

THE BOLTON GAZETTE

THE TOWN OF BOLTON, VERMONT

“THE LAND OF BOULDERS AND BEARS”

3045 THEODORE ROOSEVELT HIGHWAY, BOLTON VT 05676

NOVEMBER 2015

EMAIL: BOLTONGAZETTE@GMAVT.NET

VOLUME #3 ISSUE #11



DUXBURY ROAD FORUM AT THE KILPECK FAMILY BARN

BOLTON COMMUNITY FORUMS

Over 100 Bolton residents have attended five community meetings to discuss the future of their neighborhoods and the whole town with the Planning Commission. Every meeting was unique, with topics of discussion informed by the neighborhood and attendees. Thanks to everyone who came to a meeting or filled out a survey.

At the community kickoff on September 30th at Smilie School, over 50 residents gathered to eat pizza, hear a presentation about town planning, and offer feedback about what they want for the future of Bolton. The most popular activity was a mapping exercise, which let attendees identify the areas in Bolton they hope to see maintained, evolved or transformed.

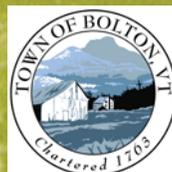
The next meeting, on October 1st, was in the most interesting location of all: a barn that the Kilpeck family graciously lent to the Planning Commission for the evening. Fifteen residents of Duxbury Road met to discuss their side of the river and the long history of many of their families. Conversation focused mostly on Duxbury Road itself, with attendees offering ideas about how to make travel safer for drivers, bikers, pedestrians and property owners.

People living near Bolton Valley and some business owners met next to talk about the particular challenges facing the resort and its residents on October 6th. Many topics were discussed, ranging from a lively conversation about the town's zoning bylaws to the possibility of turning Bolton Valley into a thriving four-season resort.



Bolton Valley

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



CLERK'S CORNER

○ AMY GROVER • TOWN CLERK & TREASURER ○
CLERKBOLTON@GMAV.T.NET

FALL CLEANING?

From the Chittenden Solid Waste District:
November is bring us your hazardous leftovers month! Take a peek in your cabinets, basements, and sheds, and get rid of those hazardous leftovers. Bring 'em to the Environmental Depot so they are disposed of or recycled responsibly. Paint isn't the only item accepted at the Environmental Depot, we'll take just about anything with any of these words on the label:

WARNING - DANGER - POISON - CAUTION
CSWD Environmental Depot:
1011 Airport Parkway, South Burlington
Hours: Wed-Fri 8-2; Sat 8-3:30.
Hotline: 872-8111
www.cswd.net

PROPERTY TAXES DUE NOVEMBER 16TH!

Reminder: the second installment of property taxes is due on Monday November 16th. Payments must be received by 4 p.m. on the 16th or postmarked November 16th to be considered ontime. There is no grace period and late payments incur a 1% interest penalty.

REAPPRAISALS WINDING DOWN

If you have not had your property reappraisal, please call the town office to schedule an appointment. Appointments are scheduled on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.



PHOEBE ENJOYS THE FIRST SNOW!

PHOEBE'S KIDS' QUESTION

OF THE MONTH!

Winter sure is on its way, and it really felt like winter when I went for a hike with my humans and got to play in the first snow of the year! I love to take snowbaths...and well, I needed a real bath after trying to take a snowbath on this day. There really wasn't enough snow, and it was more like a mudbath! That made me start thinking about getting a LOT of snow, and having a big blizzard! So fun! When do you think Vermont had the biggest blizzard ever? Hmmm...? Find out in next month's issue!

WOOF! WOOF!!

Last month's answer: Can you believe that Bolton has 26,752 acres of land? That would be about 27,000 football fields! Wow! That would be a lot of room for the PATRIOTS to play football! My humans would say "Go Pats!" whatever THAT means!

CONTINUED FROM COVER PAGE

Another meeting was held at Smilie School on October 15th to give those who live along Route 2 a chance to talk about their neighborhood specifically. Residents discussed the challenges of tourism at the Bolton Potholes, where out-of-town visitors' behavior can be a dangerous nuisance. The meeting also focused on ways to turn Route 2 into an economic core for the town.



ROUTE 2 FORUM AT SMILIE SCHOOL

Neighborhood meetings wrapped up with a forum at the West Bolton Golf Club on October 20th. Residents of West Bolton discussed ways to preserve the unique historic nature and neighborhood feeling of the area in the future. Conversation also focused on the future of Wheeler Field, with everyone agreeing that future uses should benefit the town while being financially viable for the owners.



WEST BOLTON FORUM AT THE WEST BOLTON GOLF CLUB CLUBHOUSE

With the information that has been collected from these meetings, the Planning Commission will work to develop goals for the Town Plan. These goals will be available for comment in 2016, and specific strategies for meeting those goals will be developed once the goals are approved. Notes from all the meetings and more information on the town planning process can be found at <http://boltonvt.com/townplan/>. Stay tuned!

NOVEMBER 2015

PAGE 4

Senior Holiday Gift Baskets



Baskets of Cheer
By Tony Barbagallo

The Holidays are coming!
Oh how they quickly come and go
It's that Special Time of Year
To help out the ones you know
Baskets of good tidings
Bring comfort and bring joy
And add a little something extra
For Bolton's senior girls and boys

Because each of us was young one once
And each of us will age
It's the Season made for giving
And here's a chance for you to engage
Drop us a donation
Either in groceries or in cash
And we'll add it to the Baskets
That we'll deliver in a dash



For the wisdom and the memories
Because they've helped us as we've
grown
To wish them Merry Christmas
For the little kindnesses they've shown
A Holiday Basket Greeting
To remind someone that you care
Holiday Baskets for our seniors
Let them know you know they're there

Non-Perishable Food Donations accepted at the following locations:

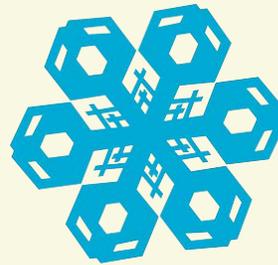
Smilie School
Bolton Store 
Stargazer Gifts in Richmond

Cash or checks

Payable to Town of Bolton
Bolton Town Clerk
3045 Theodore Roosevelt Highway
Bolton, Vermont 05676

To volunteer, or to be added (or
removed) from the senior basket list (65
or older)

Contact: Darlene.Autery@yahoo.com



*Done y
occure
avy cou
top lake, 11/16 jordan
even even gentle. It fan
and done point gasler*

SMILIE SCHOOL NEWS

Kindergarten Field Trip to the Audubon Center
"Critter Construction"



Cully & Tucker liked the beginning of the trip when we watched a puppet show. A beaver was cutting down a tree for its home but it was already the squirrel's home. The beaver learned to look for nests in trees before he cut them down.

Next, we hid acorns like squirrels. We had to remember where we hid them so we could find them at the end of the trip. Molly & Kaden liked trying to find their acorns!

Ginny & Payton liked building animal houses. Azalea & Britt especially liked building squirrel houses called drays. Lucian, James, Kendra & Escher liked building a beaver dam in the brook.



Cassidy & Ava remembered that they saw turtles. They were on the back trail in a big pond. Gabby & her family think they were snapping turtles!

Ayden liked the scavenger hunt we went on to look for animal nests. On the scavenger hunt, Giana saw a hole in a log, a hole in the ground and a rock with a hole under it. She learned that these are all animal homes.

Logan liked seeing the abandoned beaver house in the water and Liam liked exploring the beaver bones (skull) that the guide let us look at and touch. The teeth were really long!

We had a great day!



2ND, 3RD, AND 4TH GRADE NEWS

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders in Mr. Menz's and Ms. Cafferty's classes have been working on a really cool unit on geology. We took a trip to the granite quarry in Barre to learn about this special igneous rock. Did you know that granite is formed by cooled magma and that even though the quarry in Barre is 600 feet deep, the granite being quarried there is 10 miles deep! That quarry is going to be open a long time!

As part of this unit, students are also investigating erosion. Pairs of students have been working with stream tables containing a mixture of sand, gravel, humus and clay, similar to the soil we are familiar with. They use water bottles with sprinkler heads to simulate rain and then examine the streams and deltas that are formed. Students take measurements and collect runoff to help in their investigations.

We love this unit!

**PRESTON LAFRENIERE HOMESTEAD SALE UPDATE**

Mike Snyder, Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, notified the town that the state had received three bids that met or exceeded the minimum bid for the property, and that the state would evaluate and select the winning bid by

November 15, 2015. It was noted that the proceeds from the sale would help to reimburse the department for the work that had to be done to prepare the property for sale, for the barn stabilization efforts, and for further stabilization of the West Barn.

We know that the Bolton community is looking forward to a new owner giving this historic property the fitting care and attention it deserves.



NOVEMBER 2015

PAGE 7

**NEW ONLINE VOTER AND ELECTION
MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
ANNOUNCED**

In late October, Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos announced the rollout of Vermont's new online statewide voter checklist and elections management system that is used by all town and city clerks in the state, and an online voter resource tool.

The "Online Voting Registration Tool" allows Vermonters to submit their voter registration application online.
<http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>

The "My Voter Page" allows registered voters to login and have access to a unique and specific page where they can request an absentee ballot, track its status, update their voter registration record, find a polling place, and more. 
<http://mvp.sec.state.vt.us>

"I am proud of the work I have done to modernize the systems in my office, but I am especially excited to announce the implementation of this online voter registration tool, as I consider it one of my most important responsibilities to foster increased participation in the electoral process in Vermont," said Secretary Condos. "Voting lies at the

very core of our democracy and is a fundamental right protected by both the Vermont and United States Constitution. This new online registration tool and  'My Voter Page' resource will make it easier for all eligible Vermonters to exercise that right. This is positive progress that Vermont can be proud of."



**BOLTON REPRESENTATIVE
APPOINTMENT**

Governor Peter Shumlin has appointed a Waterbury woman, Theresa Wood, to Rebecca Ellis' vacant seat in the Vermont House of Representatives. Ellis resigned from the Legislature in August to join the Shumlin administration.

In addition to Bolton, Wood will represent the towns of Waterbury, Huntington, and Buel's Gore.

Wood has served as deputy commissioner at the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living, and currently serves as the Vermont Agency of Transportation's Community Liaison in the region. She also helped manage Waterbury's recovery following Tropical Storm Irene, which hit in 2011.

BOLTON UP AND DOWN TOWN CLUB HOLIDAY GATHERING

Please note the CHANGE OF DATE AND LOCATION

Date: Thursday, December 3, 2015
Time: 5:00 PM
Place: Smilie School
Meal: Casseroles accompanied by many favorites!



Due to the holiday season fast approaching, we're combining our November and December dinners into one delicious December dinner, our last for 2015! We'll enjoy a Christmas theme complete with a Yankee Swap (please nothing expensive – Yankees are frugal! If you would like to participate, simply bring a wrapped gift!)

If you have a favorite appetizer, dessert or side dish you would like to share with others please feel free to bring it.
Call Doris @ 434-3769 to let her know if you are bringing something to share.
Hope to see you there!

YOUR DRIVEWAY CULVERT AND YOU!

Is your driveway culvert cleared for winter? Help prevent driveway or even road washouts by making sure both ends of your driveway culvert are clear from rocks and debris. If debris builds up, the culvert can become blocked and cause flooding and/or washouts. Be sure to haul off any debris to prevent that debris from re-entering your culvert or washing downstream to your neighbor's culvert. Winter is fast approaching – see the 2015 amended **Winter Operations Plan** on the back of the mailing cover, or the last two pages of the electronic version, for a reminder and information on winter operations!



THANK YOU!

Thanks to Jill Drinkwater for tucking in the Town Office gardens for the winter!

BOLTON GAZETTE INFORMATION

Reminder: The deadline for submissions in the 15th of the month for the following month's edition. To **OPT IN** to receive the Bolton Gazette electronically and in color (help the town save \$ on paper and postage costs!) email boltongazette@gmavt.net

We welcome all submissions, in any format: stories, news, events, art, poetry, photographs. Drop submissions at the town office or, you've got it, email them to boltongazette@gmavt.net!

NEW BEAVER BAFFLE IN THE UPPER PRESTON POND

This fall a “beaver baffle” was installed at the upper Preston Pond – in the heart of the Town’s Preston Pond Conservation Area. During installation, a number of hikers stopped by and were really interested in what this was and how it worked, so a quick explanation is in order.

The problem is that as the beavers raise the height of their dam, water floods the adjacent hiking trail and VAST trail. Those trails are also on the right of way for our neighbors who have a legal right of way to access their landlocked land. While we normally would just let beavers do their thing, we have a conflict with this particular dam.

One of the key management goals for the Preston Pond Conservation Area is to maintain and enhance wildlife habitat, and the beaver ponds provide particularly important habitat for many other species of wildlife. So while these beavers are causing a problem, we absolutely do want to keep both the beaver population and the pond intact.

SO ... the compromise we came up with is the beaver baffle. It lowered the pond level about 10”. The design “baffles” beavers who can’t figure out how to block it, and the pond level should remain at this level for a number of years.

How is it designed? The top and sides of the tube are built of wide boards, 16’ long. The bottom and ends are enclosed in a 2” x 4” wire mesh to allow water to flow through. The wire mesh is small enough that beavers can’t get inside, and large enough to keep smaller debris from getting caught. Beavers can build around the sides of the tube, but can’t figure out how to block the water flowing through the wire mesh. So they learn to live with it.

This project is just one of many that are regularly done by our volunteers. West Bolton resident Julie Longstreth has installed a wonderful series of wildlife paintings on round pieces of wood as a kind of scavenger hunt along the trails. This year we have also seen a lot of trail maintenance, including the installation of a kiosk at the Stage Road trailhead, the replacement of planking on the three bridges, construction of boardwalk over muddy areas, construction and maintenance of numerous waterbars, and regular removal of trees that fall across the trails. Much of the construction work was accomplished by Boy Scouts from Richmond/Bolton Troop 23. Special acknowledgement goes to the Scouts who coordinated the projects: Ryan Van Horn (kiosk), Jack Landis (boardwalk) and Ross Johnson (bridges). There is a 'Preston Pond Stewards' group comprised of town citizens that takes on regular maintenance of the trail system. Please contact the Town Office if you are interested in joining the effort. Finally the Bolton Conservation Commission is finalizing the draft of a new ten-year management plan for the property.

It is a pleasure to see so many people enjoying themselves on our town forest, and we encourage everyone to explore and experience this unique property.

The Bolton Conservation Commission

PUBLIC WORKS VEHICLE UPDATE FROM THE SELECT BOARD

After getting estimates from area vendors, the Select Board voted unanimously at their October 19th meeting to enter into a five-year lease-to-own agreement (under 24 V.S.A. § 872) with Clark's for a new 2016 International Truck, to be delivered in January.



The urgency of this purchase was the result of ongoing and increasingly costly maintenance problems with the town's 2008 International, given that our extended warranty on this truck will expire in November. We received a very favorable trade-in price from Clark's for the 2008 and will be withdrawing \$28,660 from our Highway Equipment Reserve Fund for a down payment, to reduce annual lease payments. Subject to voter approval in March, a lease payment line item of not more than \$14,425 will be added to the 2016-2017 town budget as a highway expense (rather than as a debt service payment). We also judiciously left a very healthy balance in the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund for future purchases in recognition that we have an aged equipment stock, and unlike wine, heavy equipment does not get better with age.

by Jen Dudley-Gaillard, Select Board member

CAPITAL PURCHASES

This new truck is just one of many capital purchases made by the town in recent years as the need arose – for a new town office, fire station renovations, highway reconstruction, and trucks for both the highway and fire departments. These purchases resulted in some significant ups and downs in our budget over the years – at one point close to 20% of our operating budget went to debt repayment. We are now down to about 12%. Talking to our department heads, clearly more capital purchases will be needed in the next few years.

In order to minimize large fluctuations in the town's annual budget due to capital purchases, the Select Board has decided to develop a capital budget and plan for the town. An ad hoc Capital Planning Committee, composed of current and past Select Board members, a representative of the Planning Commission, and local a resident with extensive experience in municipal budgeting, was recently appointed by the board to develop a "Capital Improvement Plan" (or CIP) for the town. The plan will identify and schedule anticipated capital purchases over the next five years, based on priority needs and estimated costs, to establish and maintain a relatively stable, manageable level of debt. The committee will work over the next year, and submit their recommendations to the Select Board for consideration and adoption, following a public hearing, for use in developing future town budgets. Committee meetings are open to local residents and the public. Notices, agendas, minutes and materials are posted on the Bolton Capital Planning Committee page on the town's website.

By the Capital Planning Committee Chair, Joss Besse

3. After these routes are open and cleared, roads which are the most problematic for the public (traffic volume, steepness and curves) will be plowed, with plowing continuing until all roads are open and cleared. Bolton differs from many towns in that, because of its mountainous terrain and the Winooski River, much of the road network is not interconnected. This affects the driving time needed to reach some road sections, and may delay clearing operations during winter storm events.
4. Honey Hollow Road (TH12) , because it is steep, narrow, difficult to maintain and unsafe to travel during winter months, and serves only seasonal camps and state land, is officially closed to motor vehicle traffic from December 16th to May 1st of each year, pursuant the October 1, 2012 Honey Hollow Adoption of rule. Beginning and end dates for road closure may be adjusted by the Select Board, in consultation with the Road Foreman, based on prevailing weather and road conditions. The town will not plow or maintain the road when closed to traffic; however the Select Board may allow for temporary winter access under a private winter maintenance agreement approved by the board.
5. The town will not plow nor maintain Class 4 roads, private roads or driveways. All private roads and driveways are to be maintained by property owners as necessary to allow for emergency vehicle access, and to avoid parking within town rights-of-way.
6. The town will enforce NO PARKING restrictions under the Bolton Parking Ordinance at all times on the traveled portion of all highways, and in plow truck and school bus turnarounds. Vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.
7. State law (23 VSA § 1126) prohibits plowing, shoveling or blowing snow from a private road or drive onto or across a town or state highway. Violators may be subject to a fine or penalty and may also be liable for damage to property, vehicles, and any undue cost to the town for clearing and removal.
8. The town will assume no responsibility for plow or snow damage to objects such as trees, fences, flowers, and stone walls placed within town rights-of-way without prior permission from the town. The town will also assume no responsibility for damage to mail boxes located within town highway rights-of-way, unless directly struck by the plow.

III. Use of Materials

1. Salt will be applied to most paved roads, when the road temperature is at or above 20 degrees, with a minimum of sand added as necessary. Salt is not effective when the road temperature drops below 20 degrees.
2. Sand will be applied on all gravel roads. Granular materials used for winter maintenance may contain particles as large as $\frac{3}{4}$ " in size, which can cause windshield damage. Travelers on local highways are expected to use caution and avoid following town trucks and other vehicles too closely. The town will not assume responsibility for windshield or other damage resulting from the use of sand and gravel for winter road maintenance.

Adopted November 25, 2002. Amended February 16, 2015 by majority vote of the Bolton Select Board.