



The Reading Informer

January 2020

Published by the Town of Reading



Winter Concert Series Returns

The Old Boys

An Evening of Live Music and Dinner

January 11, 2020
Doors open at 6:30pm. Show starts at 7pm.
Reading Town Hall

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

Join the Reading Recreation Commission for the kickoff of the 2020 Winter Concert Series. The January show features the Old Boys, a quintet influenced by old-time/roots, punk rock, the blues, and traditional folk music. They'll be performing songs from their upcoming debut album.

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 Ottauquechee Health Foundation.

Admission is \$10 (free for children 15 and under), which gives you a night of great music and dinner, provided this month by the Ottauquechee Health Foundation.

Please bring non-perishable food items (that are not beyond their expiration date). These will be donated to the Reading-West Windsor Food Shelf.

This event is sponsored by the Reading Recreation Commission.
For more information, contact Stephen D'Agostino at stephen.d.dagostino@gmail.com.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF READING, VERMONT WARNING

The Town of Reading Selectboard will hold a public hearing under 24 V.S.A. §4384 on Monday, January 13, 2020, at 6 PM at the Reading Town Hall in Reading, Vermont, to hear comments regarding the proposed changes to the Reading Town Plan.

Copies of the proposed Town Plan can be obtained from the Town Clerk, during normal business hours, at the Town office located in the Town Hall, or at www.readingvt.govoffice.com

Dated at Reading in the County of Windsor and State of Vermont on this 10th, day of December, 2019.

Robert K Allen, Chairman



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Cut-to-Length Timber Harvesting

Contact Logan Sears

Contracting Manager at ext. 107
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Librarian's Note

The response to our annual appeal letter continues to be strong. I'd like to thank all the folks who are giving. Your ongoing support for the library really means a lot.

If you're looking for something to do this winter, remember we have free passes available for the American Precision Museum (Windsor), the Billings Farm & Museum (Woodstock), and the Vermont History Museum (branches in Montpelier and Barre); and we have reduced-price passes for Echo Aquarium & Science Center (Burlington). In addition, we have just acquired a free VINS (Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Quechee) pass for up to 2 adults and 2 children. You can call the library to reserve a pass, or just drop in and check it out.

The library provides free access to Universal Class, an online continuing education service with a growing catalog of more than 500 courses. Classes normally cost \$50 to \$250 each but our patrons can take up to 5 at a time at no cost. Program features include 24/7 access anywhere via the Internet, real instructors guiding the learning, engaging video-based lessons, a collaborative learning environment, graded lesson tests, continuing education units, and certificates of achievement. Areas of study include the arts, business, computers, cooking, crafts, financial management, gardening, GED training, hobbies, home decorating, legal studies, math, natural remedies, office skills, psychology, real estate, science, special education, spirituality, web development, and writing.

Patrons register for Universal Class using an access code, and then participate in the online courses at their own pace. Although additional reading materials are recommended, they are almost always optional. Most courses can be completed within 10-20 hours. Patrons can take up to 6 months to complete an individual class and can correspond online with instructors. Patrons can drop or add classes as they wish. These are non-credit continuing education courses, provided for personal enrichment. To get your own access code, contact me at the library.

Cordially,
Tony

Stop at the library to enjoy the warmth of the fireplace while reading a good book or magazine in their cozy leather chairs.

Reading Public Library. Tues. 12-3:30 p.m. & 4-7; Thurs. 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. & 2-5; Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mail: P.O. Box 7, Reading, VT 05062. Tel. 802-484-5588. E-mail: reading.public.library@comcast.net. Web: www.readinglibrary.org.

Volleyball at Reading Elementary School

Starting Thursday, January 2

6:30—8:30 PM

Reading Elementary School

Continuing every Thursday through the end of February.



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

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2019

UNAPPROVED

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm.

Present: Robert Allen, Jim, Peplau, Gordy Eastman, Calista Brennan and Esther Allen.

Robert started the meeting asking if there were changes to the agenda. Robert added Energy Committee appointments.

Minutes of the November 11, 2019 Selectboard's minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: As of 11/30/19, Expenses were \$1,632,950.32, Revenue was \$544,333.52, and the balance in Mascoma is \$985,208.75. Delinquent taxes for 2017, 2018 and 2019 are \$62,940.09. Jim moved to approve and Gordy seconded. Report is accepted.

Action Items:

2021 Better Back Roads Grant – Spear Cemetery Road Ditch: Robert has sent the grant application to SWCRPC to review. There were 2 quotes for the work.

2021 Municipal Planning Grant: This grant has been completed and is ready to be signed. The grant is for \$9709 for rewriting the Town Plan. Grant was signed. It was noted that the work under this grant must be completed by May 2021.

Highways: Glen was not present and did not send any information. Robert said that truck 1 had the salt/sand spinner repaired.

VLCT Cannabis Resolution Relating to S.54: This is regarding the sales and tax of cannabis. Jim made a motion to table this until more information could be reviewed. Gordy seconded.

Schedule Selectboard Public Hearing re Town Plan: The Planning Commission held its public hearing on Dec 2. There were a few questions but nothing to stop them from sending it to the Selectboard. The board set January 13, 2020 at 6 PM for the public hearing.

Vermont State Police Coverage Change: As of January 1, 2020, the Town of Reading will be served by the Westminster State Police Barracks instead of the Royalton barracks. This is part of several changes in this area made by the State Police.

Energy Committee Appointments: Kevin Kaija requested that the committee consist of Adam Ameele, Rob Macri and Bill Bakker. They will meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Library. Gordy made a motion to appoint these 3, Jim seconded.

2020/2021 Budgets – Received vs Waiting: Most all have been received. Robert will call Weathersfield for transfer station information. The Selectboard will meet at 9 AM on January 4, 2020 to work on the budget.

Other: Board of Health – Robert said that Mary has been working on an issue between 2 residents regarding an outhouse. Mary hopes that this is resolved.

Robert also talked about a lot line adjustment on Tyson Road that will not change any acreage for any of the three parties involved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Next Selectboard meeting will be on Monday, January 13, 2019 following the Public Hearing.

Respectfully Submitted,

Calista N Brennan, Town Clerk

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

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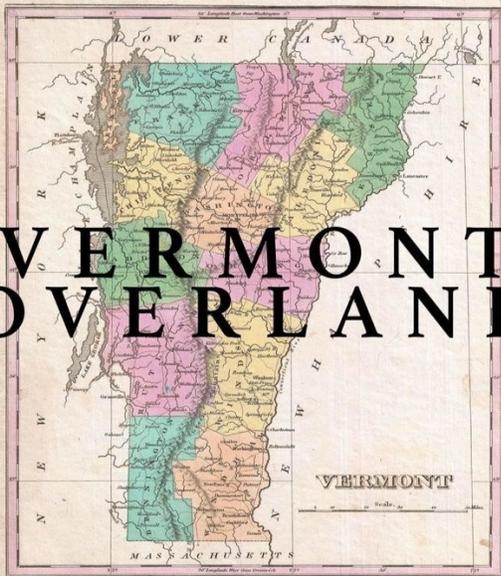
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Reading Planning Commission Public Hearing

December 2, 2019
Unapproved Minutes

Present: Stephen Strait, Ken Cox, Kevin Kaija, Kurt Voight, Kathy Callan-Rondeau.
Guests: Robert Allen, Esther Allen, Jackie von Unwerth, Peter Seman, Adam Ameenle, Steven Vogl, Tish Lewis, Jean Goldsborough, Annie Rubright.

The Public Hearing started at 7:00 pm. – Steve explained that the Hearing was to answer questions and take comments on re-adopting the current Town Plan with some changes mandated by Vermont (concerning watershed improvements, priority forests, wildlife habitat connectors, and energy planning) and some additional minor edits. The current plan expires mid January and the Commission felt it was important to keep an approved Plan in force as a stopgap measure while they worked on a comprehensive rewrite. If a town does not have an approved plan in place it cannot participate in Act 250 projects or Public Service Board reviews of projects in town, and the town is not eligible for state grants.

The audience asked about the value of making a more involved effort to update the current plan since it will probably be in place for another year or so while the rewrite happens. Steve said the Commission felt it was more important to focus the Commission's and town's effort on the rewrite and not get delayed doing a "preliminary" rewrite.

Some audience members were confused what the goals of the plan were and thought they should be more clearly laid out. Steve explained that the Plan is divided into nine chapters, each one dealing with a different aspect of the town's future. Each chapter ends with a list of Goals and Action Steps to achieve the intents of that chapter. And at the end of the Plan is an Implementation Matrix that summarizes the most important Goals of the Plan. Steve explained that the Plan has no regulatory force and it was not a "plan of action". Rather it was up to the efforts of various groups in town to implement the Plan.

The evening's discussions veered off topic a number of times to the Town Plan rewrite: the schedule for getting it done, additional public discussions, how the public can participate both at meetings and online, how long the new plan was in effect (8 years) and if it could be rewritten earlier if the town changed, etc. Since the rewrite was part of this Public Hearing, the Commission did not discuss it at length.

There were some specific concerns about language in the re-adopt, one being about the

Better Back Roads text. Robert Allen helped to explain the changes.

At 8:05pm, after everyone had a chance to ask questions and make comments, the Hearing was closed and the Commission voted to send the "re-adopt" on to the Select Board for their Public Hearing (5-0).

Reading Planning Commission Meeting December 2, 2019 – unapproved minutes

Present: Stephen Strait, Ken Cox, Kevin Kaija, Kurt Voight, Kathy Callan-Rondeau.

The regular meeting started at 8:10 pm. Changes to the Agenda – There were none.

Mail/email – Hannah Dallas had emailed the town to introduce herself as the new County Forester. She offered to attend a meeting and address the Current Use Program, Emerald Ash Borer, invasive species, or related topics. The Commission discussed asking her to speak at a future public discussion for the Town Plan rewrite.

Minutes of November 20, 2019 – The minutes were approved as posted with one correction. The Energy Committee Update mentioned a meeting in Hartford on Climate and Agriculture. The meeting was actually held in Hartland.

SWCRPC News – Recent meetings had been cancelled due to bad weather.

Energy Committee Updates – Kevin reported that the Select Board would be approving the Committee’s membership at its December meeting: Rob Macri, Adam Amalee, and Bill Bakker. He said the Energy Committee would be a subcommittee of the Select Board. Steve suggested that in the future Kevin should make an oral report to the Planning Commission but the PC minutes would refer reader’s to the Energy Committee meeting minutes for details.

Future Town Plan Discussions – The Commission discussed holding public discussions at future meetings to address additional topics relevant to the Town Plan rewrite. The Commission would notify the public in advance through meeting minutes, the Agenda, and Front Porch Forum posts. The Commission also discussed inviting guest speakers to provide expertise on a variety of topics such as housing, energy, the environment, local business, etc. At their January meeting, the Commission hopes to develop a schedule for the discussions.

Other Business – Kevin made a motion that was seconded and passed (5-0) for the Commission to “pursue a platform to record its meetings and public hearings and post them on the town’s website to encourage more participation in local planning efforts”.

Next Meeting – January 6, 2020 at 7 pm.

Adjournment – 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Stephen Strait
readingvt.plancomm@gmail.com

READING GREEN SPACES REPORT

Puddledock Park is ready to bed down for the winter. After hosting a very successful wreath sale (thanks to everyone who came out to support us with buying wreaths and/or donating), followed by the Reading Recreation Commission’s Tree Lighting Ceremony, carol singing and cookie eating, the Park is getting a well-deserved rest!

Speaking of the wreath sale, we got the added pleasure of seeing many of our townspeople, met new residents and many visitors making their way to and from the wonderful Reading Craft Fair. An added bonus for our committee as we stood out in the cold.

Just because the Park is resting the committee is not. We are gearing up for the 2nd annual Maple Cook Off in March, so get your recipes and taste buds ready for Saturday March 28, 2020. In addition, we will be working on planning for seeding this spring, putting in perennials and a shade tree as well as a welcome sign for the Park.

Happy Holidays to all and thank you again for the support,
Reading Green Spaces Committee

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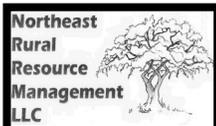
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The Informer is also available on the Town's website at www.readingvt.govoffice.com



10th Reading Area Community Blood Drive

Friday, January 31, 2020

Time: 12:00 PM - 05:00 PM

Site: Mt. Ascutney Holiday Inn & Resort

**Please help us to reach - or exceed -
our goal of 40 units of blood.**

Go to redcrossblood.org, sign in, and sign up for zip code 05037.

If you have any questions or concerns, call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

THANK YOU!

Address: 485 Hotel Drive, Brownsville, VT, 05037, Ballroom

Coordinator Name: Lanie Wadelton

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Please be advised:

Mailboxes placed in the Town right of way and subsequently damaged by Town snowplows will not be replaced by the Town.



Winter Parking Ban

Effective November 1, 2019 to April 15, 2020

Town Ordinance Article VI Winter Roads

- Section 1: No person shall shovel, dump, push or accumulate snow from adjoining premises upon any highway maintained for winter travel within the Town of Reading. It is recognized that plowing across Class 3 Highways is necessary in certain instances, however snow MUST be cleaned up and completely out of the Town maintained travel areas. In no case is plowing across Class 2 highways permitted. (Tyson Road, Twenty Mile Stream and all Village Streets)
- Section 2: No person shall leave a motor vehicle parked, deposited or left unattended upon a highway or in any public areas ordinarily used for parking, so as to interfere with the proper maintenance of roads, public areas or end-of-road turnarounds, within the Town. In the case of emergency or mechanical failure, vehicles must be removed within 24 hours.
- Section 3: The Town will enforce the 'No Parking' rules at all locations where the trucks turn around and all public parking lots. Vehicles left beyond the 24-hour limit will be towed at the owners expense.
- Section 4: Plow routes are set up to open major traffic routes and school bus routes first. After all school bus routes are open plowing continues until all roads are open.
- Section 5: The Town does not plow Class 4 or private roads.

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- A portable radio
- Extra batteries
- Bottled water

Life-Support Customers

If you or a loved one depends on life support equipment, please contact us to let us know. Develop a backup plan for major storm events and always call us immediately after experiencing an outage.

Call 888-835-4672.

Water and Electricity Don't Mix

Never attempt to turn off your power, open circuit breakers, remove fuses or operate switches if water is present. Contact us immediately or call emergency personnel.

Call 888-835-4672 or report from our [Outage Center](#).

Stay Away From Downed Lines

It is impossible to tell if a line is energized, so treat all lines as if they are carrying electricity. Never touch or go near downed wires! If you encounter a downed line, always call 911 first and then contact GMP.

Call 888-835-4672 or report from our [Outage Center](#).

Dim or Bright Bulbs? Shut off

Very bright or very dim bulbs indicate a voltage problem. Appliances can be severely damaged by voltage fluctuations. Immediately turn off the main electrical switch at the service panel and contact us immediately at 888-835-4672.

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Reading's Giving Project

We are fortunate here in Reading to have so many compassionate people that reach out to lend a hand or make a donation when our neighbors need help. People can find themselves in a difficult place during the holidays taking care of their families. The Giving Project, once again, was there to provide twenty-two children with gifts for the holiday. Thank you to our friends in Woodstock at the Yankee Book Store who donated two books each, to all of the children. Over thirty food baskets were given out from the Food Shelf to give families the opportunity for a home cooked meal.

A heart full of gratitude goes out to all those who donated money, or their time, doing the needed tasks of shopping, organizing, packing, and making deliveries. These people truly honor the spirit of Christmas.

Thank you from Sara Norcross and the Reading/West Windsor Food Shelf

Meeting Schedule

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

Reading- West Windsor

Food Shelf

**Website: 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:
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Town Contact Information

Town Clerk/Treasure Office

484-7250

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Thursday 7:30 am—3:00 pm

First Saturday of the Month by appointment

Website: www.readingvt.govoffice.com

Email: readingvermont@comcast.net

Fire Warden - Fire Burning Permits

Nathan Willard 484-0094

Greg Smith 802-384-2101

Post Office Iiri Makkonen 484-5994

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Monday - Friday

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Saturday

8am to 12pm

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Saturday 10:00 to 2:00

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Reading Elementary School

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Reading Planning Commission

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January 2020 Happy New Year

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SUN			1	2	3	4
5	6 <i>Plan Comm. 7 PM Town Hall</i> <i>RFDA 6:30 Fire Dept</i>	7 <i>Fire & Rescue 7 pm</i> <i>PTO 5:30 at RES</i>	8 <i>Recreation Commission 6 pm Library</i>	9	10	11 <i>Winter Concert 6 PM Town Hall</i>
12	13 <i>Public Hearing 6pm & Select board Mtg.</i>	14	15	16 <i>Green Space 6 PM at Library Energy Comm 7 pm Library</i>	17	18
19	20	21	22 <i>Cemetery Commission 6 pm Town Hall</i>	23	24	25
26	27	28 <i>Library Board Mtg. 6 pm</i>	29	30	31	