



The Reading Informer

June 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



Woodstock High School Graduation

June 12, 2020

Congratulations to the students from

Reading who are graduating this year!

Nicholas Bishop

Charles McGowan

Abigail Merseal

Samuel Mitchel

Hayley Mullins

Haley Symonds

Scholarship Night via Zoom will be June 11, 2020

Reading GREEN UP - 50th Anniversary Year!!!

Join your family and friends on **Saturday, May 30, 2020** for one of Vermont's most unique and amazing days - Green Up Day. A Vermont tradition in its **50th year!** The town of Reading encourages everyone to participate - even if it is only for a short radius around your neighborhood.

Green Up bags will be available for pick up at the Reading Town Hall, Watroba's General Store, and the Reading Greenhouse. These bags are accepted for free at the Weathersfield Transfer Station. No household trash please! **Please follow any state safety guidelines regarding COVID-19 such as maintaining 6 ft distancing protocols, wearing a mask and gloves.** Marie Anderson, Green Up Coordinator

READING GREEN SPACES

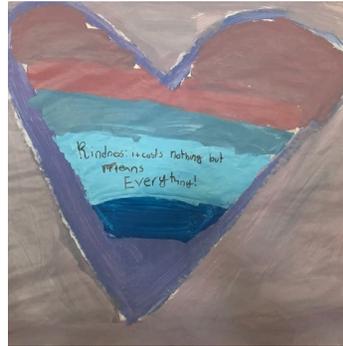
Despite cold and snowy temperatures in May as well as stay-at-home directives the Reading Green Spaces committee has been working and planning behind the scenes.

As I write this Puddledock Park is being limed, fertilized and seeded thanks to David Goodhouse (D2) Later this week Gordy Eastman will once again come to our aid and rake the area one final time. We will be mulching and marking off the site (for about a month) then..... VOILA.... we should have a beautiful green lawn just in time for summer. Even if it is necessary to keep social distancing we will have a spot for all of us to be outside and enjoy. In fact one of the silver linings with Covid is we see more and more people outdoors walking by or biking, working on their gardens or just breathing the fresh air.

Our next step will be to create some perennial beds, obtain a small welcome sign and later this summer plant a small tree or two.

Hope to see you outside soon.

Reading green Spaces Committee
Annie Rubright, Chair
Stephen D'Agostino, Secretary
Heather Evans
Jean Goldsborough
Lisa Kaija



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BY: E.A.

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Reading Recreation Commission

Since we haven't communicated in a while, the Reading Recreation Commission is happy to have this opportunity to let you know what we've been up to.

We were disappointed that we had to cancel the last two shows in the Reading Winter Concert Series, scheduled for March and April. Still, the first two concerts generated over \$1600! The commission divided the donations collected among three recipients, deciding to forgo our share. In April, we made donations of \$550 to the Reading-West Windsor Food Shelf, the Ottawaquechee Health Foundation, and the Reading Green Spaces Committee. Thank you to everyone who attended those shows!

The commission ran the Reading Safari on April 18. If you were out and about that day, you probably noticed a lot of cars driving slowly down the town roads or kids in the backseat of the car in front of you, pointing at the various animals congregated on people's lawns. Over 35 people put animals out for the 20 or so families that went on safari that day. We are thrilled that the event drew so many people and was such a huge success. Thank you to everyone who participated. The winners were: safari goers: Mandi Potter \$25 gift certificate to the Greenhouse. People who put up animals: Brook James: \$25 to Watroba's.

The Reading Recreation Commission is sponsoring the entertainment for Green Up Day on May 30. We are happy to help support this long-standing tradition in our town.

The members of the commission held our monthly meetings over Zoom to discuss plans for the upcoming months. We are as of yet uncertain of the fate of Puddledock Park Parties and Outdoor Game Nights, which we are in the process of transforming into more community-oriented events, and the Reading Fall Fair. Stay tuned for more details about our plans.

If these events go forward, we will, of course, follow the state orders regarding the size of gatherings, social distancing rules, use of masks, and all other guidelines that are in place to keep us safe.

We always welcome your input and suggestions for safe events we can hold in town. Feel free to contact one of the Rec commissioners (see below), or visit our Facebook page (facebook.com/readingparks).

Sincerely,

The Reading Recreation Commission

Stephen D'Agostino, Chair (stephen.d.dagostino@gmail.com)

Lisa Kaija, Secretary (lqkaija@gmail.com)

Gerry Marletta (gmarlettaiii@gmail.com)

Lisa Morrison (morrlisa@gmail.com)

Kelsey Coyle (kels32884@aol.com)

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

May 18, 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 and Gary Vittum. Attending by Zoom: Glen Towne, Ann Rubright, Jean Goldsborough, and Mary Springer.

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

Minutes of the April 13, 2020 Selectboard meeting were approved as printed.

Treasurer's Report: As of 4/30/2020, Expenses were \$81,069.21, Revenue was \$26,666.38 and the balance in Mascoma is \$697,033.49. Delinquent taxes for 2018 and 2019 are \$37,359.75. Jim moved to approve and Gordy seconded. Calista stated delinquent taxes were down about \$4000. Calista has been in touch with Municipay and the Town should be set up in a couple of weeks to take credit cards payments for tax bills. Robert asked about the fee, that would be passed along to the card holder. The fee is 2.65 % and we would also accept e-checks for a flat fee of \$1.50. More information will go out once everything is in place. Report is accepted.

Action Items:

Reading Health Officer Report Covid-19: Mary said that there are pop up test sites now in the area. However, they fill up quickly so, please go to the Dept of Health website and fill out the form so that you can be notified when there is one in the area. There is a great level of fear and people should keep in mind that there have been several other types of pandemics in past history and they have been beaten. That said, it is very important that you do not let your guard down. Continue to follow the recommendations of the Health Officials and stay safe. It is also very important that you keep your immune system healthy. Mary also stated that pets can get this virus. Tick season is upon us, so please use extreme caution when outside. STAY SMART STAY SAFE.

Highways: Glen reported that there were a couple of minor washouts from the last storm. They are doing regular maintenance on the roads. Nothing new on the truck.

Stream Bank Project on 20 Mile Stream: – Robert received authorization to start some of the work, pre-construction meetings. Glen will get bids from DLX, Gurney Brothers and Jarvis and Sons.

Tyson Road Paving Proposal: – Robert have received 3 bids from Pike, Black Top and Wilk. The board will look at the bids and talk about them at the next meeting

Better Roads Project on Spear Cemetery Road: – Grant awards are delayed, so still waiting.

Robinson Hall Siding: Garrett submitted an updated payment schedule. Work will be starting soon.

Adopt Reading's LEMP (Local emergency Management Plan): Gordy made a motion to adopt the plan with minor amendments, Jim seconded. The plan was adopted. Ann asked who would be in charge of the shelters. Robert said that it would be Calista and/or Esther at Robinson Hall and Gary and/or Curt at the Fire Station or whoever they may designate. Jean asked why the school was not listed as a shelter. Robert explained that it does not have an emergency generator so it could only be used to get out of the weather in times of power outages.

Adopt Highway Replacement Sign Policy: Robert said that there has not been a policy for replacing private road signs and that the Selectboard had discussed this issue and because they are necessary for emergency purposes have agreed to pay to replace them. Jim made a motion that the Town pay for the cost of replacing all Town street signs. Gordy seconded.

Sign Annual Financial Plan for AOT: This is a report of the Towns budget for Highways and is something that is required by AOT every year. The report was signed.

Other: Ann asked about replacing 911 signs. The Town will reorder signs when requested by the landowner. If anyone needs one replaced please talk to the Town Clerk and Calista will order one and let you know when to pick it up. It is up to the landowner to replace the new sign.

Jean asked what was happening with the web site since she and Esther met about making some changes. She was advised to talk with Esther to determine where everything stands and a go-forward plan.

Gary said that he has met with ECFiber about putting a hub at the Fire Station. ECFiber would give free internet to the Town to cover the cost of electricity. This free high-speed connection is planned for the Town Hall.

The Towns Health Officer, Mary Springer three-year term expires June 30, 2020. Robert received the information from the Dept of Health to submit a name for Health Officer. Jim made a motion to recommend Mary be re-appointed by the State for a three-year term, Gordy seconded.

Robert and Esther would like to commend the Green Space Committee for the job they have done with the space.

Weather permitting/cooperating it should be looking green soon!

The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

Next Selectboard meeting will be on Monday, June 8th.

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

Fax: 802-457-9960

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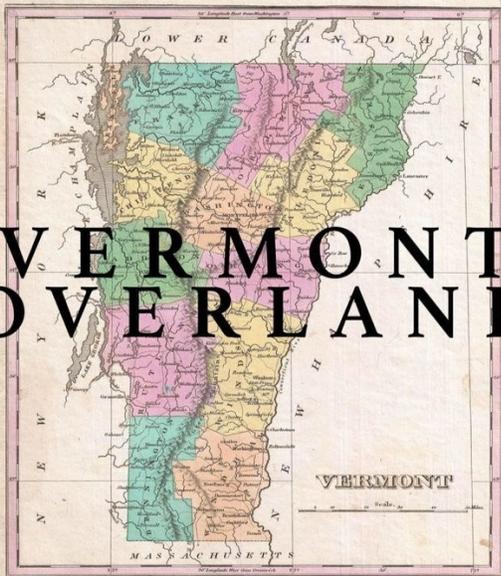
Thurs 7-3

Fri 7-5

Sat 7-12



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COPING WITH PERSONAL & FAMILY STRESS DURING COVID-19

When you hear, read, or watch news about the COVID-19 outbreak, you may feel anxious and show signs of stress even if you are at low risk of getting sick and are isolating yourself from getting sick.

The following are suggestions to reduce stress.



TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF

Keep your risk low by avoiding others, frequent hand washing, and not touching your face.

Make sure you are getting accurate information. A good source is healthvermont.gov.

Avoid excessive use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.

Use time off to relax –listen to music, take a bath, journal, aromatherapy.

Spend time outdoors or exercising.

Stay connected with friends and extended family via phone or email.

Talk about your feelings with loved ones.

Focus on your body's needs: stretch, take deep breaths, drink water, go for walks.

Renew your spirit through meditation, prayer or helping others in need.

Remember, reducing stress strengthens the immune system.



TAKING CARE OF FAMILY

Enjoy time in the outdoors together.

Take this time at home to refocus on the power of family meals.

Ensure that children do not have access to "adult only" products such as tobacco, vape, alcohol, marijuana, prescription medications.

Ask children for ideas on structuring schoolwork at home, then create a schedule that includes time for fun & connection –family games, family meals.

Allow everyone to express their feelings, listen, and show compassion.

Encourage children to reach out to friends and relatives online or by phone to stay connected.

Help college-aged students find purposeful work by connecting with volunteer corps doing outreach.

For a FREE Quarantine Family Toolkit or home learning ideas, email: MAPPVT@mahhc.org.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES

QUESTIONS ABOUT COVID-19?



D-HH COVID-19 Information Hotline

(603) 650-1818

OVERWHELMED TO A POINT OF CRISIS?

Call 1-800-622-4235 if you feel you are in crisis – mentally overwhelmed with stress or visit hcrs.org/crisis-services.

CONCERNED ABOUT SUBSTANCE USE?

NEW IN APRIL! Any Vermonter concerned about their own or another's alcohol or drug use - VT HelpLink can help! (802) 565-(5465) or visit VTHelpLink.org.

STAYING STRONG IN RECOVERY?

If you are in recovery and would like support, connect with a Recovery Coach, (802) 885-4678 from 8am-8pm or visit spfildtp.org/virtual-resources.



Do you need help during these challenging times? Are you isolated and need groceries, pet food, or have errands you need to be run? Are you lonely and would like someone to talk to?

Windsor Area COVID Response Team (802) 674-5971 or email COVIDresponse@mahhc.org.

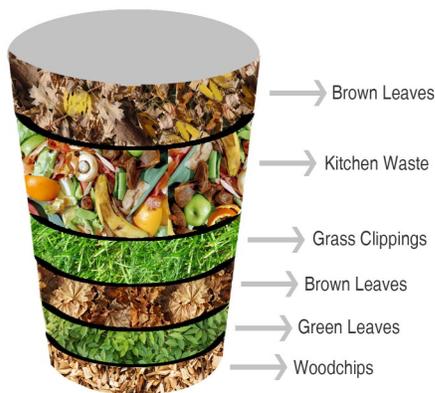


The Windsor Area COVID-19 Response Team (WACRT) is operated by the Mt. Ascutney Prevention Partnership (MAPP) under the auspices of Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center.

Get Ready to Compost

As of July 1, 2020, food scraps are banned from the trash. Compost them in your backyard, bring them to the transfer station or pay for pick up.

From Garbage to Garden.....



Planning Commission

Next meeting: June 1st

The Reading Planning Commission will be meeting on June 1st, via Zoom. Details will be posted on the town's website and on Front Porch Forum.

PC members have been working on the Town Plan rewrite from home by reviewing drafts of the following chapters: Transportation, Utilities and Facilities, and Economic Development. The public can find all the Town Plan chapter drafts at <https://swcrpc.org/reading-town-plan/>.

Please send your comments and suggestions to the PC at readingvt.plancomm@gmail.com.

Thank you for participating.
Stephen Strait

DID YOU HOLD OFF FILING YOUR INCOME TAXES??

Don't forget to file form HS-122 Vermont Homestead Declaration AND Property Tax Credit Claim by **July 15, 2020**

Homestead Declaration- *Reading parcel owners who have their domicile in Reading are required to file a Vermont Homestead Declaration **this year** on or before July 15!*

This is the criteria for determining income sensitivity eligibility for any residential state-wide educational property tax adjustment. Individual circumstances may require filing for an income tax extension. Remind your tax preparer of the annual Vermont Homestead filing requirement and the date for filing. **There are no extensions for the Homestead Declaration** Late Filings are subject to late penalties.

Per the Selectboard there will not be any waiving of penalties!

Non-residents- These parcel owners pay the non-resident state-wide education tax only adjusted for the Local CLA.

Impact of not filing Homestead Declaration- If you have your domicile in Reading and fail to file a declaration, you are subject to paying any difference between the residential and non-residential education tax plus a substantial penalty.

Health Officer Note.....

Town health officers are responsible for:

Investigating possible public health hazards and risks within the town or city

Taking action to prevent, remove, or destroy any public health hazards

Taking action to lessen significant public health risks

Enforcing health laws, rules and permit conditions, and taking the steps necessary to enforce orders

That is the legal part of our work, but we also have a wealth of information on how to stay healthy and avoid legal issues. During this pandemic I think focusing on the positive is of vital importance. I will address tips and resources for maintaining a healthy home and a healthy you in future articles of the Informer.

- ◆ **Take health & safety precautions:** 6' social distancing, wear a face mask when out in public, wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer and stay home if you are sick or have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19. Call your doctor to see if you should be tested.
- ◆ **Stay close to home:** Limit non-essential travel to short distances. Consider outdoor spaces where it is not too crowded. Choose activities that do not require sharing food or touching shared objects or other surfaces.
- ◆ **Keep your social circle small:** Choose one other trusted household that is also taking health and safety precautions. Limit your group to 10 people or fewer. Keep a list of who you have been in close contact with each day.
- ◆ **Protect those at higher risk:** People age 65 and over and people with underlying medical conditions are more likely to develop more severe illness. Those at higher risk should stay home. Connect with them by phone, computer or video.

Stay safe and well.

Mary Springer

Reading Town Health Officer

802-484-7431

maryspringer5@comcast.net

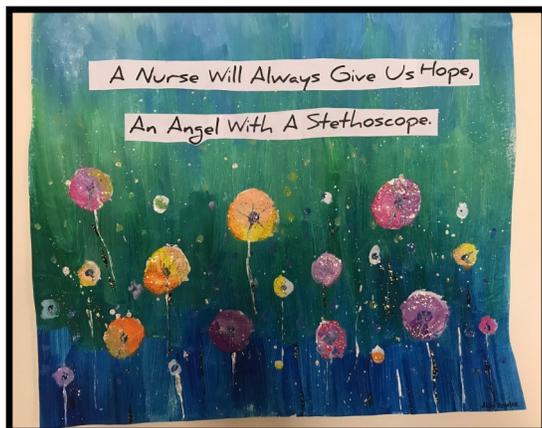
Need a cloth face mask to wear?

Are you over 60?

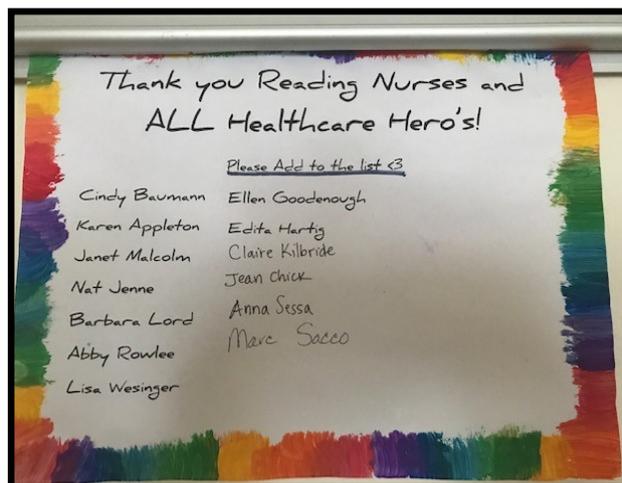
Please contact the Aging In Place organization to receive your free cloth mask.

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Spring Projects

Thinking about remodeling while your stuck at home? Adding on because you need more space? Putting on a deck? To avoid a fine please remember to get your **zoning permit** filed with the Town Office so it can be approved **before** you start your work!

Please be aware that there is a 16 day waiting period after your application is approved by the zoning administrator. Thank you



Property Transfer/Sales

Sinopoulos-Lloyd, Sophia & Pinar to Dayer, Robert & Madeline
718 Tattle Street House & 28.86 Acres \$289,000

Delano Company, LLC to Stonebeigh VT, LLC
Spear Cemetery Road 6.06 Acres \$55,200

Reading Historical Society Alters Its Summer Plans

The Reading Historical Society has been staying home and staying safe over the past two months. We hope you have all been managing through these truly historic times.

The society has enjoyed holding speaker presentations over the past two summers. As much as we want to do it again this year, we think it is advisable to take a break from them for the summer of 2020.

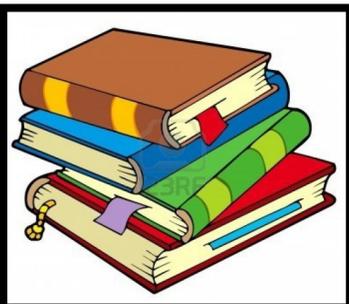
We are working out how we can open the museum to visitors during the summer. We will keep you up to date on this through Front Porch Forum and the Reading Facebook page.

In the meantime, the Reading Historical Society will be giving the museum its spring cleaning and continuing to update the flower bed. In addition, Bob Allen and Jim Bennett are doing work in the museum's basement to convert the kitchen into an office space for the research library. In the process of doing the work, they removed the old stove and the sink, which found new use in an old house in Proctorsville that is being remodeled. It's nice to know that it continues to serve a purpose rather than ending up at the dump.

What we are going through now regarding the pandemic will be a future generation's history. If you have anything that has some relevance to how we lived during this time, whether it is an actual object, photographs, cards or letters you received, consider donating them to the Reading Historical Society. We would love to have your journal to keep as a record of this time. In future years, whether someone is simply curious or Reading faces another pandemic, your donation may help someone understand their situation better and possibly learn from you on how to cope.

Donations can be arranged by contacting Esther Allen at 484-5027 or eeallen@myfairpoint.net
Stephen D'Agostino

Reading Public Library Porch Pickup & Home Delivery



The building remains closed, but we are now lending from our collection via library porch pickup or, if you prefer, home delivery to your doorstep. Read about these services on the homepage of our website at www.readinglibrary.org. You may also call the library at 484-5588 and leave a message. As always, Internet access is available outside the library building 24/7.

Tony Pikramenos, Librarian, Reading Public Library

Meeting Schedule

Cemetery Commission
Fourth Wednesday
6:00 PM at Town Office

EC Fiber
Second Tuesday at 7pm
Oaks Hall 1st floor of Law
School
In S. Royalton, VT

Energy Committee
Third Thursday
7 PM Fire Station

Fire & Rescue Dept.
First Tuesday
7:00 PM at Fire Station

Fire Dept. Auxiliary
First Monday
6:30 PM at Fire Station

Green Space Committee
3rd Thursday
6 PM at Library

Library Trustees
Last Tuesday
6:00 PM at Library

Parent Teacher Org
First Tuesday
5:30 PM at Reading School

**Planning Commission
& Zoning Board**
First Monday
7:00 PM at Town Hall

R.A.T.S
2nd Wednesday
7:00 PM at Fire Station

Recreation Commission
2nd Wednesday
6:00 PM at Library

Select Board
Second Monday
6:00 PM at Town Office

WCMUUSD School Board
Second Monday
6:00 PM Locations Vary

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
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
Email: 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

Reading Elementary School
484-7230

Reading Planning Commission
readingvt.plancomm@gmail.com

Reading- West Windsor Here to help our neighbors

.....

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:

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

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

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June 2020 Please note that meetings may be held by ZOOM due to the State restrictions

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Plan Comm. Mtg. ZOOM 7 pm	2 Fire & Rescue 7 pm	3	4	5	6
7	8 6pm Select board Mtg. 7 PM WCMUUSD	9	10 Recreation Commission 6 pm Library	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Green Space 6 PM at Library	19	20
21	22	23	24 Cemetery Commission 6 pm Town Hall	25	26	27
28	29	30 Library Trustees 6 PM				