

Joss Besse – 2017 Good Citizen of the Year
By John Devine
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One of the best things about our small town government is being represented by well-meaning volunteers. We rely on our friends and neighbors to act in our own best interests, and in this town, really, anybody who wants to participate is more than welcome.

Of course this means that once elected or appointed, some of us must quickly learn as we go, the ways of government.

Luckily, some of our officials are well schooled in Public Administration and understand Robert's Rules of Order, the mysteries of Federal and State funding, and how to keep the rest of us out of trouble.

This year's Good Citizen, Joss Besse, is one of these people.

Joss has lived in West Bolton since 1978, served on the Select Board in the 1980s, and as School and Town Moderator from 2005 to the present. His behind the scenes activities are probably even more significant. Joss is presently our representative on the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, and is Chair of the Capital Planning Committee, tasked with developing a tool that will be critical to the town budgeting process in the future. We have relied on Joss for years to step up to the plate when the town needed him.

But his most meaningful contribution to our town has been his family. He and Hilary, along with their two fine sons, are great neighbors and everybody's friend.

So! Congratulations to the 2017 Good Citizen of the Year. You are one of the many reasons Bolton continues to be the Best Town in Vermont.