



The Reading Informer

August 2020

Published by the Town of Reading

If you wish to receive the Informer by email please send a note to the Town Clerk
at readingvermont@comcast.net

Primary Election

Tuesday, August 11, 2020



Voting at the Town Hall from 7 AM to 7PM. Masks will be required to vote in the building. Please practice social distancing.

Absentee ballots may be requested on line at <https://mvp.vermont.gov> until August 5th. You may also request one by calling the Town Clerk at 802-484-7250, or in person at the Clerk's office until 4PM August 10th.

Please knock on the door and wear a mask.



Selectboard Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2020 UNAPPROVED

Meeting held and recorded with use of Zoom for public participation.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. Present at the Town Hall: Robert Allen, Gordy Eastman, Jim Peplau, Calista Brennan, Stephen D'Agostino, Mike Coleman, Kevin Kaija and Lisa Kaija – Zoom: Glen Town and Ann Rubright

Robert started the meeting asking if there were changes to the agenda. Jim wanted to add ECFIBER

Minutes of the June 8, 2020 Selectboard meeting was approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: As of 6-30-20, Expenses were \$60,818.76, Revenue was \$6,204.13 and the balance in Mascoma is \$462,905.96. Delinquent taxes for 2018 and 2019 are \$33,797.10. Jim moved to approve and Gordy seconded. Calista stated that a couple of delinquent taxes had been paid off. Robert asked if all delinquent taxes had a payment agreement. Calista said not all but most of them did. Report is accepted.

Action Items:

Reading Health Officer Report Covid-19: Mary wasn't at the meeting but had sent Robert an email with the up dated numbers in the State and a brief summary of were to get information about non-compliance. All the information is on the State Dept of Health website. She also reported about complaints at 20-foot swimming hole and the water quality. The State is testing the site. IF IN DOUBT....STAY OUT! Robert also mentioned that he had received an e-mail from the Department of Public Safety regarding the use of masks in public places. Posters will be requested from DPS.

Reading ATV/RATS Club: Mike Coleman was here to show the board the new signs that they are replacing on the trails and roads. The club is cleaning up and or removing the old signs. The Town has a sign permit that was given to the Zoning Administrator, but he wanted the board to see what they were doing since it involved town roads. The board approved the signs. Jim asked about how they handle trouble spots and speed limits. Mike said that there were 2 signs they could use, 15 MPH and/or 25 MPH, and that they are working with the Game Warden Asa Sargent to enforce the speed limits and issue tickets. Mike will come to the next meeting with a map of where the speed limit signs will be placed.

Recreation Commission: – Stephen was here to update the board on activities being planned by the Rec. Commission. All of the activities will follow the social distancing guideline and they will talk with the Health Officer as to anything else that needs to be done. The events will be Aug 1 – movie at the library, Aug 15 – ice cream social, Aug 21- drive in movie at Bartley Field, Aug 27 – live music, and Sept 10 – Art in the Park. They will not be having the fall fair but will have the Ducky Derby on Sept 27th. The board agreed to all of these events.

Green Spaces Committee: – Annie said that the grass in coming in nicely – a few bare spots to reseed in the fall. The furniture is out and they are working on getting some plants planted. Robert said it looks nice from the road and thanked the committee for their work.

Grant Policy: Jim made a motion to sign the policy, Gordy seconded. The policy will be given to the chairperson of all commissions and committees. The policy is a basic guideline on how grants will be administrated in the Town.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Energy Grant: Kevin was here to talk about the grant that the committee was awarded and ask the board to sign it. It is a grant to pay for water testing in the Felchville village. The matching funds will be in kind services. This must be done by June of 2021. Jim made a motion to approve and sign the grant, Gordy seconded. There was a discussion about solar power.

Highways: Glen said that they were doing roadside mowing, cleaning culverts and ditches. Robert asked about spreading gravel and Glen said that they have gotten the worse spots. Jim asked about the truck, nothing new.

Driveway Permits: There were 2 submitted for Stone Chimney Road, Glen has looked at them. They were approved with conditions.

Stream Bank Project on 20 Mile Stream: The bid was awarded to Jarvis and Sons. They will begin in late August early September.

Tyson Road Paving: Wilks Paving was the low bid. There was discussion about getting a 3 or 5-year loan for \$200,000 and to do the entire length from South Reading to the Plymouth Town Line. Calista will get some rates from the bank.

Robinson Hall Siding Work: The fire marshal stopped and looked at the work being done. He told Garret that he would have to add fire stops between the first and second floors. This will be an added cost.

Other: Jim talked about ECFIBER being on 20 Mile Stream Road and in that area of Reading. He wanted to be sure that anyone interested in receiving the service get on their list. www.ecfiber.net is the website to get more information or the Reading contact person is John Malcolm, jrmalcolm@gmail.com

Calista talked about the election on August 11 and how to organize it and still meet all the current guidelines. The polls will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM. Masks will be required to vote.

Lisa Kaija said the new principal at RES is Heather Lawler. The teachers are getting ready for the opening of the schools. Calista will look into the paperwork transferring the school from the Town to the District. Lisa said that they would like to have a sign for the school by the road. Calista will look into the right of ways and if there are any surveys. Lisa said that the driveway needs to be repaired. Robert stated that would be a school district project.

Lisa also mentioned that the teachers had asked about using the upstairs of the Robinson Hall for a classroom at times. The board wanted to think more about that and said that would have to be discussed at a later date. Heat would be an issue as well as any other possible events at later dates through the year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Next Selectboard meeting will be on Monday August 10 in the Town Hall Dining Room for all.

Respectfully Submitted, Calista N. Brennan, Town Clerk

Law Office of Peter K. Vollers, PLC

Peter K. Vollers, Esq.

Dana Twigg-Smith, Paralegal

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4 The Green

Woodstock, Vermont 05091

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Fax: 802-457-9960

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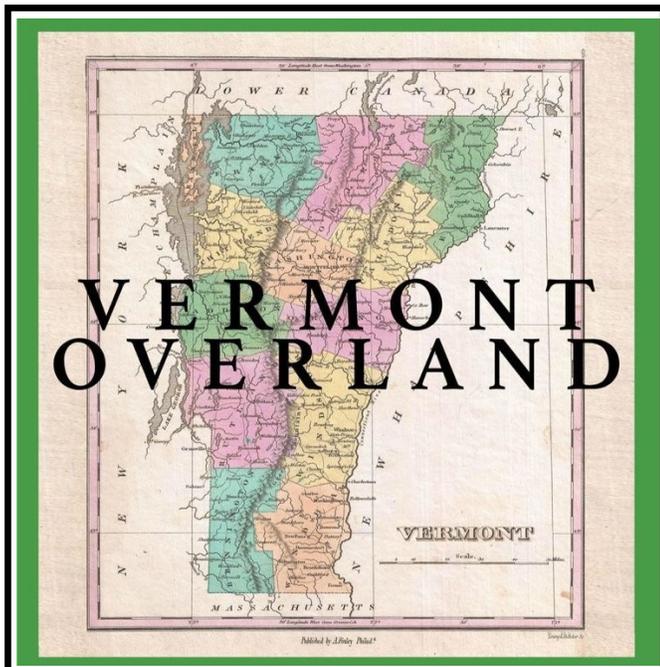
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Reading Planning Commission Meeting
July 6, 2020 – unapproved minutes

The Planning Commission (PC) met remotely using the ZOOM format. The meeting was recorded and the link to it is on Reading's website. Each Agenda item below is followed by the approximate time that subject appears in the recording. Present: Stephen Strait, Ken Cox, Kevin Kaija, Kurt Voight, Kathy Callan-Rondeau. Guest: Jason Rasmussen, So. Windsor County Regional Planning Commission (SWCRPC)

The meeting started at 7:01 pm Changes to the Agenda – There were none.

Minutes of June 1, 2020 – Since there were no changes to the minutes of the June 1st meeting they stand as posted on Reading's website.

Mail/email – (8 minutes) Steve and the commission briefly discussed a subdivision application from Mr. Windish for a parcel he owns on the west side of Route 106, north of Hammondsville. The group agreed that they needed more information to proceed and Steve will contact Robert Allen, Zoning Administrator, with details.

SWCRPC News – Kathy reported that the SWCRPC has been holding meetings over ZOOM. They are operating under a "skinny budget" for the immediate future.

Energy Committee Updates – (11 minutes) Kevin reported that area energy commissions are encouraging that solar panels be placed on the former Windsor Minerals building. He will be meeting with the Selectboard to discuss managing the grant for testing water sources in town. The grant money will be used to hire a testing lab to initially check water sources in Felchville center and then in the surrounding area if funds allow.

Hall Foundation Footbridge and Parking Lot Project – (15 minutes) Ken, the chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA), has scheduled a public hearing for this project on August 3, 2020 at 7 p.m. The foundation wishes to construct a parking lot for visitors northeast of the North Branch of the Black River, on the east side of Route 106, and a footbridge across the river for access to the Visitor Center. The meeting will be on ZOOM.

Town Plan chapter discussions: Drafts of the following chapters are online at <https://swcrpc.org/reading-town-plan/>. Please send comments or questions to the Commission at readingvt.plancomm@gmail.com.

Housing – (20 minutes) The Commission discussed the importance of affordable housing for residents and the challenges the town faces to provide it. In the past they have reviewed the Zoning Ordinance to make sure there are no regulations that hinder this objective. New data on new house construction, median house prices and median income was added to the chapter.

Education – (40 minutes) Education has been moved from the Facilities and Utilities chapter to a new chapter. The chapter addresses the town joining the Windsor Central MUUD; the 4th, 5th, and 6th grades moving to Woodstock; and town attitudes about these changes as expressed in the Town Plan Survey. The chapter also addresses the impact of COVID-19 on education, the importance of Internet access for everyone, and the uncertainties about educating children in the future.

Natural Resources - (60 minutes) The Commission members made minor changes to the draft correcting web references and footnoted data sources They filled in details about cemeteries and historic sites in town. The group discussed flood resiliency and the cost sharing rates for flood damage and encouraged that land in the "Current Use" program not be posted. Ken added a new section, Beaver Wetlands, to the chapter following Kevin's suggestion.

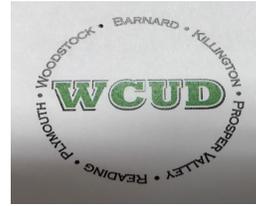
Plan for Next Meeting – (1 hour, 48 minutes) The ZBA will meet remotely using ZOOM on August 3, 2020 at 7 pm. They will conduct a Public Hearing on a Conditional Use application for the Hall Foundation footbridge and parking lot. If time allows the PC will continue to review Town Plan chapter drafts for Land Use and Energy.

Other Business – None.
Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Strait

Adjournment – 8:51 pm.
readingvt.plancomm@gmail.com

Please Note:

Transfer Station
stickers dated
2019-2020 are
valid through the
end of
September 2020



Windsor Central Unified Union
School District
Upcoming Board Meeting Schedule
6:30 PM

Monday, August 3
Monday, September 14
Monday, October 5
Monday, November 2
Monday, December 7
Meetings are hosted in the
WUHSMS Teagle Library

Check the WCSU's website,
www.wcsu.net to confirm dates and
review meeting agendas and minutes.

ECFIBER is coming to Reading,
this includes **South Reading!**
Reading is on the list for December 2020.
If you are interested, please go to
www.ecfiber.net to sign up or contact Reading
representative John Malcolm at
jrmalcolm@gmail.com

Honoring Reading Residents Who Served in World War II

In August 1945, 75 years ago, the combat in World War II ended. Though the official end of the war was September 2, 1945—six years and one day after it started—Japan announced its intention to surrender on August 15. That day became known as V-J Day. The fighting in Europe ended in May 1945.

The Vermont Historical Society's Freedom and Unity website (freedomandunity.org) notes that over 50,000 Vermonters enlisted or were drafted into service. Of those, 1,233 died.

In Reading Town Hall on the right-hand wall as you enter from the front, there is a list of names on a plaque that reads Town of Reading Honor Roll. It honors the residents who served in World War II. There are 60 names on that list. Some of the surnames are familiar—Allen, Cleveland, Jenne, Kaija, and Osgood, to name a few. Of these 60 names, only one has a star beside it. That name is Claude W. Bartley. He was the only resident of Reading to die in World War II.

When you are in the Town Hall, take a moment to check the Honor Roll and thank those who served during that crushing time in American history.



Librarian's Note

The town library has free passes available for the American Precision Museum in Windsor, the Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock, and the Vermont History Museum, with branches in Montpelier and Barre. Also available are reduced-price passes for Echo Aquarium & Science Center in Burlington and the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) in Quechee. In addition, the library offers a pass for many of Vermont's state parks, good for free entry into designated park day-areas for up to eight people in a vehicle; this pass is good at Ascutney, Plymouth, Wilgus, and Silver Lake State Parks, among others. And there's a similar pass for half a dozen Vermont historical sites, including the Eureka Schoolhouse in Springfield, the Old Constitution House in Windsor, and the Calvin Coolidge Birthplace at Plymouth Notch. Before heading out, call ahead or check online to see if hours have changed or if there are health & safety requirements at the place you're going to. For VT State parks info, go to www.vtstateparks.com; for VT historic sites, go to <https://historicsites.vermont.gov/>. All passes can be checked out for two days. To reserve a pass, call or email me at the library.

For the current fiscal year, the library is offering patrons free access to RBdigital, a platform containing thousands of downloadable audio- and e-Books. To get started, visit our library's RBdigital landing page at <https://vermontstate.rbdigital.com/>. Select the "Register" link in the upper-right-hand corner of the screen. Fill in the information requested. Enter a username without any spaces (i.e., user123). Passwords must be at least four characters long and can contain both numbers and letters. Passwords are case sensitive; usernames are not. You will be asked for your library card number. This is the barcode number on the back of your card. You should only have to type it in once. After registering, you will sign back in with your username and password. If you don't have a library card or don't know your number, get in touch with me. For answers to more questions or for a tutorial, click the tabs on the "Help" page at RBdigital.

Cordially,

Tony

Reading Public Library. Mail: P.O. Box 7, Reading, VT 05062. Tel. 802-484-5588. E-mail: reading.public.library@comcast.net. Web: www.readinglibrary.org. The board meets the last Tues. of each month. at 6 p.m. Wi-Fi 24/7.



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The United States Census 2020

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Puddledock Park Parties Return

The Reading Recreation Commission is happy to announce that Puddledock Park Parties will be returning in August and September. Unlike prior years, some of the parties won't take place on Thursdays, and one of them won't take place at Puddledock Park.

Check out the fun lineup!

Saturday, **August 1**: Movie Night at Puddledock Park.

(This event is in conjunction with Reading Public Library. Rain date: August 2)

Thursday, **August 13**: Ice Cream Social at Puddledock Park

Friday, **August 21**: Movie Night at Bartley Field

Thursday, **August 27**: Live Music at Puddledock Park

Thursday, **September 10**: Art in the (Puddledock) Park

Also, the Reading Recreation Commission will be holding the **Ducky Derby** this year! It is slated for **September 27**. Stay tuned for more details.

Please note: At these events, we will be enforcing social distancing and ask people to wear masks when within 6 feet of people who are not in their trusted circle. Some events will have a limited number of participants and require an RSVP.

For more information, visit [Facebook.com/readingparks](https://www.facebook.com/readingparks) and watch Front Porch Forum.



Meeting Schedule

<p>Cemetery Commission Fourth Wednesday 6:00 PM at Town Office</p> <p>EC Fiber Second Tuesday at 7pm Oaks Hall 1st floor of Law School In S. Royalton, VT</p> <p>Energy Committee Third Thursday 7 PM Fire Station</p> <p>Fire & Rescue Dept. First Tuesday 7:00 PM at Fire Station</p> <p>Fire Dept. Auxiliary First Monday 6:30 PM at Fire Station</p> <p>Green Space Committee 3rd Thursday 5 PM at Library</p>	<p>Library Trustees Last Tuesday 6:00 PM at Library</p> <p>Parent Teacher Org First Tuesday 5:30 PM at Reading School</p> <p>Planning Commission & Zoning Board First Monday 7:00 PM at Town Hall</p> <p>R.A.T.S 2nd Wednesday 7:00 PM at Fire Station</p> <p>Recreation Commission 2nd Wednesday 6:00 PM at Library</p> <p>Select Board Second Monday 6:00 PM at Town Office</p> <p>WCMUUSD School Board Second Monday 6:00 PM Locations Vary</p>
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Emergency Telephone Numbers

Fire and Ambulance 911
State Police 911
Domestic/Sexual Violence Hotline
866-348-WISE (9473)

Town Contact Information

Town Clerk/Treasurer Office

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Email: readingvermont@comcast.net

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Greg Smith 802-384-2101

Post Office Iiri Makkonen 484-5994

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Library
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Tuesday 12:00 to 3:30, 4:00 to 7:00
Thursday 10:00 to 1:30, 2:00 to 5:00
Saturday 10:00 to 2:00

Listers 484-7258
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Reading Elementary School
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Reading Planning Commission
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August 2020 Please note that meetings may be held by ZOOM due to the State restrictions

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> <i>Movie Night</i> <i>Puddledock Park</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> <i>Plan comm</i> <i>Mtg. 7 pm</i>	<i>4</i> <i>Fire & Rescue</i> <i>7 pm</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> <i>Select board</i> <i>Mtg. 6 pm</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> <i>Recreation</i> <i>Commission 6 pm</i> <i>Library</i>	<i>13</i> <i>Ice Cream</i> <i>Social Puddledock</i> <i>Park</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> <i>Green Space</i> <i>5 PM at Library</i>	<i>21</i> <i>Movie Night</i> <i>Bartley Field</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>23/30</i>	<i>24/31</i>	<i>25</i> <i>Library Board 6</i> <i>pm</i>	<i>26</i> <i>Cemetery</i> <i>Commission 6 pm</i> <i>Town Hall</i>	<i>27</i> <i>Music at</i> <i>Puddledock Park</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>