were closed for a week. Each year, we seem to come back stronger despite any adversity that comes our way. We operated the camp as we have traditionally done. Children were engaged, active, and happy with the variety of activities we had this year, from field trips to STEM.

OCCC assisted our loving community this summer after the flood event by organizing and operating a pop-up meal site at Richmond Congregational Church. This event was free to anyone who could get to the meal site. We mobilized many people throughout our community. The event was posted as a Facebook event and was posted and reposted on Front Porch Forum in many towns. We heard from people as far away as New York and Maine, all wanting to assist. Drop-off meal collecting centers were at Palmer's Maple in Jericho and Trinity Baptist Church in Williston. We received a great start from Feeding Chittenden, who was ready and eager to jump in and help. They donated 100 premade meals, two boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables, and a box of various-size diapers. People brought large batches of food for us to heat and serve walk-ins. We also asked for water, containers for meals-to-go, and non-perishables for the households who didn't have power. When people came to eat, we sent them meals to go, and then they could "shop" the tables of non-perishable foods. OCCC brought meals to Richmond Rescue, the Town Garage, the Fire Station, and the Fire Station in Bolton. Richmond was under a boil water notice. We brought large batches of food, individual meals, and non-perishables to Richmond Terrace and the Sterling House for three days.

Dozens of food boxes were delivered to families throughout Richmond and Bolton. Many food boxes were prepared for working groups around the area, such as on Esplanade St., Johnny Brook Rd, and in Jonesville. We contacted Chittenden County Hunger Counsel, and OCCC brought three carloads of food to a distribution center in the Barre/Montpelier area once the roads were opened. OCCC also delivered five carloads of non-perishable items to the Cambridge/Johnson area as their food shelf was wiped out. One carload was dispersed by walking door to door (tent to tent) to people who had no power or water. OCCC received such generous amounts of non-perishable items that we brought boxes to our local Richmond food shelf and the Hardwick Food Pantry.

We aim to continue our mission of giving back and helping provide for our community. Many OCCC members, from the chefs, campers, directors, and staff, helped in many ways. They delivered, prepared, heated, served, organized, and lovingly sat with people who came to eat. Food is our Love Language.

Before the flood event, we knew the demand for our camp was high. Within ten days of opening the summer registration, we had 66 registrants and needed to pause the registration and start a waitlist. We knew that additional registrations would come in from guidance counselors, principals, and clinicians. We ultimately took everyone on the waitlist, and they registered and attended camp. One late request came in after camp had started, and we could not accommodate them as that group already had 25+ campers.

Our Community Cares Camp, Inc. is a registered 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation.

www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org

<https://www.facebook.com/OCCCVT>

Building a caring community - where every child can find success.



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802-434-6006



We continue our service to the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District through our primary mission of helping address food insecurity and creating an environment where every child finds success. We do this through our core values of providing fresh food that is lovingly and well-prepared. We foster a community of inclusiveness, diversity, and service. Children and youth have a place to discover new talents and learn leadership skills. During camp, children receive positive support from caring adults and help inspire them to envision their future and see themselves as contributing members of our community.

Our Community Cares Camp and many partner organizations are committed to helping end food insecurity in our area. Our camp also addresses the opportunity gap that arises when children from economically stressed families cannot afford the extra enrichment activities like music, art, and sports that help build connections with peers and create a meaningful life. It is challenging to raise children in our rapidly changing world. There can be multiple stressors like sickness, low income, family transitions, etc.

This summer, we provided three pieced-together weeks of food and fun at our summer camp with a caring and safe environment. The MMUUSD Transportation Department helps lift barriers and provides support for our program. Our camp works tirelessly every year to bring our message to the community and beyond. Based on the support our camp receives, we can help that many children. Our goal is to take as many families and children as possible. Even with the COVID-19 pandemic over, we are still seeing an exacerbation of more and more children with trauma, social and emotional concerns, and mental health issues. In addition, families continue to face challenges with childcare care hardships, child protection concerns, substance abuse, family violence, and incarceration. Our camp helps families fill that gap and relieve some family stressors!

The cost per camper for this summer was \$1,10.68. That is on par with Summer 2022 camper cost of \$1,131.61. There were increases in our expenses. The State of Vermont increased its minimum wage, and there were increases in most goods due to inflation and, supply chain demands, and new fuel charges. The camp also received funding from new grantors.

This year, we had 86 registered campers. Some of our later registered campers were by school request, homelessness, and doubled-up households due to the floods. Of that, 29% were new campers, and 71% were returning. An important piece to note is that roughly 47% of our campers have a support plan in school. Most of our campers are mainstream students. We are excited to have campers who attend alternative class environments find success at OCCC.

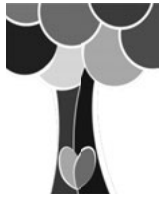
We served 2018 meals in three weeks to OCCC campers, Part 2, RES COVID Recovery Program, and staff. The USDA meal counting process changed from only free and reduced children's meals being reimbursable to all meals being reimbursed during the school year. This is **NOT** the case for the summer. **ONLY** children who are free/reduced are considered reimbursable meals. For us this year, that is 346 meals, which is only 17% of our total meals. We will be reimbursed about \$1,400 instead of years past at \$8,000 - \$10,000. This was a significant difference for us. Our school district is not considered free and reduced by criteria set by the State of Vermont. As a result of meals being provided at no cost to children over the last couple of years, very few families had an incentive to complete the free and reduced meal forms. OCCC has a plan for this to be included as part of the camper registration process.

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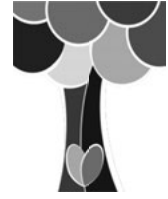
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We packed so much fun, exploring, friendships, music, and more into every minute of camp! Our camp only had two field trips due to the stormy summer. We had our traditional visit from CLiF (Children's Literacy Foundation). CLiF had a guest speaker, who is also a local author, Jon Churchman. We received an autographed book of *The SheepOver*. All of our campers, Part 2, children attending the Extended School Year, and the COVID Recovery program chose two new free books to take home.

Campers enjoyed our Art Program again this year. Campers created weaving projects, explored many items from nature to make paintings, and really loved Perler bead creations. Friendship bracelets were a big hit this year. Many “monsters” and habitats were made out of the plethora of materials in the maker space.

We were outside every chance and played games like kickball, wallball, gaga ball, badminton, basketball, soccer, and chalk art. In addition, we had several “water days” with different water activities, water balloons, sponge painting, etc. Buddy Dubay taught children to explore music, instruments, and singing.

Our Cooking Program, led for the third year by Kira Mincar, a UVM Graduate with a bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Food Science, was again back to its total capacity! Cooking continues to be a favorite among all ages of campers. There were many healthy “pizza face” creations, smoothies, ice cream, ice pops, muffins and more! We had our ever-popular Chopped Competition for the LAC group. The panel judged them on Best Breakfast, Best Non-Cook Foods, Best Dessert, and Best Presentation. There were several days of planning before the big event. It was a fun time had by all!

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) had its second summer. The campers loved making volcanoes and seeing what happens when certain compounds are mixed together! Campers made journals, older campers built balloon-powered cars, played with oobleck, and explored how vinegar reacts with different household items! They built fabulous creations with marshmallows and toothpicks, styrofoam, and Q-tips.

The kitchen has two strong women veteran chefs, Stephanie Lafreniere, the Head Chef from Bolton, and Angela Boisvert of Jericho. In addition, we are fortunate to have Jack Rock this year to lend his expertise to the kitchen. They worked as a team, bringing our Offer vs. Serve food program through supply chain issues and thoughtfully preparing fun and healthy meals for our campers and staff. We had fresh smoothies, house-made muffins, chicken caesar, pizza, fresh fruit/veggies, homemade chicken soup, and a salad bar. It's great to see all the campers choosing healthy options. It was so heartwarming to see campers sitting together. They sat with friends, made new friends, and enjoyed freshly prepared meals!

Our staff of counselors, counselors in training, and directors are an essential part of the camp! We had an outstanding group this summer. Many are students from MMU, Essex High School, and CHMS. Some were new, and others were returning counselors and CITs. In addition, OCCC had several college students working with us this summer. The culinary team, as well as our hands-on staff, complete full days of orientation and training. We are fortunate to have Howard Center Clinicians and First Call continue providing some of our training. This year, we feel fortunate to have the expertise of the Peace and Justice Center provide us with information and insight as a part of staff training. We are so excited to have dedicated and talented teens and staff!

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Our last day of camp culminated with a talent show by the campers, field day events, and an obstacle course. And, of course, we had ice cream!

Many thanks for support from the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District, Camels Hump Middle School, and the Transportation Department at MMUUSD. Their help made this camp successful for our community's children and teens!

We cannot express our gratitude for the support from local towns, churches, lodges, grantors, and most importantly, our friends and community members who donate because they all recognize the excellent camp's benefits for now and the future.

Our Community Cares Camp continues to be a staple in the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District. We would not have any of the success we do without the support from so many community entities, funders, and volunteers. The camp has such a positive vibe because of the love and energy everyone puts in day in and day out. The experiences campers have will undoubtedly last them a lifetime, and we are already looking forward to summer 2024!

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Parent
Executive Director

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agewellvt.org
Helpline: 1-800-642-5119
P 802-865-0360
F 802-865-0363
875 Roosevelt Hwy, Ste. 210
Colchester, VT 05446

October 18, 2023

BOARD OF
DIRECTORS:

Dr. Allan Ramsay
(Board President)

George Beato

Patrick Brown

Meagan Buckley

John Davis

Liz Gamache

John Hammer

Constance Leach

Joan Lenos

Dan McLean

Glenn McRae

Sarah Russell

Sarah Gentry Tischler

Dr. Lynda Ulrich

Ruth Wallman

Leah Zeigler

Town of Underhill
PO Box 120
Underhill, VT 05489

Dear Underhill Selectboard Members,

Imagine if every older adult had access to the care, services, and nutrition that helped them age with confidence. With support from Underhill, we are trying to do just that. For nearly 50 years, Age Well has provided services that allow aging Vermonters to stay independent and remain healthy at home, where they want to be. We excel at integrating in-home and community resources, health services, and wellness programs to enhance and improve the quality of life for Underhill residents. Over the past few years, there has been a significant increase in demand for our services, and that will continue to increase as our population grows older.

We are writing to request support from the Town of Underhill in the amount of \$2,000.00. As a nonprofit, our services are provided at no charge, and your support ensures that we are able to continue to offer care & service coordination, Meals on Wheels, Grab & Go meals, community meals, wellness programs, social activities, transportation services, expertise on Medicare, insurance, long and short-term care options, and the Helpline to residents in need.

Vermont is ranked as one of the three "oldest" state in the country and our aging population is only expected to grow, nearly doubling in the next fifteen years. Older adults living in rural areas have less access to healthcare, including specialized healthcare, and the services tend to be more costly than those provided in metropolitan areas. Overwhelmingly, Vermonters want to grow old in their own homes; Age Well provides the services and support to ensure that is a possibility.

If there are any questions regarding our programs or services, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sara Wool, Director of Development & Planned Giving

TOWN OF UNDERHILL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2023 (10/1/2022 - 9/30/2023)

Last year, Age Well served 135 people from Underhill, services included:



101 calls to the Helpline



11 hours of Case Management



1,444 Meals on Wheels delivered
20 Congregate Meals served
248 Grab & Go Meals served



17 hours of Options Counseling

9 Underhill residents volunteered over 416 hours

IMPACT

Our wide array of programs enhance the quality of life and improve health outcomes for older Vermonters by:

- Increasing food security
- Reducing social isolation and loneliness
- Improving quality of diet
- Reducing health care costs



MEALS ON WHEELS CAN SERVE A PERSON FOR AN ENTIRE YEAR FOR ABOUT THE SAME COST AS JUST 1 DAY IN A HOSPITAL OR 10 DAYS IN A NURSING HOME

ABOUT AGE WELL

Since 1974, Age Well has provided Vermonters with the necessary support to manage their daily living needs, with the goal of keeping them active, healthy, and independent. As the leading experts and advocates for the aging population, we believe that health happens at home and focuses on lifestyle, happiness, and wellness—not on age.

Committed to helping individuals age well, we reduce barriers by providing access to healthy meals, in-home care, expertise on Medicare and insurance, long-term and short-term care options, transportation to medical appointments, translations services, a Helpline, and many more community resources in Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, and Grand Isle Counties. Carried out by staff members and over 1,000 incredible volunteers, our sought-after services are designed to meet the diverse needs of our clients, their families, and their caregivers.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit, we do not charge for our services. We rely on donations and encourage clients to contribute if they are able to do so.

MISSION: TO PROVIDE THE SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE THAT INSPIRES OUR COMMUNITY TO EMBRACE AGING WITH CONFIDENCE.

UNDERHILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*2023 was a **BUSY YEAR!** Here are some of the projects we undertook in 2023.*

Our July Blueberry and Ice Cream Social was a *huge success!*
Mark your calendar *now* for *July 21, 2024!*



HISTORY PROJECTS

- **Oral History Project** – Over a dozen elders have been interviewed about their lives over many decades in Underhill by our indomitable Jean Archibald, with some assistance from Judy Boardman. These audio interviews will be available on our website and will be transcribed and archived.
- **Website** – Check out our revamped website, underhillhistoricalsociety.org, which has been upgraded and is being managed by Eli Dandurand. And follow us on Facebook.
- **Interactive Map** – Also check out the Interactive Map on our home page, created and managed by Steve Webster. Click on a symbol, and you'll be able to read about our 15 original schoolhouses, dating from 1787–1953, and 42 historic structures. More historic sites will be added as more research is completed.
- **Underhill Flats History Project** – This 6-month project will produce a Flats booklet for distribution by Town Meeting Day. It covers 42 sites and subjects in Flats history from 1800–1950, researched by Gary Irish, with contributions by Steve Webster, John Connell, and Johnny Connell. An Underhill Flats display board has been completed by Roger Frey and Tim Durbrow and is on display in the Old Schoolhouse.

MAINTENANCE

- Over \$5000 has been spent on a new, more effective drip path and window shades which provide UV protection for the collections.

Our meetings are the 2d Wednesday of each month Join us, it's fun!

BOARD

Roger Frey
Connell Gallagher

Carolyn Leighton
Judy Boardman



UNDERHILL – JERICHO FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC

420 VT Route 15, Underhill, VT 05489

(802) 899-4025

January 2, 2024

Dear Underhill and Jericho Selectboard members,

This report is for the period starting July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

During the year the UJFD responded to 633 calls. The breakdown of those calls is as follows.

Fires	14	Underhill	207 – 33%
EMS calls	439	Jericho	399 – 63%
Car Crashes	46	Essex	9
Other	117	Williston	1
Mutual Aid	17	Winooski	1
		Richmond	1
		Cambridge	2
		Westford -	13
		Automatic –	11 – 2%
		Mutual aid -	2

We continue to regularly train every Tuesday for the fire personal and on the third Thursday for our EMS team. We continue to maintain an above 97% call coverage for our EMS calls. This is an outstanding level and one of the best in the entire State of Vermont for a volunteer first response agency. We continue to look for new members to bolster our volunteer numbers. Our biggest challenge is the manpower to support our call volume. We have had some good recruit classes lately and those new members are making an impact in the community.

Thank you to the communities for your continued support of the department and its members. Thank you to the families of the members who sacrifice family time to allow us to serve those in need.

Best Regards,

Mathew Champlin, Chief
Underhill – Jericho Fire Department, Inc.

UNDERHILL-JERICO FIRE DEPARTMENT INC.

2022 - 2023 Budget Report

		BUDGET 2022-2023	BUDGET ACTUAL 2022-2023
	INCOME:		
1	UNDERHILL	\$251,106	\$251,106
2	JERICO	\$409,699	\$409,699
3	MISCELLANEOUS		\$13,497
4	DONATIONS		\$5,306
5	TRANSFER FROM RESERVES	\$93,183	\$107,804
	TOTAL INCOME	\$753,988	\$787,412
	EXPENSES:		
6	PAID ON CALL STIPENDS	\$85,000	\$79,535
	FULL TIME STAFF		
7	SALARY	\$123,000	\$103,709
8	MEDICAL BENEFITS	\$53,000	\$26,502
9	PAYROLL TAXES	\$14,850	\$12,867
	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		
10	LEGAL	\$1,000	\$5,833
11	ACCOUNTING	\$7,000	\$6,010
12	AUDIT	\$10,000	\$10,000
13	FEES (Bank, payroll etc)	\$3,000	\$50
	INSURANCE		
14	WORKERS COMPENSATION	\$16,600	\$17,286
15	AUTO	\$19,200	\$19,452
16	FIRE DEPARTMENT PACKAGE	\$23,500	\$23,453
17	ACCIDENT / DISABILITY	\$6,000	\$4,988
18	UTILITIES	\$26,000	\$23,601
19	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$28,000	\$35,384
20	FUEL	\$6,000	\$8,842
21	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$3,000	\$2,141
22	NFPA REQUIRED TESTING	\$5,600	\$1,424
23	STATION MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS	\$20,000	\$30,134
24	FIREFIGHTER/EMT SAFETY EQUIPMENT	\$13,000	\$10,583
25	EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS	\$30,000	\$35,011
26	NEW EQUIPMENT AND HOSE	\$11,000	\$6,985
27	EMS SUPPLIES	\$19,000	\$18,476
28	EXTRICATION & HAZMAT EQUIPMENT	\$3,000	\$958
29	PHYSICALS, NEW MEMBERS AND ANNUAL FOR FF	\$6,000	\$9,195
30	FIRE PREVENTION / MEMBER TRAINING	\$5,000	\$6,563
31	ANNUAL AWARDS AND APPRECIATION	\$3,500	\$4,349
32	MISCELLANEOUS	\$500	\$6
33	OFFICE EXPENSE	\$12,000	\$16,552
34	CAPITAL LOAN PAYMENTS	\$90,238	\$90,115
36	NEW CAPITAL PURCHASES	\$110,000	\$24,621
37	TRANSFER TO CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	\$0	\$100,000
38	TRANSFER TO RESERVES	\$0	\$2,864
	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$753,988	\$737,489

UNDERHILL-JERICO FIRE DEPARTMENT INC.

2024 - 2025 Budget Request

	INCOME:	BUDGET 2023-2024	BUDGET REQUEST 2024-2025
1	UNDERHILL	\$319,121	\$354,936
2	JERICO	\$520,672	\$579,107
3	MISCELLANEOUS		
4	DONATIONS		
5	TRANSFER FROM RESERVES		\$31,705
	TOTAL INCOME	\$839,793	\$965,748
	EXPENSES:		
6	PAID ON CALL STIPENDS	\$105,000	\$105,000
	FULL TIME STAFF		
7	SALARY	\$135,000	\$146,000
8	MEDICAL BENEFITS	\$59,000	\$64,900
9	PAYROLL TAXES	\$16,800	\$17,570
	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		
10	LEGAL	\$2,000	\$5,000
11	ACCOUNTING	\$19,000	\$19,000
	INSURANCE		
12	WORKERS COMPENSATION	\$32,000	\$32,000
13	AUTO	\$21,000	\$24,150
14	FIRE DEPARTMENT PACKAGE	\$24,200	\$27,830
15	ACCIDENT / DISABILITY	\$6,000	\$6,000
16	UTILITIES	\$26,000	\$28,000
17	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$35,000	\$45,000
18	FUEL	\$10,000	\$9,000
19	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	\$4,000	\$4,000
20	NFPA REQUIRED TESTING	\$7,500	\$10,000
21	STATION MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS	\$25,000	\$25,000
22	FIREFIGHTER/EMT SAFETY EQUIPMENT	\$16,000	\$18,000
23	EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS	\$30,000	\$33,000
24	NEW EQUIPMENT AND HOSE	\$11,000	\$18,000
25	EMS SUPPLIES	\$25,000	\$25,000
26	EXTRICATION & HAZMAT EQUIPMENT	\$3,000	\$3,000
27	PHYSICALS, NEW MEMBERS AND ANNUAL FOR FF	\$7,500	\$10,000
28	FIRE PREVENTION / MEMBER TRAINING	\$5,000	\$9,000
29	ANNUAL AWARDS AND APPRECIATION	\$5,000	\$8,000
30	MISCELLANEOUS	\$500	\$500
31	OFFICE EXPENSE	\$15,000	\$25,000
32	CAPITAL LOAN PAYMENTS	\$88,863	\$182,798
34	NEW CAPITAL PURCHASES	\$60,000	\$50,000
35	TRANSFER TO CAPITAL RESERVE FUND	\$0	\$0
36	Building Maintenance Reserve Fund (NEW)		\$15,000
37	TRANSFER TO RESERVES	\$45,430	\$0
	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$839,793	\$965,748

Home Health & Hospice

Home Health Services for
Adults and Children

Mr. Brad Holden
Town Administrator
Town of Underhill

Long-Term Care

Adult Day Program

Dear Brad,

Palliative Care

The UVM Health Network - Home Health & Hospice, with the support of Underhill, provides high-quality compassionate care to Vermonters, regardless of their ability to pay. Together we make a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Hospice Care

McClure Miller Respite House

Last year, Home Health & Hospice cared for ~4,000 individuals and families and provided millions in charitable care to people throughout Chittenden & Grand Isle Counties, including end-of-life care at the McClure Miller Respite House. Annual contributions from the 22 cities and towns we serve are vital to ensure we can continue to meet the needs in your community.

Attached you will find a report on Home Health & Hospice services provided in Underhill during our most recent reporting period (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) and our request for funding in FY2025.

By partnering with the UVM Health Network, we benefit from various cost efficiencies. However, **philanthropy remains essential to meeting the needs of our patients.** I welcome an opportunity to meet with your Selectboard or committee members to discuss our request and to answer any questions.

Our talented and compassionate front line caregivers work to provide the highest level of care where patients want to be – at home. Empowering people to receive care where they are most comfortable leads to better patient outcomes and lower costs for all. **Thank you for your continued partnership.**

Sincerely,



Maya Fehrs
Director of Development

2023 Annual Report for Underhill

OUR PROGRAMS

Adult Home Health
Hospice & Palliative Care
McClure Miller Respite House
Family & Children's Program
Long-Term Care
Adult Day Program
Foot Care
Wound Care

CARING FOR RESIDENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

66

Number of Underhill residents the UVM Health Network—Home Health & Hospice cared for in the last year.



THE
University of Vermont
HEALTH NETWORK

Home Health & Hospice



Care at Home. For All Ages and Stages of Life.

Vermont's oldest and largest non-profit home health and hospice agency and the only Medicare-certified inpatient hospice residence. The University of Vermont Health Network—Home Health & Hospice is part of a health system. This ensures that care at home is integrated for individuals and families in Chittenden and Grand Isle counties.

Experience Matters.

Our patient and family experience of care ratings surpass Vermont and National averages.

The way our patients experience care is important to us. [Medicare's Care Compare website](#) publicly displays our ratings, demonstrating that our patients and their caregivers rate us highly for home health and hospice care and would recommend our agency to their friends and family.

UVM Health Network - Home Health & Hospice Request for Funding Town of Underhill

For FY2025, Home Health & Hospice (HHH) is requesting a contribution of \$8,000.

In our past fiscal year (July 2022—June 2023) HHH provided the following care to your neighbors in Underhill:

of neighbors served = 66

HHH Service Provided	Visits to Your Neighbors
Nursing	409
Physical Therapy	256
Speech Therapy	30
Occupational Therapy	79
Social Work	22
Total	796
HHH	Hours
Personal Care Attendant	0

Cost of Care Provided to Your Neighbors	Amount
Total cost of HHH Care	\$174,026
Amount reimbursed to HHH*	\$113,147
Unreimbursed Care	\$60,879

*reimbursed through Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, contracts and patient fees

Last year, HHH cared for **~4,000** people of all ages, regardless of their ability to pay. Your contribution helps ensure your neighbors can access innovative, high-value, compassionate care wherever they call home to keep them healthy, independent and active members of your community.

HHH requests annual contributions from each town and city in our service area. Your contribution is critical to supporting the **millions of dollars** in unreimbursed care we provided this year in Chittenden & Grand Isle Counties.



THE
University of Vermont
 HEALTH NETWORK
Home Health & Hospice

Local Health Office Annual Report: 2023

**Burlington Local Health Office | 108 Cherry Street, Suite 102, Burlington, VT
802-863-7323 | AHS.VDHBurlington@Vermont.gov**

Twelve Local Health Offices around the state are your community connection with the Vermont Department of Health. **The Burlington Local Health Office provides essential services and resources to towns in Chittenden County.** Some highlights of our work in 2023 are below. For more information, visit HealthVermont.gov/local/burlington



Women, Infants & Children (WIC), Family and Child Health

Our office served over 2,000 pregnant women, new mothers and young children this year. Our WIC staff provides families with healthy foods, nutrition education, breast/chest feeding support and referrals to health care providers and community resources. While we recently celebrated the return to in-person services, we still offer appointments over the phone so that everyone can easily use WIC services. Learn more at www.healthvermont.gov/wic.



Emergency Preparedness

The Burlington Local Health Office supported community members impacted by the historic flooding this summer. Across the state, our staff helped at flood resource centers, gave out water test kits and shared information in our communities about how to stay safe. We prepare for future public health emergencies by working with community partners such as schools, hospitals and emergency personnel to ensure preparedness to distribute medicine, supplies and information.



Healthy Communities

Health is affected by more than just healthcare. Transportation, housing, education, food access, social connections and economic opportunity also play a role. Throughout the year, our office has worked with towns, schools, worksites, health care providers and other community organizations. These groups work together to evaluate the health and equity needs of our community and help create local policies and projects to improve the community's health and quality of life for all ages.



Harvest Crossing Report For 2023

This initiative to build 6-8 perpetually affordable owner occupied homes in the village of Underhill Flats continued with sustained partnership between the United Church of Underhill (UCU) and Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity, along with dedicated assistance and support from the Town of Underhill. The current design is for 6 single family homes and 1 duplex, creating homes for 8 families. Homes will be clustered in the northern part of the field, behind the Fire Station, leaving much of the land open. The Church will keep an acre or more behind the church to maintain Harvest Market activities. Several neighbors and long-time residents have observed the field flooding after storms and during the Spring thaw and raised questions about the wisdom of building in an area with so much water. The identified wetlands within this parcel are an important part of the ecosystem to absorb the water that collects on them. Vermont has strict regulations that require a storm water design to ensure any water from a property is managed on that property so it doesn't contribute to water on neighboring properties. The professional engineer working on this site design is confident that water on the parcel can be managed in a way that will meet all the state and local requirements, keep the homes from flooding, and not contribute to additional water problems for any of the neighboring properties.

The quick summary for the year is the UCU finalized purchase of the 8.6 acre parcel in July. After that a sketch plan incorporating the many constraints on the property was created and the permitting process began by appearing before the Underhill Development Review Board in December. While this may seem like a straight-forward effort, the path thus far has had many hills and valleys.

Work to date has been financed by a \$50,000 State Planning Grant from the Vermont Community Development Program that was awarded to the Town, a Feasibility Study Grant received by Habitat, private donations and several new, significant grants. The Town of Underhill dedicated \$100,000 of their ARPA funds to this initiative. Senator Sanders worked to obtain a grant for this initiative through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for \$200,000. The HUD grant requires that none of the land can be "sold" by the UCU. Accordingly, we will transfer the lots to Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity at no cost. The loss of the anticipated revenue from the lot sales will be made up by a combination of additional fund raising or having Habitat perform some site preparation costs that UCU had originally intended to cover. In December UCU received a Peace and Justice grant through United Methodist Church for \$1,000 to help with outreach. UCU also acquired a loan through the Vermont Community Loan Fund that will support cash flow needs as additional grants and funding are pursued.

The UCU appreciates the support and encouragement from so many people in Underhill. Affordable housing is such a critical need and the Church looks forward to a time when we will be welcoming new neighbors to this beautiful place. Please visit the Harvest Crossing website at www.harvestcrossing.org for more information.

Submitted by Dan Manz on behalf of the Harvest Crossing Planning Team
United Church of Underhill

Jericho Farmers Market Report, 2023 Season

The Jericho Farmers Market has a three part mission; to serve as a community gathering place, to provide a direct sales outlet for small businesses, and to expand access to fresh local food for all members of our community.

Creating a community gathering space for all is a major goal of the Farmers Market. A recent study from the Project for Public Spaces revealed that people who shop at the Farmers Market have 15-20 social interactions per visit, whereas grocery store shoppers only have one or two. A welcoming spot to picnic, chat with vendors, meet up with neighbors and enjoy a summer afternoon are a vital building block of creating a collaborative and supportive community, and can combat loneliness and isolation. The market runs several community programs to further this goal, including our children's programming, partnering with local libraries, and our Community Booth program which hosts local organizations to share resources with the community. In addition, we run the Music at the Market Program, which hires musicians to play each week for the community to enjoy. These programs, combined with thoughtful logistical & infrastructure decisions, help to encourage shoppers to make visiting the market into an event, rather than just an errand.

As well as creating community space, the Jericho Farmers Market also aims to create a reliable and well organized sales outlet for local businesses, with a low barrier to entry. Due to community support we are able to keep our vendor fees relatively low, enabling local entrepreneurs to find an accessible sales outlet and build their businesses right here in the community. This support for small business helps to fuel a creative, community focused & agriculturally based regional economy.

As well as supporting local businesses, a major goal of the Jericho Farmers Market is to expand access to fresh, local food for all members of our community. Towards this end, the Farmers Market administers several food access programs, including federal 3SquaresVT funding and several statewide grant programs. This logistical work allows our small, local vendors to accept 3SquaresVT payments, a program which can be prohibitively complex for new or small businesses. During the 2023 market season, these food access programs saw an almost \$200% increase in use, bringing \$12,000 worth of federal money into the local economy. As well as the economic benefits, these programs help to ensure that *all* families have equal access to high quality, locally produced, food.

Like so many community organizations, we rely upon a group of dedicated volunteers to enable our work. They staff our office booth, run programming, put out signs, help with setup and breakdown, and so much more! Thank you to all of you who were involved with the market in 2023! If you are interested in our mission and want to find out more about volunteering with us or have any other questions, please contact our Market Manager, Elizabeth King at JerichoFarmersMarket@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you all on May 30th from 3-6:30pm, at Mills Riverside Park, for the first market of the 2024 Season!

Submitted by: Elizabeth King, Manager, Jericho Farmers Market



GREEN UP VERMONT
www.greenupvermont.org

**Success on
Green Up Day
May 6, 2023**



Green Up Day, continued to grow with 23,500 volunteers statewide who cleaned up nearly 348 tons of litter and 15,000 tires. We saw 23% more volunteers lend a hand and heard in many cases there was less litter (30%) to be cleaned up. Tire collection saw a 4.8% increase. The statistics show that the hard work to beautify Vermont is still needed but also that our efforts for awareness are paying off. As one of Vermont's favorite traditions, it is imperative for today and for future generations to keep building pride, awareness, and stewardship for a clean Vermont, as well as keep residents civically engaged.

Support from your municipality is essential to our program. Funds help pay for Green Up Day supplies, promotional outreach, and educational resources including activity books, contests for kids, and a \$1,000 scholarship. We are requesting level funding for 2024.

Green Up initiatives are year-round and further our environmental impact with waste reduction programs, additional clean-up efforts, and educational initiatives.

Green Up Vermont is a private nonprofit organization that relies on your support to execute the tradition of cleaning up our roads and waterways, while promoting civic pride, and community engagement. **Thank you for supporting this crucial program that takes care of all our cities and towns.**

Your donations make a huge impact and can be made on Line 23 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form or online at www.greenupvermont.org.

Join us for Green Up Day on May 4, 2024. Visit our website, like us on Facebook (@greenupvermont), and follow on Instagram (greenupvermont). greenup@greenupvermont.org
802-522-7245



Report of Services for Town of Underhill

During the 2023 Fiscal Year, The Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired saw continued success in client services, innovative programs, and community outreach initiatives. Moving forward, it is exciting to imagine the strides we will make in enabling blind and visually impaired Vermonters to be more independent, develop adaptive skills, and improve their quality of life.

SMART Device Training Program: 550 Vermont residents received SMART training in FY23, the highest number in the program's five-year history. Also during FY23, VABVI secured \$100,000 of partial program funding from the State of Vermont. In order to fully fund SMART, whose budget is more than twice that amount, VABVI has recently announced our several-year Second Century Endowment Campaign.

PALS (Peer-Assisted Learning and Support) Group: PALS Groups, held throughout Vermont, are monthly meetings where members share coping strategies and discuss the practical, social and emotional challenges of vision loss. While many clients have been pleased with the reintroduction of in-person meetings in FY23, opportunities to join virtually remain available for maximum flexibility. 42 clients attended PALS meetings in FY23.

HAPI (Helping Adolescents Prepare for Independence): The HAPI program enables Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Certified Vision Rehabilitation Therapists to work one-on-one with students to practice daily living skills.

IRLE Summer Camp (Intensive Residential Life Experience): IRLE camp helps VABVI students develop social skills, meet fellow visually impaired peers, learn independent living skills, and improve self-advocacy skills. This June, IRLE brought 13 visually impaired students to Rock Point by Lake Champlain. Activities included outdoor sports, nature walks, and living in cabins. Fun was had by all!

Community Outreach

VABVI continues to innovate new projects which will connect the local community to our services and cause. After more than a year of development, an accessible tactile sign is slated to be installed in Burlington's Waterfront Park by the end of 2023. Additionally, the New Americans Project will soon offer free vision screenings for local refugee community members.

In Fiscal Year 2023, the agency provided services to a total of 1,083 Vermont residents. This total includes 3 adults and 1 student in Underhill, and 224 adults and 54 students in Chittenden County.

For more information about VABVI's services or volunteer opportunities, please contact Samantha Gougher, Development Associate, at sgougher@vabvi.org. Thank you very much for your support!

60 Kimball Avenue
So. Burlington, VT 05403
(802) 863-1358
(FAX) 863-1481

13 Overlook Drive, Ste. 1
Berlin, VT 05641
(802) 505-4006
(FAX) 505-4039

80 West Street, Ste. 202
Rutland, VT 05701
(802) 775-6452
(FAX) 775-4669

130 Austine Drive, Ste. 280
Brattleboro, VT 05301
(802) 254-8761
(FAX) 254-4802

So. Burl (800) 639-5861
Berlin (877) 350-8838
Rutland (877) 350-8839
Bratt (877) 350-8840

www.vabvi.org

TIME TO SPAY & NEUTER CATS & DOGS and LICENSE!

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP), under VT Economic Services is administered by VT Volunteer Services for Animals Humane Society (VVSA). Funded by a \$4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, resources are limited by the number of dogs licensed as required by law by 6 months of age. A rabies vaccination is required to license. The first vaccination can be given at 12 weeks of age. If unable to schedule an appointment with a vet office, Community Animal Aid (free to those on public assistance: 734-0259 at the E. Barre Fire Station) & Tractor Supply host monthly clinics. After vaccinating, contact your Town Clerk to license your dog. By statute, unlicensed dogs can be seized. Rabies is in Vermont and it is deadly.

Licensing identifies your dog and is proof the dog is protected in the event bitten by an animal, but would still need immediate medical attention. Vaccinations and licensing protect if they bite another animal or person, which could result in the quarantine of the animal or euthanized. If not proven by being licensed to be currently vaccinated, testing for rabies requires the brain to be examined.

For an Application for VSNIP send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Note if it is for a cat, dog, or both. To print out, go to: VSNIP.Vermont.Gov. VSNIP helps income challenged Vermonters with neutering and vaccinations. If approved, you'll receive a Voucher and instructions. If not, a list of low-cost resources will be sent. Several humane societies host spay neuter clinics open to the public. Your cost for a VSNIP surgery is \$27.00, if without complications. The balance is paid by fellow Vermonters with their \$4.00 fee collected at licensing. **Veterinarians and their staff are the backbone of this important program. Thanks to their generosity and altruistic vision, Vermont no longer uses routine euthanasia as a means of population control. Sincerely thank your veterinarian for their participation in VSNIP. If not currently a participating office, please ask them to join and help make a difference in your community. They are very needed.**

Facts: Female cats as young as 4 months can become pregnant. The "mom" cat can/will become pregnant when nursing is finished. Males travel for miles to find a female in heat, often not returning. Cats and dogs (naturally) mark their territory if not neutered. Resolve Carpet Cleaner and a single moth ball in its place will help deter from repeat markings. (Do not use moth balls with young children in the house.) 70% of cats and 15% of dogs using VSNIP are reported as strays or abandoned, which is cruel and illegal. Please do promote VSNIP, helping those that cannot afford to neuter, that will otherwise reproduce over and over. Repeat litters can cause uterine infection, mammary tumors, kidney failure, etc., leading to death. "Farm" cats are especially at risk. Be wary of any seller of animals that won't allow you to see how they are kept before acquiring and want to meet in a parking lot. Animals are often used as a means of making money, and their life may be the inside a room or cage. Please be the voice for those that cannot speak. Purchasing does not 'save' one, it 'enables' those to continue to misuse animals for money. Thank you for promoting this time proven program.

Thanks to now retired Lynn Murrell, DVM, who first agreed to extend reduced rates for animals in need, and all the Veterinarians and Clinics that served for the last forty years plus. A sincere thank you to Bernard "Snook" Downing for helping support many animals in need over the years with his hard work, contributions, and the donors we are unable to thank in print – but you know who you are! ***Together We Truly Do Make a Difference!*** 800 HI VSNIP (1-800-448-7647)

Sue Skaskiw, Administrator: VSNIP Executive Director: VVSA



STATE OF VERMONT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dear Underhill friends and members of the community,

I am honored to be one of your two State Representatives to the Vermont Legislature. 2023 continued to be a challenging time as we transitioned into a post pandemic environment. Lessons learned such as the utility of remote meetings encouraged us to continue to conduct our business in a hybrid (in person/ZOOM) environment, allowing for increased public engagement.

During my first two terms I served on the House Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Committee. In this biennium I will be completing my fourth year on the House Appropriations Committee. My budget portfolio on the Appropriations Committee includes Vermont's criminal justice system and the Agency of Natural Resources. I also Chair the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR). LCAR's purpose is oversight and review of State Agency rulemaking. I also serve on the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, and was recently appointed to the Coordinated Justice Reform Advisory Council.

Our biggest challenge in House Appropriations in the upcoming session will be how best to strategically deploy the resources we have available to us, including pandemic Federal funding, State revenue surpluses, albeit less than the last two years, and general fund revenues. Housing, public safety, substance use, workforce development, clean water, infrastructure, and paid family leave are important areas of concern as well as investments in the health and wellbeing of families and small businesses to create an equitable, resilient Vermont.

Helping and supporting members of our community to access programs and services is one of the most important roles I have as a State Representative. I encourage you to reach out to me with any issues that I might help to address and also welcome your feedback on issues before us in the legislature.

I look forward to seeing you and speaking with you at Town Meeting. Rep. Edye Graning and I also invite you to join us at the Deborah Rawson Library, monthly, from January to May. Watch Front Porch Forum for the schedule. Feel free to contact me any time via email at tsquirre@sover.net or tsquirrell@leg.state.vt.us , call me at 899-2382 or write to me at PO Box 128, Underhill Center 05490.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Trevor J Squirrell

2024 Annual Town Report

I am so appreciative to the voters of Jericho and Underhill for trusting in me to represent you in Montpelier. I work hard to serve you by asking tough questions and developing coalitions of people to work on difficult issues. Overall, my goal is to build a Vermont that works for everyone, not just the wealthiest among us. We need to live in a place where our families, small businesses and communities thrive.

I serve on the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee where we spend our time on workforce development and training, insurance regulation, unemployment insurance oversight, and consumer protection laws. We will continue to follow the unemployment insurance portal modernization project and hope that there can be some progress made in the near future. While we are always focused on strengthening Vermont's workforce and local businesses, we will spend considerable time this session on developing laws to protect Vermonter's data privacy.

My legislative priorities continue to be alleviating housing shortages, mitigating the continuing rise in drug overdose deaths, addressing public safety (which includes the root causes of crime), ensuring that high quality childcare is accessible for everyone, and supporting our public schools.

It has been wonderful to get to know so many folks in our community through office hours and over coffee. I look forward to continuing the practice after the session is over. Trevor Squirrell and I will hold monthly constituent meetings during the legislative session one evening a month at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library. We hope that each meeting will be available for folks to attend in person or remotely. If you would like to reach me, please email egraning@leg.state.vt.us or edye.graning@gmail.com . My mailing address is 44 Mansfield Drive, Jericho VT 05465 or you can call (802)662-1119.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your representative!

Edye Graning



Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District

10 River Road Jericho, VT 05465

P:802-434-2128 F:802-899-4001

mmuusd.office@mmuusd.org

www.mmuusd.org

January 24, 2024

Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District Annual Report

The Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) Annual Report will be available February 14, 2024. The report will include a proposed 2024-25 school district budget, tax rate information and a review of operations, activities and assessment results for Mount Mansfield Unified Union's nine schools:

- Smilie Memorial School (PK-4)
- Brewster Pierce Memorial School (PK-4)
- Jericho Elementary School (K-4)
- Richmond Elementary School (PK-4)
- Underhill ID School (Preschools)
- Underhill Central School (K-4)
- Browns River Middle School (Grades 5-8)
- Camels Hump Middle School (Grades 5-8)
- Mt. Mansfield Union High School (Grades 9-12)

The Annual Report can be found at your local town office, public school, MMUUSD Central Office or online at <https://www.mmuusd.org/>. Upon request, a printed copy will be mailed to you by calling 434-2128.

If you have questions, please contact the Central Office at 434-2128 or by email at mmuusd.office@mmuusd.org.

Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District Our Schools



Smilie Memorial School

Derek Howard, Principal

Enrollment: Prek-4 65

This has been a wonderful year at Smilie Memorial School. It was my pleasure to welcome new and returning faculty and staff back from summer. New staff included Bolton residents Savanna Phillips and Stephanie Lafreniere who joined the team as para educators K-4 and Maureen Locker who joined our preschool team. In collaboration with Brewster Pierce Elementary School, we also welcomed Elbridge Minor who works as our integration specialist, supporting teachers with students who need additional support to access their learning.



After an abnormal summer, Bolton experienced flooding that impacted our community in many ways. At Smilie Memorial School, we pushed forward to create the best learning environment for our community. The art room was transformed with the replacement of flooring, removal of an old elevator and the removal of old shelving. During this process, we uncovered a mural that was painted 30 years ago by some of our parents. The mural will now be updated and renewed by our current students.

A fence was installed at the rear of the school preventing student access to Joiner Brook and it defines our school property. New tunnels were placed in the playground for students to explore.

At the entrance of the school, the Smilie Memorial School sign, which was designed a few years ago by one of our former parents, had an addition to it. Our former Principal, Barbara Tomasi-Gay, generously had a carving made called the "Welcoming Bear" to adorn the right side of the Smilie Memorial school sign. The black bear cub was created by Charlie O'Brien, from "Where The Bears Are", in Stowe. We are touched by this kind gift from Barbara. She hopes that it will delight staff, students and family members for years to come.



We are now planning a fundraiser to replace and redesign the Smilie School playground for the 2024/25 school year, as some of the old elements need to be replaced.

At the start of the 2023/24 school year, we introduced after-school clubs three nights a week to help support parents who work beyond 2:30 pm - this opportunity also extends learning opportunities for our students. The clubs included art, music, sports, and outdoor activities.

In May 2023, the Smilie Community Association funded a resident artist to work alongside our art teacher and students to produce two murals for the school gym. One of the murals shows the History of Bolton since 1790 and the other shows the watershed for the whole town of Bolton. Our mural project this year will be in liaison with the local indigenous communities depicting the landscape pre-1790.

Student Growth

The Smilie faculty have been meeting weekly as a Professional Learning Community (PLC) analyzing data to improve learning for all students. Weekly the teachers and support staff look at academic data from different curriculum areas including Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies. As part of our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), student support staff feedback to teachers on the social emotional supports and interventions being implemented for students. Faculty meetings occur twice monthly, the agenda for these is set by our guiding coalition that also meets twice monthly. The collaboration between all staff, parents, and community is what makes Smilie Memorial School a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students.

School Safety

One of the first priorities this year has been to teach and reteach all of our school drills. This included fire drills, option-based drills, securing the building, hold in place and our evacuation drill. The evacuation drill is becoming a community event where the local fire department escorts the school to the fire station where we learn about bus evacuations, fire safety and get to meet our local volunteer firefighters.



School/Community Connections and Experiences

Fall 2023 was busy with the safety training, field trips to the Audubon and Shelburne farms, outdoor climbing with Petra Cliffs, all school hikes and lots of outdoor learning.

Smilie Memorial School believes that students benefit from outdoor learning experiences in many ways providing an experiential setting for learning in all subjects. Our belief in outdoor learning is not at the expense of traditional learning. At Smilie Memorial School we use outdoor learning to enhance our students' learning experience. Moving into winter we used our local partners of the Catamount Ski Trail Association, Cochran's ski area and Bolton Valley to provide experiences including Nordic and Alpine skiing and snowboarding.

On Memorial Day, our students visit Bolton Cemetery to pay tribute to our service men and women by placing flags on gravestones and listening to the last post being played on a bugle.

Smilie Memorial School continues to grow as the center of its community. We are preparing students to become independent Middle school learners while giving them lifelong happy memories.



Brewster-Pierce Memorial School

Sally Hayes, Principal

Enrollment: PreK-4 101

This year has been an incredible year of growth and learning for our students. Our staff, families and community work together to create a nurturing learning environment which allows the children of Huntington to thrive and reach their full potential. Our dedicated and skilled staff collaborate to provide enriching learning opportunities for all of our students, fostering academic and social/emotional growth. Our Partners in Education, parent group, is an integral part of our learning community, they are essential partners in supporting and enriching learning at Brewster-Pierce. Family and community members volunteer at BPMS in many ways including helping to serve lunch every week, assisting with the Book Fair, organizing families to clean out and add new plants to garden beds, teaching a small algebra group, leading fundraising events, appreciating the BPMS staff throughout the year are some of the ways PIE supports BPMS. PIE supported amazing learning opportunities during this year which included practicing the basics of Capoeira with our artist in residence, Fua, field trips to the Montshire Museum and ECHO, building a Gaga Ball Pit, providing alternative seating options and other teaching resources. We are grateful for the continued support of our families, the hard work of PIE makes us a stronger, enriched learning community. Our students and staff also experience many community connections throughout the year. This year we welcomed the Huntington Fire Fighters for fire safety learning, we enjoyed our annual hike day at Sleepy Hollow, we invited many Special People to a luncheon in November and we welcomed veterans at All School Morning Meeting.



Every day students are learning, growing and making connections between literacy, science, social studies, math and social emotional learning. Throughout the school week students also

experience physical education, music, art, library, guidance and STEM enrichment. During the past year we have continued to adjust our teaching practices to support student's readiness for reading and language development. Our literacy practices are responsive to the needs of each reader and are embedded in rich and meaningful learning contexts, which include speaking/communicating, listening, and writing. In PreK-2nd grade we focus on building strong phonemic awareness, auditory practice, and phonological awareness, understanding the letter and sound connection. In PreK-Fourth, we work to develop language comprehension and vocabulary knowledge to ensure we are providing a comprehensive approach to literacy instruction. We continue to work on combining content in order to provide opportunities for children to make connections and deepen their understanding of concepts. Our math practices continue to include a strong foundation using visual models and building a deep conceptual understanding of foundational math concepts. Mathematicians build on repeated practice of foundational skills which provide a strong scaffold for harder math concepts. Social and emotional learning continues to be an important part of learning every day. Staff help children work through identifying strong emotions and learning strategies for self regulation. We continue to prioritize managing peer relations and self management. This year we have been working on developing goals for social/ emotional learning based on age and developmentally appropriate expectations.



Our staff continues to focus on integrating themes of equity, diversity and inclusion in our teaching practices, our goal is to embed this work into the culture of our school. Classroom teachers and Mollie, our school librarian, continue to add culturally responsive books and content to our classroom libraries and school library. Adding new titles enriches opportunities for



students to learn about multiple perspectives and see diverse representations in characters, stories and themes. We understand that the success in this important work will in part be

measured by how we can engage our students in these dialogues in compassionate and developmentally appropriate ways.

Infusing wellness practices into the daily lives of students and staff is a priority at Brewster- Pierce. Every single day our students and staff get a lesson in healthy eating. The rainbow of food choices at breakfast, snack and lunchtime offers the opportunity to fuel our bodies with nutritious foods. Peter, Hilary, Anne and John work tirelessly each week to provide the highest quality food program possible, and we all benefit every single day. We also teach composting and recycling practices throughout the school day. Students help gather recycling and

compost which provides a rich hands on experience. This year BPMS was awarded the Recycle Rally trophy for the second consecutive year. The CSWD Recycle Rally challenges teams of

students and teachers to raise awareness about proper management of their resources and protect the planet.

Outdoor Education is embedded into our school culture and learning. Brewster-Pierce students get to learn and thrive in their outdoor classrooms every week. The preschool forest classroom is very close to school in a beautifully wooded area with some hills for climbing. During this year our preschool team worked hard to add several new elements to the preschool forest including a new natural climbing structure, some climbing ropes, a platform surrounding a tree, two covered sandboxes and two swings. Preschool students are learning outside every single day and many of the topics for learning are chosen by them and are connected to the plants and animals that live in this special place. Kindergarten through fourth grade students also spend a day each week learning outdoors enjoying their own special learning space in the Community Forest. Outdoor learning provides opportunities to foster land stewardship and develop a deep connection to the land. We are grateful to access the Huntington Community Forest for learning and recreation every week.



Jericho Elementary School

Todd Rohlen, Principal

Enrollment: K-4 324



It is another great year of learning and fun here at JES! As most of you know, our beloved counselor of 30+ years, Tim Lane, retired, leaving big shoes to fill. Luckily, our new counselor, Kerrie

Colleran, has proven up to the task. She has been doing an amazing job supporting students, helping them navigate various issues, and teaching guidance classes for each classroom. These classes teach social skills, emotional management skills, and more. Kerrie has been super responsive to parents and families, so if you need anything from her, don't hesitate to reach out.

One big focus of the District and of JES has been working to have more effective literacy instruction, especially for our early readers. We are working strategically to keep the parts of our programs that were beneficial to learning, like a workshop model. This type of model allows teachers to meet with individuals and groups during reading blocks while kids continue to learn.

We are also adding new components to help kids learn to read more effectively. One example is a daily phonics program, called Heggerty, for K and 1st, that has proven to have big rewards. We have also implemented a new word study program, the University of Florida Literacy Institute, or UFLI. This is K-4 and will help with decoding words, spelling, and much more. While Jericho and the District have a far better success rate with literacy than the state average, we are looking to make it much more successful.



I really appreciate our teachers not only having high expectations for learning everyday, but making learning engaging and interesting for the children. There are creative ways to learn and demonstrate learning in all subject areas. Outdoor learning and enriching off campus experiences continue to be big parts of learning here at JES. We have so much good learning around our gardens, in our outdoor learning spaces, and more. So far this year we've had trips to Shelburne Farms, sailing on Lake Champlain, VT State Parks, and more!

Stay tuned for Sno-motion and more field trips to come during springtime! Teachers have also utilized "giving" to help with learning. The students have organized food drives and fundraisers, helping to raise their awareness of people (and animals) in need.



We worked creatively to have a whole school Open House this year. Building size and lack of parking space can get a bit tricky when hosting many people. However, we staggered people arriving based on last name, and that worked really well. There was always parking and room in the school. Both families and teachers reported that they were able to connect more personally than they would have if everyone had been there at once. It was also great to have families be able to see the whole school, UA teachers, previous teachers, and more. With our large enrollment, we may have to get creative to have family events, but we will continue to work on this.

I also want to give a big shout out to our parent organization, Partners in Education. They have hosted great events, like a fall campus clean up, the Harvest Fest, and more. Working with our PE teacher, Glenn Steinman, PIE was instrumental in getting our amazing new ice rink installed. This was funded through donations and from the town, but all completed through the volunteer efforts of our PIE members. They are also funding the return of an Artist-in-Residence here at JES. This spring, we will welcome Jeh Kulu, a west African drumming and dance company, in for a week to work with each class on west African dance! Stay tuned for more details on that. If you would like to get involved with PIE, they meet here at the school the first Wednesday of each month, or reach out to the office here and we can help.

Thank you to our JES families and the larger Jericho community for your continued support in making our school such a special place!



Richmond Elementary School

Jeremy Rector, Principal

Enrollment: PreK-4 340

It is my pleasure to present the 2023-2024 information for Richmond Elementary School. RES is a vibrant learning community that values equity, curiosity, and growth, and last school year our educators collectively focused on three main goals to promote a thriving educational environment for all of our young learners. Those three priorities were to:

- Establish effective routines, procedures, and community norms
- Build a stronger sense of community, and
- Nurture joy in learning.

In the spirit of continuous improvement over time, we believe an important next step for us this year is to reflect on our journey so far, and intentionally review and refine our actions to ensure best practices for all students. To that end, I am delighted to share the progress we have made in these areas, as well as speak to our professional commitments for the 23-24 school year.

Over the course of several faculty meetings last year, we came together as a staff to reflect on who we are as practitioners and to refine what we believe in. We used a backwards-design model to create a collective, guiding document to use to ground our decision-making and interventions this school year. Together, we identified that we are a school that believes:

- Our teaching and learning systems must be flexible and responsive, and must take the whole-child into consideration.
- Our school environment must provide each student exactly what they need to flourish as individuals and members of the community.
 - Emotional regulation and pro-social skills are essential components to successful learning.
 - Our curriculum decisions and implementation must be based on the needs and interests of our students, and teachers will drive curriculum utilizing evidence-based best practices, data, and targeted assessments.
 - Our school community is one in which everyone feels safe, valued, and connected.



This “Vision” outlined above is what the educators at RES aspire to, and is what we will continue to focus our energies on over

the next few years. This framework offers a compass for our continuous improvement plan moving forward, and is the foundation for which we determined this year's goals from.

RES educators aim to elevate our school's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) processes to improve our methods for teaching social and emotional learning (SEL). SEL is not only interconnected to all forms of learning, but it is also essential to promoting mental health and wellness and a deep sense of community. We continue to prioritize common planning times for teachers, and allocate dedicated time for Professional Learning Communities (PLC). These steps to align professional schedules continue to allow our educators to collaboratively plan lessons, share best practices, and refine instructional strategies. With these common times and professional opportunities, educators have also been empowered to reinstate and revitalize community events aimed at promoting celebration and gratitude among our students and families. New community events this school year, such as the Lantern Walk, have provided valuable opportunities for students, teachers, parents, and staff to come together, to share common experiences, and to build a sense of unity and shared pride with one another in our accomplishments. In a significant stride towards inclusivity and enriching our students' educational experience, we are thrilled to also announce the successful establishment of a new, inclusive playground on the front of our campus that is geared toward our K-4 students, and a new multi-structured playground on the side of our building designed for our youngest learners. Both playgrounds are designed to foster collaboration, physical activity, and imaginative play, ensuring that all children can actively participate. These thoughtful expansions reflect our commitment to create an inclusive and holistic learning environment that empowers every child to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.



As we welcome the new year of 2024 at Richmond Elementary School, we remain dedicated to the collective vision that guides us. We will continue to strive to create an inclusive and holistic learning environment, keeping evidence-based practices and intentional feedback mechanisms



in mind to inform our efforts along the way. Our belief is that the progress we have made and our professional commitments for this new year will continue to pave the way for a future where every member of the Richmond Elementary School community thrives!



Underhill Central School

Jennifer Cote, Principal

Enrollment: K-4 140

Underhill Central School is full of positive, rich, and engaging experiences for all learners. Building community and a sense of belonging is a core value at UCS. We kicked off the school year with a Welcome Back Picnic and have included families and caregivers in the following events: open house morning, zucchini race, turkey trot, mask parade and various classroom celebrations. It's important to open our doors and maintain strong relationships between school and home.

All School Meeting is a regularly scheduled event at UCS. Students enjoy getting together with others to have a mindful moment, celebrate, share experiences and sing. It's a special time to have our entire community together. This winter all students will once again participate in our district's ski and snowboard program at Cochran's. Additionally, each grade level has created exciting opportunities for students. Our 3-4 teams are working with the Floating Classroom program at the Community Sailing Center in Burlington, 1-2 classrooms "traveled" during the month of December to explore cultures across the world and our Kindergarten classrooms toured Chapin



Apple Orchard and are immersed in play-based and outdoor learning experiences. Everyone at UCS continues to enjoy our beautiful outdoor space especially with the addition of the new all access path.

UCS is dedicated to our district's equity initiatives. Our staff utilize the district's Anti Bias Anti Racist (ABAR) council's lesson to reflect on our experiences and ensure we embrace the unique backgrounds, identities and perspectives of our community. We have recently explored the following dominant culture traits: perfectionism and the right to comfort personally and in staff meetings. Our equity work continues to move forward as we reflect and examine our own biases and assumptions.

Staff continue to strengthen our multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) to ensure all students learn at high levels. Our guiding coalition leadership group meets every other week to discuss our current systems and ways to support all learners. Professional Learning Communities meet

weekly to analyze student data, plan for instruction and assessments and identify students who need additional support. We believe that all students are our students at UCS and we use MTSS to support students in a timely manner.

We continue to put a lot of energy into meeting the social and emotional needs of our students. Staff use responsive classrooms to build community and create calm learning environments where everyone's academic and social and emotional needs are met. The following schoolwide expectations are explicitly taught to the whole group and small group or 1:1: We ARE Kind, We ARE Honest, We ARE Respectful and We ARE Responsible to ourselves and each other. UCS is also working with Annie O'Shaughnessy to strengthen our restorative practice efforts which is complementary to social and emotional work completed school wide, in the classroom and through sessions with the school counselor.

Over the last few years, we have transitioned to a structured literacy approach. Classroom teachers are implementing new curriculum and assessment plans that include revised benchmark understanding and learning targets and a scope and sequence for phonics. We are using a variety of new resources for instruction and our system of support to ensure all learner's needs are met. During early release and district curriculum committees, staff reflect and revise our practices as we interact with current research and engage in professional development.



UCS is a vibrant and welcoming community. Our staff care deeply about the students and families at UCS. We are committed to ensuring all students feel a sense of belonging and are engaged in their learning community.



Browns River Middle School

Kevin Hamilton, Principal
Rebecca Marsh, Assistant Principal

Enrollment: 5-8 370

Over the past year, Browns River Middle School students and staff have focused on building a stronger community through our student advisory program known as NEST. This year we are focusing on building a sense of belonging in our school when we meet in small multi age level groups each Wednesday morning.



We are working with the Vermont Council on the Arts and Barbara Paulson, our artist in residence, to help bring this sense of community to life by cooperatively working on a project that will be displayed at the end of the school year.

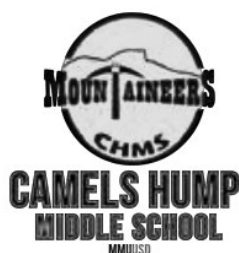
We recognize the importance of having our student community feel safe and supported in order for them to be successful as learners.

Our teachers continue to collaborate closely on the scope and sequence of the curriculum with the teachers at Camels Hump Middle School. Teachers are professionally supported by the academic coaches who work in both buildings and help us to remain closely aligned in our work in order for our students to have an equitable learning experience as they transition to MMU. The Wednesday early release days continue to be valuable time for our staff to have common time to plan and adjust student instruction based on reviewing student data.



The participation rate in co-curricular activities at BRMS continues to be extremely high with well over 90% of our students participating in at least one after school program. Students have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities including: Art, Music, Drama, Writing, Athletics, Engineering, Cooking and many other choices. Many improvements were made to our recess area this summer and are looking to make some additional improvements this spring. The basketball court was resurfaced, a new outdoor volleyball court was installed, and we are currently working on developing a 9 hole disc golf course. Much of this work

was completed through private donations and grants from the towns of Jeicho and Underhill.



Camels Hump Middle School

Gretchen Muller, Principal
Joe O'Brien, Assistant Principal

Enrollment: 5-8 329

The 2023-2024 school year has been off to a fantastic start for Camels Hump Middle School. We welcomed 97 new 5th grade students along with several new teachers and a new assistant

principal. Our Mountaineer population of 329 students has demonstrated incredible motivation, resilience, positivity, flexibility and effort through the first trimester. The collaborative and



intentional planning by our teachers and special educators shines through every day with high student engagement and joy in classrooms.

With another new school year brings more opportunities for our staff to continue with professional learning offered by our instructional coaches and our ABAR (anti-bias/anti-racist) faculty work group. Our teaching and support staff continue to elevate the learning experiences for all students ensuring differentiated and inclusive instruction with clear and common student learning goals across content areas that are aligned with Brown River Middle School. The CHMS staff also continue to bring a lens of equity into all learning and social settings at CHMS.



The beginning of the school year our staff continued work from last year to review, revise and implement new mission and vision statements along with collective commitments or belief statements that define what we do each and every day at Camels Hump Middle School. Our new vision statement or North Star is *“We strive to be **Compassionate Humans Motivated to Succeed**”*. Our new mission statement is: *“CHMS is here to create an inclusive learning community in which we support one another to be accountable for learning actively and collaboratively and to think creatively and critically. We encourage each other to grow, face challenges and live responsibly, while having fun and contributing positively.”*

An integral part of working towards our vision and mission and collective commitments has been our advisory program. While Camels Hump has incorporated advisory into the school day over



the years and tried different approaches, the last year and half we've maintained a consistent advisory program. Our students are in small groups of 8-10, with grade-level peers and an advisor. This group of students and advisor stays together for all four years of middle school. The advisory time creates opportunities for students to make strong connections and maintain ongoing relationships with their peers and a trusted adult. Advisory provides time to have thoughtful discussions, learn from one another and enjoy each other through community building activities.

We are proud of all our Mountaineers and grateful for such a dedicated, supportive and collaborative staff!



Mt. Mansfield Union High School

Michael Weston, Principal

Enrollment: 9-12 710

Krystina Fernandez, Assistant Principal

David Marlow, Activities Director

The 2022-2023 school year was one in which we took many steps toward meeting our ultimate goal of graduating “Effective Engaged Citizens”. Specifically we took steps to help our students develop academic independence and advocacy skills. These two skills are crucial for involved citizens and, we believe, for MMUHS graduates. To



assist our students in acquiring and mastering these skills we give them an opportunity to practice them in generalized settings, such as Advisory and co-curriculars. We would be remiss if I did not point out that 91% of all MMUHS students participate in at least one co-curricular activity and many are in multiple activities. MMU continues to see students achieve academic success in many areas: MMU students achieved a proficient score on 78% of the AP Exams taken, MMUHS students take the SAT during their junior year and our scores continue to exceed state and national average, and our students earned 94% of their Proficiency



Based Graduation Requirements on schedule.

The 2022-2023 school year was capped off by the 56th Graduation Ceremony held in the MMUHS gymnasium, the first to be held there in over 20 years. There were 208 members of the Class of 2023 and they celebrated their graduation on a rainy Saturday morning. This class dealt with a lot in their time at MMU and it was fitting that they demonstrated their ability to overcome adversity right up to the end of their time with us. Their ability to deal with what is in front of them without complaint and with an attitude of togetherness is one that we all can learn something from. The Class of 2023 has spread out across the globe and I know they are representing CougarNation admirably. Finally, we want to thank our community for all you have done to create an environment that allows students to develop into the people they can be.



Joint Underhill-Jericho Funded Projects



Browns River Middle School
9 Hole Disc Golf Course



Jericho Underhill Library District
HVAC System



Underhill Jericho Fire Department
Life Safety and Radio Equipment



Essex Jericho Underhill
Food Shelf – Budget Assistance



Jericho Underhill Land Trust
Mills Riverside Park
Parking lot Upgrades

