



Bethel Volunteer Fire Department

# Town of Bethel Annual Report June 30, 2018

## **Town Charter**

The State of Vermont declared its independence on July 4, 1777 and on March 3, 1778 set up and organized government with sovereign powers, calling it New Connecticut. Before 1778 all town charters had been granted by either New Hampshire or New York, both claiming ownership of the land. Bethel was chartered December 23, 1779 by the Republic of Vermont.

"I **pledge allegiance** to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

## **Town Clerk's Office:**

Hours:

Monday, Thursday 8am-4pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 8am-1pm

Phone (802)234-9722

Fax (802) 234-6840

Email: [betheltownclerk@comcast.net](mailto:betheltownclerk@comcast.net)

## **Town Manager's Office:**

Hours:

Monday – Friday 8am-4pm

Phone: (802)234-9340

Fax: (802)-234-6840

Email: [betheltownoffice@comcast.net](mailto:betheltownoffice@comcast.net)

## The Bethel Selectboard Dedicates the 2019 Town Report to the Residents of Bethel.



"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the actions of its members" ~ Coretta Scott King

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Town Hall getting a facelift

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## What to Expect

### Town Meeting March 5, 2019

#### **Logistics**

Town meeting is held at the school gym

Meeting begins at 10 am

Meeting typically lasts 2-4 hours

Check in at 2 tables, last names A-L & M-Z

State your name at check in, it's the law

All are welcome to listen. Must be registered in order to vote.

Town Meeting uses Robert's Rules of Order. [www.robertsrules.org](http://www.robertsrules.org)

#### **Building Community**

Free Coffee and social hour at 9 am, come early to check in and catch up.

Pie and other desserts donated by community members, call Laura Rubenis 392-4624 by February 26 if you can share a dessert.

Free exhibit space for community & non-profit groups. Call Kelly Hill 234-9340 to arrange an exhibit.

Call your neighbors to offer them rides or to request a ride

#### **Services**

Free child care available! For kids K-6 during the morning meeting, contact Amy Gray 234-6607 to reserve.

#### **Other Business**

At the end of the meeting citizens can bring up any topic they feel is important to the community. No binding votes, but time to share concerns.



## **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Eric Benson.....Moderator

Debra Leahy..... Town Agent

Pamela Brown.....Town Clerk

Laura Rubenis.....Grand Juror

Pamela Brown.....Town Treasurer

### **Selectboard:**

Paul Vallee: 3 Year Term, 2020

Maurice Brigham: 3 Year Term, 2021

David Eddy: Appointed by Selectboard

Lindley Brainard: 3 Year Term, 2020

Chris Jarvis (Chair): 3 Year Term, 2019

### **Listers:**

Louise Ferris-Burt: Term Expires 2020

Roberta Carrier: Appointed by Selectboard

Jim Gray: Term Expires 2021

Penny Griffin: Office Staff Support

### **Trustees Of Public Funds:**

Carroll Ketchum: Term Expires 2020

Eric Benson: Term Expires 2019

Penny Griffin: Term Expires 2021

### **Justice of the Peace:**

Eric P. Benson

Cathy Day

Ola O'Dell

Kirk White

Winslow Ayer

Lisa Campbell

Nell Fisher

## **APPOINTED OFFICIALS:**

Greg Maggard.... Town Manager, Tax Collector, Road Commissioner, Water Superintendent,  
Zoning Administrator, and Emergency Management Director.

Jean Burnham.... Assistant Town Clerk

Shellie Richardson.... Town Service Officer

Jean Burnham.... Assistant Town Treasurer

Neal Fox.... ..... Health Officer

Mark Belisle.... .... First Constable

Cecil Washburn..... Cemetery Commissioner

**Bethel Planning Commission:**

Andrew Delaney (Chair) Term Expires 2019

Cecil Washburn Term Expires 2019

Peter Dohrn Term Expires 2019

Andy Stone Term Expires 2019

Brad Andrews Term Expires 2019

**Bethel Development Review Board:**

Eric Benson (Chair) Term Expires 2019

Penny Griffin Term Expires 2020

Keith Bollman Term Expires 2020

Chuck Washburn Term Expires 2019

Ruth Clough Term Expires 2020

Newt Whitcomb Term Expires 2019

**Bethel Community Forward Festival Committee:**

Fran Robinson (Chair) Susie Fedak Greg Fedak Mary Floyd Cathy Day

Barbara Nickerson Jamie Coogler

**Human Services Advisory Board:**

Carroll Ketchum Paul Feeney Paul Vallee Sandy Farrell Stan Capron

Kelly Hill (Administrative Staff)

**Bethel Town Hall Committee:**

David Sambor (Chair) Nick Nikolaidis

**Bethel Council on the Arts:**

John Duddie (Chair) Kyle Duddie

**Revolving Loan Committee:**

Carroll Ketchum Ellen Nobile Beverly Washburn

**Solid Waste Management Program Joint Board (Bethel Representatives):**

Bobbie Young Maurice Brigham Jennifer Bartleman

**Town Meeting Committee:**

Eric Benson (Chair) Pam Brown Victoria Webber Rebecca Stone Davis Dimock

Laura Rubenis

**Emergency Management Planning & Operations Committee:**

Greg Maggard Kelly Hill David Aldrighetti Allen Patton Tim Mills

Mark Belisle Geary Coogler Jason Rogers Moe Brigham

**Regional Transportation Advisory Committee:**

Bill Hall

**Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Planning Commission Rep:** Carl Russell

**Stagecoach Advisory Committee Representative:** Thomas Burgos

**White River Valley Ambulance Representative:** Neal Fox

**So. Royalton Senior Center Representative:** Carroll Ketchum

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS (CONTINUED)**

**ECFiber Board of Directors Representative:**

Matt Washburn            Ian Stewart (Alternate)

**Red Cross Shelter Volunteers:**

Paul Vallee, Dave Bagley, Richard and MaryAnn Church, Greg and Susie Fedak, Carla Hodgdon, Terri Hodgdon, John Hubble, Meredith Manning, Joann Marshall, Jennie Marx, Lois Mears, Linda Dean Orr, Jennifer Schomp, Jolene Snelling, Katie Watters, Wendell Wills and Joan Wortman.

**Regular Meeting Schedule of Town Boards & Committees:**

Selectboard: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays, 6:00 PM

Planning Commission: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, 7:00 PM

Development Review Board: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, 7:00 PM (as needed)

Conservation Commission: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, 6:00 PM

Solid Waste Management Program Joint Board: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays, 7:00 PM

Recreation Committee: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays, 6:30 PM

Energy Committee: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, 6:00 PM





Town Manager Greg Maggard helping with traffic control

## **\*\*VT-ALERT USE FOR BETHEL RESIDENTS\*\***

The Town of Bethel is encouraging its residents to sign up for VT-Alert so they receive town alerts. Alerts you may receive could be weather related, road closures, water repairs and much more. These alerts will be helpful in keeping residents informed for such events. For Help on Signing up please contact the Town Manager's Office 802-234-9340



<https://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert>

### **VT-ALERT - Program Overview**

We have launched a new Mass Notification service that allows us to alert you. You opt-in to enter your contact information and subscribe to notification you care about based on your location. The information you provide is protected and will not be used for any other purpose.

### **How It Works**

When we issue a notification about a potential safety hazard or concern, you will receive a message on the voice or text communication methods that you have registered. If requested for the notification, you can confirm that you have received the message and you will not be contacted by any subsequent

methods regarding that particular notification. If you do not confirm, the system will continue to attempt to reach you at all of the contact paths that you have registered.

## Sign up for Notifications

Create an account and add your contact and location information into the Mass Notification system. All information you provide will be kept strictly confidential.

<https://vem.vermont.gov/vtalert>

### **TOWN APPROPRIATION SUMMARIES**

#### **Clara Martin Center**

**802-728-4466 claramartin.org**

**\$3000.00**

Clara Martin Center is your local community mental health agency, providing behavioral health and substance abuse services to the greater Orange County area for the last 50 years.

Clara Martin Center's broad range of programs serve children, families, couples and individuals. Services include counseling, psychiatric services, consultations, short term crisis intervention, school and home-based services, education for families related to emotional and behavioral challenges, community resource assistance, hospital diversion, respite care, housing, vocational services, alcohol and other drug treatment, a walk-in clinic and 24-hour emergency services.

With 50 years of experience and leadership under our belt, Clara Martin Center remains positioned to rise to meet the needs and challenges of the communities we serve. Recent events in our communities have spotlighted opiate use, where Clara Martin Center is at the forefront of this epidemic, providing help to those in the community dealing with this problem. Anyone can get help through our Substance Abuse programming by simply walking through our doors, or calling 728-4466.

#### **Health Hub**

**802-431-6060 healthhubvt.org**

**\$1000.00**

The Health HUB School-Based Clinic is the school clinic for the towns of South Royalton, Strafford, Chelsea, Sharon, Bethel, Tunbridge, Orange, Washington, Stockbridge, Rochester, and Williamstown, Vermont. Health HUB was started in the 1990s by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grants. It is a non-profit, 501(c3) organization. Health HUB operates in collaboration with the South Royalton Health Center. The school nurses are able to consult with the South Royalton Health Center. The mission of the school clinics is to deliver prompt and cost-effective [Medical](#), [Dental](#) and [Mental Health](#) services to children from infancy through high school.

**One Planet Afterschool Program**

**802-763-7775 ext 4**

**\$2500.00**

One Planet strives to support student learning by offering high-quality afterschool and summer programming. During the school year, we offer a healthy snack, outdoor play time, homework support and enrichment programming each day. Our enrichment programming ranges from STEM activities to physical activities to arts-based activities.

One Planet also strives to support families by offering comprehensive programs that run until 5:30pm each day so working families can make use of them. We try to keep our fees reasonable and have a fee schedule based on family income. In order to make our programming affordable, we rely on a wide variety of funding sources, including 21C grant funds, parent fees, childcare subsidy, school funds and local town funding.

**Orange County Parent Child Center**

**802-685-2264 [orangecountypcc.org](http://orangecountypcc.org)**

**\$1000.00**

The Orange County Parent Child Center Inc. (OCPCC) is a non-profit organization serving Orange and northern Windsor counties.

Our mission is to help families with young children build a sense of place within their communities by connecting them to education, support, advocacy and wellness opportunities. Since 1989, families and providers have come to know us and access us as their primary community resource for any topic or need related to children and families.

OCPCC's programs include: Children's Integrated Services Family Support and Family Support Nursing, Welcome Baby visits, six free community playgroups, Kids Place supervised visitation and exchanges, Reach Up case management, Families Learning Together program, Early Care & Education for children 6 weeks to 6 years, parent education, kinship care support groups, and resource & referral services. You can learn more at [www.orangecountypcc.org](http://www.orangecountypcc.org).

**Quin-Town Senior Center**

**802-767-3763 [quintownsnrctr@myfairpoint.net](mailto:quintownsnrctr@myfairpoint.net)**

**\$1200.00**

The Quin-Town Senior Center is based in Hancock and since 1972 has given the senior citizens in our valley a place to go for onsite meals on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at noon. We have supplied nearly 5,000 meals this past year to seniors at the center and through our Meals on Wheels program. Our doors are open to meet our seniors' needs. We create a warm and inviting atmosphere for our seniors to socialize. We serve local foods as much as possible, and we provide nutrition information and education. Our Meals on Wheels program not only provides healthy meals to seniors, it also provides us with an opportunity to perform a wellness check for our senior neighbors. Our budget request is to cover a portion of our operating budget that is not reimbursed by our contract with the Central Vermont Council on Aging. Therefore, each contributing town and their citizens help to run our program and provide quality meals and social enrichment for their aging neighbors and relatives within the six communities.

**Safeline**

**800-639-7233 [safelineinfo@safelinevt.org](mailto:safelineinfo@safelinevt.org)**

\$1000.00

Safeline, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides free and confidential services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking in Orange County and Northern Windsor County. A trained advocate is always available to provide crisis support, safety planning, resources, information and referrals through Safeline's 24 hours a day/7 days a week Hotline (1-800-639-7233). Survivors can also choose from a wide array of additional services including legal advocacy, day shelter services, job readiness skills development, and financial management education. In addition to providing direct services, Safeline is a resource for the community at large and is committed to changing the culture of violence. As part of this work, Safeline offers a full range of prevention education for community organizations, schools, medical centers, faith communities, youth groups, and anyone who is seeking information about domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

**South Royalton Senior Citizens Center**

**802-763-7386**

\$3000.00

We serve Bethel, Royalton, Sharon and Strafford. Many times, seniors from the towns will come to the center for meals and other activities. All are always welcome. To qualify as a senior, you must be 60 years old or older. Meal sites are in South Strafford at Barrett Hall on Wednesdays and in Royalton at the Academy Building on Tuesday and Thursday. The nutritional program provides one-third of the daily adult nutrition required. Entertainment is offered during many of the meals. Services offered include home delivered meals, transportation to the meal site, blood pressure clinics, foot clinics, and a flu shot clinic.

**Stagecoach**

**802-728-3773 [stagecoach-rides.org](http://stagecoach-rides.org)**

\$4000.00

Stagecoach Transportation Services, Inc. was established in 1976 to create a network of community transportation alternatives that connect the people and places of Orange and Northern Windsor Counties of Vermont. Our mission is to enhance the economic, social and environmental health of the region by providing safe, reliable, affordable and accessible community transportation services for everyone in the communities we serve.

**VT Association for the blind**

**(800) 639-5861 ext. 219**

\$800.00

The Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired's 2018 Fiscal Year was an exciting one. We served more clients than ever before and we launched our new iOS Training program for adult clients. It's clear to us at VABVI that our mission and services will continue to play a critical role in the lives of many Vermonters well into the future. We are working harder than ever to support anyone living in Vermont who is experiencing vision loss.

**Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT & NH**

**888-300-8853**

\$600.00

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) is a compassionate, non-profit healthcare organization committed to providing the highest quality home health and hospice services to individuals and their families. VNH provides care for people of all ages and at all stages in life, and delivers care to all, regardless of ability to pay. Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 VNH made 2,206 homecare visits to 86 Bethel residents. This included approximately \$72,928 in unreimbursed care to Bethel residents. Bethel's annual appropriation to VNH helps to ensure that all have access to quality care when and where it is needed most. On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your continued support.

**Vermont Center for Independent Living**

**800-639-1522 [vcil.org](http://vcil.org)**

\$300.00

Since 1979, VCIL has been teaching people with significant disabilities how to gain more control over their lives and how to access tools and services to live more independently. VCIL employees conduct public education, outreach, individual advocacy, and systems change advocacy to help promote the full inclusion of people with disabilities into community life.

**Windsor County Partners**

**802-674-5101 [wcpartners.org](http://wcpartners.org)**

\$600.00

WCP is in its 5<sup>th</sup> decade of building healthier communities through youth mentoring. Mentored youth learn life skills, provide community service and participate in cultural and athletic activities. WCP creates partnerships where mentors are matched with a school – aged mentee. These mentoring partnerships then meet at least two hours a week. With many partnerships continuing on for years. Financial support from Windsor County helps ensure the wellbeing of children and their families. WCP thanks the voters of Bethel for their support for the children of Windsor County.

**Health Care & Rehabilitation Services**

(802) 886-4500

\$250.00

Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS) is a comprehensive community mental health provider serving residents of Windsor and Windham counties. HCRS assists and advocates for individuals, families, and children who are living with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders. HCRS provides these services through outpatient mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment program, community rehabilitation and treatment program, developmental services division, and alternatives and emergency services programs. During FY18, HCRS provided 570 hours of services to 16 residents of the Town of Bethel. The services provided included all of HCRS' programs resulting in a wide array of supports for the residents of Bethel.



**Bethel Resident and Business Owner Brad Andrews and his dog Bunks enjoying a cup of coffee while overlooking a water line repair on Main Street.**

## **Town Committee Summaries**

### Bethel Conservation Commission

The current 7-member Bethel Conservation Commission is an advisory board to the select board, planning commission and zoning board, and other town officials. Our powers and duties include a wide range of areas covering the stewardship of natural resources, including air, water, soils, earth resources, scenic and recreational resources, plant and animal life, agricultural and forest lands, and open lands. We may establish inventories, recommend purchase or receipt of lands, receive grants or private gifts of money or land, and administer acquisitions of such lands. We also provide educational opportunities for public understanding of these topics.

Our present board consists of: Mary Floyd, Co-Chair Ferron Griffin, Co-Chair Emily Miller, Secretary Jennifer Schomp, Mark Heckmann, Lisa Campbell, Katie O'Neill

### Bethel Community Forward Festival Committee

The Bethel Community Forward Festival has become a truly community-centered and highly-anticipated event each fall. The festival was held in September, once again, on the Common,

near the White Church. Many thanks to all of the community members who help to make this Festival so wonderful. Please visit the Community Forward Festival Committee section at [www.townofbethelvt.com](http://www.townofbethelvt.com) or look for us on Facebook.

### Bethel Council on the Arts

The Bethel Council on the Arts (BCA) is pleased to report on another exciting season of concerts. The BCA provides weekly concerts on Wednesday nights during the months of July and August free of charge and open to the public. Our venue has become a popular gathering spot during the summer concerts and attendance is growing. This past season we brought back popular local bands including Bow Thayer, The Party Crashers, 4 Play and John Lackard. Special thanks to the generous residents of Bethel and especially the Bethel business community for continuing to support our summer concert series! You can check our schedule on the Town website <http://townofbethelvt.com/>

### Town Meeting Committee

Bethel Town Meeting Committee worked to make town meeting accessible, understandable and fun. We organized donations of pie and exhibits by community groups. We worked on editing and graphic design for the **Bethel Operator's Manual**. We are hoping to finish the Manual by the end of December.

### BETHEL PLANNING COMMISSION

Traditionally, the Planning Commission was responsible for drafting three documents: (1) the Town Plan; (2) the Zoning Ordinance; and (3) Subdivision Regulations. During 2016, the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations were consolidated into a single Unified Bylaw. The Commission gathers information, drafts language, holds hearings, and submits recommendations to the Selectboard. The Selectboard, in turn, takes these recommendations under consideration, holds additional hearings, and adopts or rejects the Commission's recommendations.

The Commission's primary focus during 2017 was to begin preparations for the next Town Plan update. This task involves completing a town-wide survey and making revisions to sections of the Town Plan in order to ensure that the Town Plan complies with regional and state guidelines and regulations. In 2018, the Planning Commission will complete a survey and edit the Town Plan as part of its regular review of the Plan.

The Planning Commission meets at 7:00 P.M. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Town Offices on South Main Street. All meetings are public. Residents are encouraged to attend and any input is welcomed.

### Bethel Development Review Board

The Development Review Board is the Town entity which reviews major subdivisions, conditional use permits, variances, and site plan approvals. It is the responsibility of the Board to make sure that all applications adhere to the requirements of the Bethel Unified Bylaw and

Town Plan. While most of the application reviews are fairly simple processes, they are time consuming. The Board strives to keep the process flowing smoothly and all applicants are encouraged to schedule an appointment to review their project with the Zoning Administrator to ensure all necessary information is submitted. The Board meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month by appointment, as needed.

### Bethel Energy Committee

The purpose of Bethel Energy Committee is to review, facilitate, create, and inform the community of opportunities, projects, or programs to increase the energy efficiency within Bethel. We appreciate all the Bethel residents who have contributed to the energy efficiency of our town.

During 2018 the Bethel Energy Committee studied potential sites for electric vehicle charging stations in Bethel, and plans to apply for the VT Beneficiary Mitigation Plan of the VW Mitigation Trust grant in 2019.

Upcoming in January 2019 is the Solarization campaign launch, which will offer Bethel residents an opportunity to save money on solar panel installation.

BEC usually meets first Wednesday of the month at 6pm. For more information, contact Jose Lazo, BEC chair, 802-770-8877, [joselazo2355@hotmail.com](mailto:joselazo2355@hotmail.com)



# APPROPRIATIONS

<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>2018 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2019 PROPOSED</b>
AMERICAN RED CROSS	250.00	*NA
CAPSTONE	300.00	*NA
CENTRAL VT COUNCIL ON THE AGING	650.00	*NA
CLARA MARTIN CENTER	2500.00	3000.00
HEALTH HUB	500.00	1000.00
ONE PLANET	2500.00	2500.00
ORANGE COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER	500.00	1000.00
QUINTOWN SENIOR CENTER	1200.00	1200.00
SAFELINE	800.00	1000.00
SOUTH ROYALTON SENIOR CENTER	3000.00	3000.00
STAGE COACH	4000.00	4000.00
VT ASSOC. FOR THE BLIND	800.00	800.00
VISITING NURSES ASSOCIATION	6000.00	6000.00
VERMONT CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING	150.00	300.00
WINDSOR COUNTY PARTNERS	600.00	600.00
HEALTH CARE AND REHAB SERVICES	NA	250.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$23,250.00</b>	<b>\$24,650.00</b>

\* Did not submit a request\*



Human Services Advisory Board working on appropriation requests. Members are Carroll Ketchum, Sandy Farrell, Stan Capron, Paul Vallee and Paul Feeny (not pictured).

