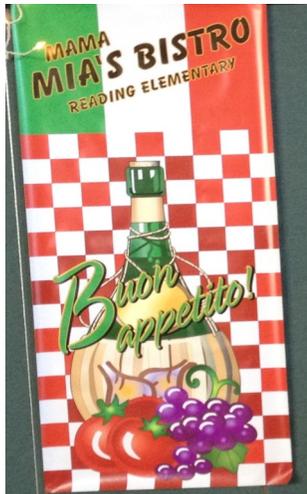




# *The Reading Informer* *February 2020*

Published by the Town of Reading



## **Mama Mia's Bistro —**

World Class Dining  
Prepared by the **PTO** at the  
Reading Elementary School

***Sunday, February 9, 2020***

***Continuously serving from 4:00 — 7:00 PM***

**Cost \$8 for adults; \$5 for children  
Under age 5 free Families \$20.00**

Come enjoy a delicious homemade Italian dinner

with your choice of:

Penne, Homemade Meatballs, Cheese

Marinara Sauce , Salad, Garlic Bread and Desserts

**The Reading Historical Society Invites you to attend the  
Annual Meeting, Dinner and Guest Speaker, Deborah Lee Luskin**

Date: Saturday, February 15, 2020

Time: Starting at 4:30pm

Location: Reading Town Hall

Starting at **4:30** pm with a short business meeting.

At **5:00** pm we will enjoy a pot luck “Roadkill” dinner. We won’t actually serve roadkill, of course, but use your imagination about what you can bring, and give it a cleverly themed name! Please bring an entrée, salad or dessert to share with others. We will furnish the table settings and beverages.

**Please RSVP** to Calista Brennan to let her know if you will be attending by calling 802-484-0276 or e-mail at [tomcalvt@yahoo.com](mailto:tomcalvt@yahoo.com). Please let her know what you will be bringing and how many people.

At **6:00 pm**, we will have a guest speaker, Deborah Lee Luskin, from the Vermont Humanities Speakers Bureau. She will present her program titled, **“Getting from Here to There: A History of Roads and Settlement in Vermont”**

The difficulties of traveling in Vermont played a significant role in the state’s settlement, development, culture and politics. But Vermonters weren’t always eager to have good roads. Opposition began in 1753, when the Abenaki joined forces with the French to protest the building of a British military road along an established Abenaki trail. Resistance to new roads has continued ever since, from the Green Mountain Parkway to the building of the interstates.





Absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's office during regular office hours. These can be requested until March 2, 2020 and must be returned by March 3, 2020 before 7 PM.

These ballots are for voting on the presidential primary and our local WCMUUSD school vote only.

**Please Note:**

You must declare a political party when voting in the Presidential Primary! V.S.A. Title 17, Chapter 57, section 2704

“A person voting at the Primary shall be required to ask for the ballot of the party in which the voter wishes to vote and an election official shall record the voter's choice of ballot by marking the entrance checklist with a letter code, as designated by the Secretary of State, to indicate the voter's party choice.”

The logo for Long View Forest, featuring a green tree icon and the text "Long View Forest" in a bold, green, sans-serif font.

# Long View Forest

*Complete Services for the Care of Forestland*



## Forest Management Consulting

Contact Alex Barrett  
VT & NH Licensed Forester at ext. 104  
abarrett@longviewforest.com



## Invasive Plant & Beech Control

Contact Tom Groves  
Woodland Services Foreman at ext. 106  
tgroves@longviewforest.com



## Cut-to-Length Timber Harvesting

Contact Logan Sears  
Contracting Manager at ext. 107  
lsears@longviewforest.com

Hartland & Westminister Vermont • (802) 428 – 4050 • [www.longviewforest.com](http://www.longviewforest.com)



# Reading Annual Town Meeting

## Saturday

### February 29, 2020

9:30 AM

Location: Reading Elementary School

Town reports will be available for pick up no later than February 18th. As soon as they are available, we will post it on Front Porch Forum. Copies will be available at the Reading Town Hall, the Reading Library, the Reading Greenhouse, the Reading Elementary School and Watroba’s General Store. The Town Meeting Warning and the Town Report will also be posted on the town website at: [www.readingvt.govoffice.com](http://www.readingvt.govoffice.com)

Coffee and pastries will be available; hosted by the Reading Greenspace Committee.



### Time to license your dog (s).....

### License your dog by April 1st

### to avoid a late fee.

**You must have a copy of a current rabies vaccination certificate.**

**Dog Fees:**

**Males/Females \$13.00**

**Neutered/Spayed \$ 9.00**

**After April 1st: add a late fee of \$2.00 / \$4.00**

In accordance with the State of Vermont Statute Title 20: 3541-3591 and 3801-3813 the municipal clerk shall issue licenses for dogs and wolf hybrids. If you own or keep a dog or wolf-hybrid that is six months or older on or before April 1st of each year you must license the pet. If you become an owner or keeper of a dog or wolf-hybrid that is six months old after April 1st, you have 30 days to license the animal. Stop in at the Town Clerk’s office to register any new dogs or renew your dog’s license.

## Selectboard Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2020

UNAPPROVED

The meeting was called to order at 6:11pm.

Present: Robert Allen, Gordy Eastman, Jim Peplau, John Fike, Jason Rasmussen, Kevin Kaija, Charlie Kimbell, Annie Rubright, Jean Goldsborough, Tom Kennedy, Steve Strait, Glen Towne and Calista Brennan

Robert started the meeting asking if there were changes to the agenda. No changes.

Minutes of the December 9, 2019 Selectboard's minutes were approved as printed. Jean asked how corrections to the minutes were handled. Robert said that if there were correction they would be made at this time and then approved with the corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** As of 12/31/19, Expenses were \$119,628.31, Revenue was \$24,612.11, and the balance in Mascoma is \$887,506.53. Delinquent taxes for 2017, 2018 and 2019 are \$49,208.49. Jim moved to approve and Gordy seconded. Calista stated that delinquent taxes were down from this amount as a couple of small ones had paid in full. Report is accepted.

### Action Items:

**Town Plan Adoption:** A Public Hearing was held, with no questions or comments regarding the proposed Town Plan. Jim made a motion to adopt the Town Plan, Gordy seconded. The Town Plan was adopted 1-13-2020.

**VLCT Cannabis Resolution Relating to S.54:** Charlie was here to talk about S.54 relating to regulation of recreational cannabis. This is now in the House Ways & Means Committee to talk about how to tax the sale of recreational use of cannabis. There are several proposals in both the House and Senate. VLCT has put a resolution out hoping that Towns would 'opt in' to have more control over what would happen in their community. There was a lot of discussion on what this would mean for Reading. The Selectboard is not ready to sign the resolution at this point in time, but informed Charlie that they were in favor of 'opting in' rather than 'opting out' so that Reading would have more control over the establishment and the selling of cannabis.

**Green Space Committee:** Annie and Jean were here to give an update the budget request and what the committee wants to see happen. They have done a lot of fundraising to help pay for the improvements. This year the focus will be on seeding, and fertilizing the grounds, getting a sign, some plants and possible a shade tree. They are continuing to have fundraisers in the coming year, with the Maple Cook-off and breakfast items for sale at the Town Meeting. The goal is to get this done and then just be able to maintain the park. Mowing will be discussed at a later date.

**Solid Waste Management:** Tom Kennedy was here to ask if Reading would be willing to do a proxy vote at the quarterly meetings. He will send the paperwork necessary to start that process. Tom also mentioned that the Solid Waste Management District has received a grant to help establish a hazardous household waste center that would be open weekly rather than having one or two collection days annually. More information will be coming in future months.

**Listers Grand List Report:** John Fike presented the board with the yearend report. The bottom line was an increase in property value from July to Dec of \$2,237.00. Jim moved to approve the report, Gordy seconded. The report was approved.

**Highways:** Glen said they are still getting sand and would be grading roads this week from the warm up over the weekend. There are no major truck issues, however the Western Star is still having power problems when fully loaded and plowing. He will be calling Patriot Motors about the reprogramming that was done on the Western Star, to see if they can do anything else.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

**Fire Dept:** Gary was not here to report.

**Sign Town Meeting Warning:** Today was the last day for petitions to be handed in to get on the appropriations. The warning was available and signed by the Selectboard.

**Other:** Robert received a letter from Woodstock Ambulance stating that the amount for ambulance coverage in the Curtis Hollow area more than doubled from previous years. This is not a huge expense to the Town but was a huge increase in one year.

Readings Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is due to expire in a couple years. The Town has signed a certification that indicates we would be able to cover the 25% matching funds if awarded the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant if the 25% local match share is not provided by a State Grant.

Kevin asked about live streaming meeting so that more people could be involved. More information is needed about this before a decision can be made.

The Selectboard signed the Certificate of Highway Mileage for the Agency of Transportation.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28pm    Next Selectboard meeting will be on Monday, February 10, 2019.  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Calista N Brennan, Town Clerk

## Public Hearing—Meeting Minutes

Reading Town Plan  
Monday, January 13, 2020

Present: Robert Allen, Gordy Eastman, Jim Peplau, John Fike, Jason Rasmussen, Kevin Kaija, Charlie Kimbell, Annie Rubright, Jean Goldsborough and Calista Brennan    Meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Robert Allen.

Robert explained the process and that the Planning Commission had held a public hearing about the Town Plan changes in December of 2019. After that hearing the Commission passed the Plan to the Selectboard and it was now up to the Selectboard to also hold a hearing. Robert said that having a Town Plan in place is important and also helps when applying for money from many State and Federal agencies. The Town has received a grant for help from SWCRPC with the review and update of Town Plan. Robert asked if there were any questions or comments and none were received.

Jim made a motion to adjourn, Gordy seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:11 pm  
Respectfully submitted,

## The United States Census 2020 An Important Way to Support Your Community

**An accurate count is the goal of every census, the 2020 Census included. The results of the census have real-world impacts-and consequences-for communities across our country. From determining the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives to planning for roads, schools, and hospitals, an accurate count is crucial.**

**Census takers are being hired. Applicants are encouraged to apply online at [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs) or to call the toll-free number at 1-855-JOB-2020 with questions, or to obtain more information or assistance.**

**Law Office of Peter K. Vollers, PLC**

Peter K. Vollers, Esq.

Dana Twigg-Smith, Paralegal

T'Other House  
4 The Green

Woodstock, Vermont 05091

Tel: 802-457-2420

Fax: 802-457-9960

[pvollers@vollerslaw.com](mailto:pvollers@vollerslaw.com)

[dtwigsmith@vollerslaw.com](mailto:dtwigsmith@vollerslaw.com)

**Green Mountain Smokehouse**

*Voted 2014 Best Bacon Yankee Magazine*

Rte. 5 Windsor, VT

802-674-6653

- Maple Sugar Cured Ham

- Smoked Sausages

- VT Smoked Cheddar Cheese

- Marinated Meats

- Garlic/Herb Smoked Chicken

- 10 Flavors of Sausage

- Bacon & Canadian Style Bacon

- Beef Jerky

- Hickory Smoked Turkey Breast

- Pepperoni



Office: 802-484-7388 • Cell: 802-291-3299

Office: 3642 VT-106

Reading, VT 05062

Home: P.O. Box 11

Brownsville, VT 05037

Dana S. Waters

[www.DarkHorseRealty.com](http://www.DarkHorseRealty.com)

[Dana@DarkHorseRealty.com](mailto:Dana@DarkHorseRealty.com)

**Vermont Facial Aesthetics**

Sells amazing sunscreens and skincare!

Consultations are complimentary!

Please Call 802.356.2343

[Vermontfacialaesthetics.com](http://Vermontfacialaesthetics.com)

**BAILEY'S MILLS BED & BREAKFAST**



Charming and Historic

Enquires Welcome

484-7809 BARBARA THAEDER

**GOODHOUSE LANDSCAPING**

You Grow It We Mow It

David Goodhouse

Owner

1212 Baileys Mills RD

Reading Vt

Cell 802-291-2117

Home 802-484-5540



**THE SPRINGFIELD BARBER**

Pam Eastman

307 Clinton St., Springfield, VT

802-885-3232

Regular & Styled

**Walk-in Service**

Tues 7-5 Wed 9-7

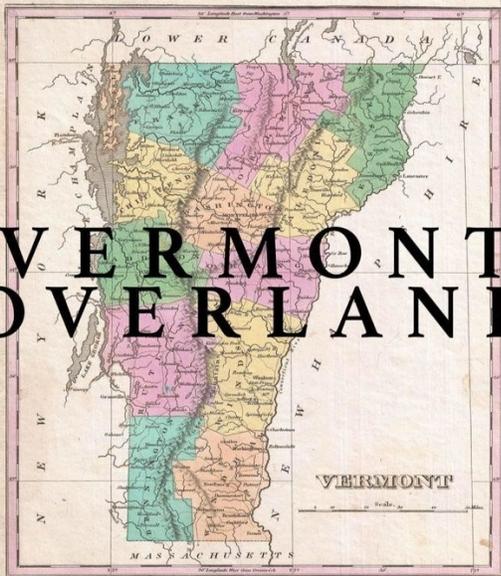
Thurs 7-3

Fri 7-5

Sat 7-12



**VERMONT  
OVERLAND**



Jim & Sandy Peplau's  
**Happy Acres Farm**

*Pure Maple Syrup, Hand Braided Rugs*

826 Twenty Mile Stream Road

South Reading, VT 05153

802 - 484-7806

[www.happyacresfarm.com](http://www.happyacresfarm.com)

Reading Planning Commission Meeting  
January 6, 2020 – unapproved minutes

**Present:** Stephen Strait, Kevin Kaija, Kurt Voight, Jason Rasmussen, Jean Goldsborough

**The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.**

**Changes to the Agenda** – There were no changes. Clarification of changes and additions according to the guidelines of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

**Minutes of Dec 2, 2019 Meeting** – Kevin moved to approve the minutes, Kurt seconded and minutes were approved.

**Minutes from the Public Hearing (Dec 2, 2019)** – Kurt moved to approve them and Kevin seconded. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved. **Mail and email** – none.

**SWCRPC Reports** – Jason reported they are working with other organizations in the Upper Valley on a housing study. A survey will be coming out to get opinions on housing issues and the RPC would like to get at least 5% return from Reading residents. There may also be some focus group meetings to get representation from all types of people in the community. Brief discussion how to best get the feedback besides just electronic communications. Stay tuned.

**Energy Committee** – Kevin says the committee will meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 7 pm, probably at the firehouse. Open meetings, agendas and minutes will be posted on the town website.

**Other ways to document meetings** – Kevin made a motion that PC investigate the use of digital media to record meetings, seconded by Kurt. Discussion: What are the legal requirements? It is thought that minutes still must be written but just the very basic information is required and recordings may be made available to supplement. Kevin talked to John Malcom who said he is willing to provide Technical Support to the PC for this purpose. Discussion on various methods, distribution via a website, live stream, etc. Need to research rules, requirements or guidelines for how best to record to identify who is talking, etc. Jean said she has been talking with Robert Allen to learn more about the Town’s website and how it may or may not be suitable to store and distribute this media. She said there are lots of ways to accomplish this.

**SWCRPC Review and Discussion**– Jason reviewed the Municipal Planning Grant summary from the Dept. of Housing and Community Development. PC has until the end of May 2021 to complete the plan. Jason outlined the steps and scope of work for complying with the grant as the PC begins the Town Plan re-write. The RPC is available to help with various parts of the process. The RPC’s website provides links to documents and drafts of everything being written so the public can see updates during the process.

Jason reviewed the Project Schedule he drafted. Steve thinks it might be good to have a meeting or 2 that addresses some of the comments that came back from the survey. Lots of comments about having a café – Steve feels that would be difficult when considering factors that affect the viability and financial stability of a small business like that. Maybe in the kickoff meeting, we invite local realtor(s), Lister(s), town business owners, etc. to provide insight that would address public comments, especially regarding the village center. Then another meeting can address the more rural parts of the town (with speakers/experts in forestry, agriculture, etc.) This can help the PC in the writing of the chapters. The RPC can help or not if we choose. Kurt asked about the timing of this as it relates to the upcoming PC meetings that begin the real work of the chapter re-writes. It was agreed the February meeting will be the Kickoff Meeting and we will invite speakers to the March meeting (based on availability.) Steve and Kevin will contact Listers and realtors for availability at the March meeting. At subsequent meetings, we will invite other guest speakers and review the survey results. These presentations and discussions would be scheduled as a part of the regular monthly PC meetings. Steve made a motion to change the March 2 meeting to March 9<sup>th</sup> to eliminate the conflict with the room space for the setting up of voting the next day. Kurt seconded, all in favor. The March meeting is on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Jason told us that under State law RPC must consult with Towns regularly to know what the towns’ needs and issues are so the RPC can help. He asked if there are other issues he is not aware of that they can help with. Kevin asked for help on Application for Financial Assistance for Municipal Waste Water Feasibility Study. Yes, RPC can help. Email Jason if you can think of anything else that we might ask the RPC to help with, regardless if related to the Town Plan. Note that the State added a new requirement that the PC actively implements the Town Plan.

Is there going to be a name change for the SWCRPC? This is in progress so no official name change yet.

**Other Business** – none

**Next Meeting** –February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm.

**Adjournment** – adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean G. Goldsborough, Recorder

Volleyball at Reading Elementary School  
Every Thursday through the end of February  
6:30—8:30 PM

Reading Elementary School

Come enjoy some exercise and fun. Sponsored by Reading Rec.  
Contact Lisa Kaija for more information 802-952-8395



## Winter Concert Series

### Turnip Truck



**February 8, 2020**  
**7pm (doors open at 6:30pm)**  
**Reading Town Hall**

\$10 admission for adults  
(free for children 15 and under)

Enjoy a winter evening with the sounds of Turnip Truck. This 5-piece outfit from central Vermont plays a mix of bluegrass, swing, gypsy jazz and old folk and country music. Often times swapping lead vocal duties and instruments throughout the course of a show, the band is defined by tight harmonies and a penchant for improvisation.

The Reading Winter Concert Series is a benefit for four local organizations: The Reading/West Windsor Food Shelf, the Reading Green Spaces Committee, the Reading Recreation Commission, and the Ottawa-quechee Health Foundation.

Admission is \$10 (free for children 15 and under), which gives you a night of great music and dinner. Please bring non-perishable food items (that are not beyond their expiration date).

For more information, contact Stephen D'Agostino at [stephen.d.dagostino@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.d.dagostino@gmail.com).

LOGGING & LAND CLEARING  
BRUSH CHIPPING  
BUSH HOGGING

SANDING  
SNOW PLOWING  
LIGHT EXCAVATION

**ROLLING MEADOWS FARM**  
CUSTOM FARMING  
David Goodhouse \* 484-5540

**PLUMBING & HEATING  
CONTRACTOR**

Malagash Road PO Box 183  
Reading, Vermont 05062

**EDWARD ALLEN**

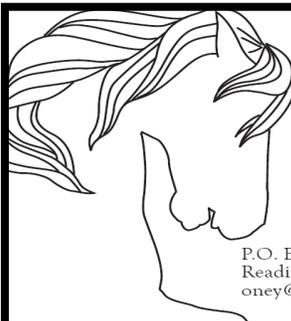
**(802) 484-5580**

**James Cloud**  
Logging & Trucking

**READING, VT**  
**802-484-5946**

**Firewood**

**Snowplowing**



MEDICAL CARE AND TREATMENT  
OF YOUR HORSE

JEFF ONEY, D.V.M.

P.O. Box 175  
Reading, VT 05062  
oney@hughes.net

802.952.8450 • cell  
802.484.5050 • office  
802.741.4500 • pager

**Ruff Works Rehabilitation**

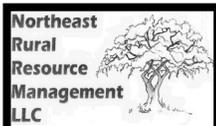
Canine Physical Therapy

**Annie Rubright, P.T., CCRT**  
**Reading, VT**  
**annie@Ruff-Works.com**  
**cell (802) 738-5680**



Certified Canine Rehabilitation Therapist

CRI



**TREE PRESERVATION**  
**802.484.5539**

Experienced • Insured • References  
**KRIS BLANCHARD**

Northeast Rural Resource Management, LLC  
Member National Arborist Association

*Law Office of*

**SPRINGER & KELLY, P.C.**

12 Depot Avenue  
Post Office Box 245  
Windsor, Vermont 05089  
(802) 674-2649

Fax: (802) 674-2990  
**Springerlaw1@comcast.net**



**GRASSFED BEEF**  
**HERITAGE BREED PORK**

KEVIN CHANNELL  
802-249-7384  
KEVIN@GREENMOUNTAINMEATS.COM

ORDER ONLINE AT  
[WWW.GREENMOUNTAINMEATS.COM](http://WWW.GREENMOUNTAINMEATS.COM)



**INFORMER**

Did you know that you can receive your copy of the Informer by e-mail rather than a hard copy? Please contact the Town Clerk and let her know that you would like to change over to e-mail. Call 484-7250 or e-mail Calista at [readingvermont@comcast.net](mailto:readingvermont@comcast.net) to request this change.

The Informer is also available on the Town's website at [www.readingvt.govoffice.com](http://www.readingvt.govoffice.com)

## Meeting Schedule

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

## Reading- West Windsor

### Food Shelf

**Website: [rwwfoodshelf.org](http://rwwfoodshelf.org)  
Monday 2:00 to 4:00 (Food Shelf)**

**Thursday 4:00 to 6:00  
(Thrift Store & Food Shelf)**

Located at 3456 Tyson Road  
in South Reading at the Stone School House  
The Thrift Store is open to anyone, not just food  
shelf members. Please feel free to stop in

Inquiries please contact

Sara Norcross 484-5097

Dana Waters 802-291-3299

To send a donation please mail to:

**Reading- West Windsor Food Shelf  
PO Box 384 Brownsville, VT 05037**

## Emergency Telephone Numbers

**Fire and Ambulance 911**

**State Police 911**

**Domestic/Sexual Violence Hotline  
866-348-WISE (9473)**

## Town Contact Information

### Town Clerk/Treasure Office

484-7250

Mon, Tues, Wed, 8 am—4 pm

Thursday 7:30 am—3:00 pm

First Saturday of the Month by appointment

Website: [www.readingvt.govoffice.com](http://www.readingvt.govoffice.com)

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

### Fire Warden - Fire Burning Permits

Nathan Willard 484-0094

Greg Smith 802-384-2101

**Post Office Iiri Makkonen 484-5994**

### Retail Counter

Monday - Friday

9:30 am-12:30 pm, 1:30 pm—4:30 pm

Saturday Retail Counter

9:00 to 12:00

### Lobby

Monday - Friday

8 am to 5 pm

Saturday

8am to 12pm

### Library

484-5588

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

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 8 - 11AM

Email: [rtownhall\\_464@comcast.net](mailto:rtownhall_464@comcast.net)

### Reading Elementary School

484-7230

### Reading Planning Commission

[readingvt.plancomm@gmail.com](mailto:readingvt.plancomm@gmail.com)

**Contribute to The Reading Review** in *The Vermont Standard*. Author Stephen D'Agostino is always looking for newsy items, sweet Reading stories, or tidbits to share with our community.

**Send your ideas to him at  
[stephen.d.dagostino@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.d.dagostino@gmail.com)**

**The Reading Informer**  
**PO Box 72**  
**Reading, Vermont 05062**

PRESORTED STANDARD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 WRJ. VERMONT  
 PERMIT NO. 86

## February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 <i>Plan Comm. 7 PM Town Hall</i>  <i>RFDA 6:30 Fire Dept</i>	4 <i>Fire &amp; Rescue 7 pm</i>  <i>PTO 5:30 at RES</i>	5	6	7	8  <i>Turnip Truck Concert 6:30 PM</i>
9 <i>PTO Pasta Dinner RES 4—7 PM</i>	10 <i>6pm Select board Mtg.</i>	11	12 <i>Recreation Commission 6 pm Library</i>	13	14	15 <i>RHS Annual Meeting &amp; Dinner Reading Town Hall</i>
16	17 <i>School closed</i>	18 <i>School closed</i>	19 <i>School closed</i>	20 <i>Green Space 6 PM at Library Energy Comm 7 pm Fire Station</i>	21 <i>School closed</i>	22
23	24	25 <i>Library Board Mtg. 6 pm</i>	26 <i>Cemetery Commission 6 pm Town Hall</i>	27	28	29 <i>Town Meeting</i>