



# *The Reading Informer*

## *September 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](mailto:readingvermont@comcast.net)

## **Reading Ducky Derby**



**Sunday, September 27, 2020, 1pm**

**Route 106 bridge near the Hall Art Foundation**

**Prizes from**

**Woodstock Inn • Yankee Bookshop • Vermont Eclectic**

**• King Arthur Baking Company • Gardener's Supply**

**• Reading Greenhouse**

**• • Skinny Pancake • Local crafters • More**

**To see the ever-growing list, visit [Facebook.com/readingparks](https://www.facebook.com/readingparks)**

**Tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$25**

**Buy your ducks at**

**Watroba's General Store, Reading Greenhouse, and**

**these Rec Commissioners:**

**Gerry Marletta, Kelsey Coyle, Lisa Kaija, Stephen D'Agostino**

**Proceeds benefit the Reading Recreation Commission**

## Selectboard Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2020 UNAPPROVED

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm. Present at the Town Hall: Robert Allen, Gordy Eastman, Jim Peplau, Calista Brennan, Scott Baumann Stephen D'Agostino, – Zoom: Glen Town, Mary Springer and Shiri Macri. Robert started the meeting asking if there were changes to the agenda. There were no changes.

Minutes of the July 13, 2020 Selectboard meeting was approved as printed.

**Treasurer's Report:** As of 7-31-20, Expenses were \$66,810.59, Revenue was \$40,112.46 and the balance in Mascoma is \$444,889.40. Delinquent taxes for 2018 and 2019 are \$32581.51. Jim moved to approve and Gordy seconded. Report is accepted. **Action Items:**

**Reading Health Officer Report Covid-19:** Mary said that she has had several complaints about people not wearing a mask in Watroba's Store. Mary said that she can educate and encourage people to wear a mask but can not enforce it. Robert suggested that this be brought up under the Board of Health and possibly a BOH meeting should be scheduled. He also mentioned that we should wait until after August 15<sup>th</sup> to see what the Governor does with regulations.

**Reading ATV/RATS Club:** Mike sent a note to the Selectboard that the speed limit would be set for 25 MPH for all roads. Jim thought that was too fast. Gordy suggested leaving it at 25 MPH and revisiting it in 60 days to see if there have been any complaints. Robert has the sign permits from the RATS club and copies will be mailed to Mike.

**Highway:** – Glen said that Patriot Motors has a new program that is supposed to fix the power issue with the truck. Reading is # 3 on the list to have it installed, after they test it out. Jim wanted to know how they could test it without a plow and full load of sand. They are testing with heavy loads and steep hills. Roadside mowing is done. They are cleaning up trees and fixing roads. The Stream Bank work on 20 Mile Stream is slated to start the week of 8/17. The road will need to be closed occasionally.

**Tyson Road Paving:** Jim spoke with a Selectboard member from Weston about Wilk Paving. The paving they did, did not hold up well, and the thought it could be because it was done late in the year so the temperature was too cold. The board will be asking for names from Wilk to contact to get comments and or recommendations.

**Robinson Hall Siding Work:** It is moving along. Some of the new windows have been installed. Garret seemed to think there is an ant problem in the front of the building. Robert will call Presidential Pest Control to look at it. The tree in the front will need to be trimmed away from the building. The inside work upstairs and possibly the dining room will be the last work to be done so that the outside can be completed before it gets to cold.

**Auditor Resignation:** Charline Hagar has resigned as Auditor. Jim moved to accept her resignation, Gordy seconded. The board thanked her. There is an opening for a Town Auditor, if you are interested, please contact the Town Clerk.

**Tax Rate for 2020:** The State sets the school rate at \$1.5443 for non-resident and \$1.5705 for residents. The Town rate was set at .5084 for 2020. Jim made a motion to approve the Town rate, Gordy seconded. Calista hopes to have the bills out next week.

**Other:** Scott Baumann was here to ask about the parking at 20-foot swimming hole and see if something could be done about the garbage. He wanted to know if the State could make parking bigger and if they would put some garbage cans out. Scott was been picking up garbage but has since stopped. Robert said that he has spoken with the Sheriff's department and starting on 8-18 they will be issuing warnings about parking. The second offense will result in a ticket. The Board will continue to monitor the situation and if necessary have vehicles towed. Mary Springer also expressed concern about the parking at 20 foot. Scott also wanted to know if there is a sign ordinance and if 1404 Tyson Road was complying. Scott also talked about moving some speed limit signs on the Tyson road by the intersection with Puckerbrush Road. Jim mentioned that there were regulations on where signs should be placed when near an intersection. Scott thanked everyone for their service to the Town.

Shiri wanted to know if there was an update about the school using Robinson Hall. There is no update at this time.

Stephen was here about the Green Space and the Recreation Commission. Green Space Committee have a sign designed and shared a copy with the Board. The sign would face the street. Robert asked about the size; it is 32 x 20.

The Committee will call Dig Safe about digging for the sign and planting a tree.

The Recreation Commission will continue to do the Christmas tree lighting but not have an on-site ceremony this year.

For Halloween they are wondering about trunk or treating in the Town Hall's parking lot since they can't do fright night in the Hall. The Board approved but said the Commission should wait and see what the CDC and the Governor sets for guidelines by the end of October. Jim asked about trick or treating for UNICEF like in the past.

The Commission will also do the 'build a scarecrow' program and have "kits" available for pick up so everyone in Town could participate if they wish.

The Ducky Derby will take place on Sept 27<sup>th</sup>. The Commission is getting prizes donated and will practice social distancing.

Robert attended a meeting in Weathersfield about the Transfer Station. A committee was formed and there will be more meetings to come. Some changes to the cost to the Towns of Reading and West Windsor was discussed.

Robert received a lease for the Post Office. Copies were made for Jim and Gordy to review.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm. Next Selectboard meeting will be on Monday September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Robinson Hall Dining Room for all.

Respectfully Submitted, Calista N. Brennan, Town Clerk

## Reading Area Community Blood Drive

Holiday Inn, 485 Hotel Drive, Brownsville, VT, 05037, Ballroom

Wednesday; September 9, 2020 - 01:00 PM - 06:00 PM

For assistance, call Lanie Wadelton at 802-484-1226, ext 119 or 802-376-6676.

Questions, please call 1-800-RED-CROS (733-2767).

THANK YOU ALL!

## NEW THIS YEAR!! Property Tax Bills can now be paid with a credit card.

<https://secure.municipay.com/payapp/public/ECSale.html?siteId=svvn62cxkb&urlKey=b9e5616f27aebb04b6920173a5505d23&deptId=svvn62cxkb>

You can pay your Property Tax Bill via MuniPAY using:

- Electronic Check Payment (service fee will apply, see below)
- Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express (service fee will apply, see below)

Paying Your Bill: ENTER THE LINK ABOVE OR VISIT THE TOWN WEBSITE FOR INSTRUCTIONS under the Government Tab: Property Tax Payment

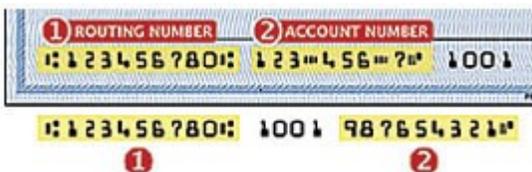
### Credit Card Payments Made Online

Now you can pay your property tax bill from the comfort of your home or office by using our online payment service. Credit cards accepted: MasterCard, Discover, American Express or Visa. A per transaction service fee of **2.65%** or **\$3.00** minimum will be charged by the payment processing company for this service.



### Electronic Check Payments

**Town of Reading** now accepts electronic check payments using the online payment service. Payments will be charged to your checking or savings account at your bank. You will need your 9-digit routing number, as well as your account number from your personal checks (see example below). A per transaction service fee of \$1.50 will be charged by the payment processing company for this service.



**IMPORTANT:** When Payment Options appears, click on the “Switch to Pay with Check” link and then continue entering your information.

Payments must be received by 5:00 PM on November 4, 2020



Peter K. Vollers, Esq.  
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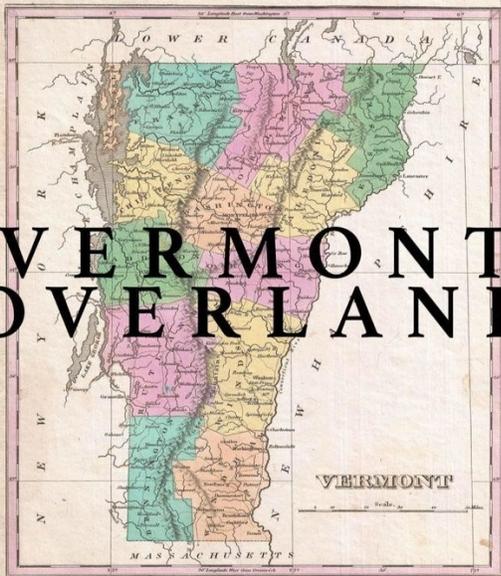
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Home 802-484-5540



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Reading Planning Commission Meeting  
August 3, 2020 – Virtual Meeting via ZOOM  
Unapproved minutes

The recorded Zoom meeting can be downloaded at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aUrCsaNmUv21V5kESLGqCL8Zkrp36f5A/view?usp=sharing>.

**Attendance:** Present: Stephen Strait (Chair), Ken Cox, Kevin Kaija, Kathy Callan-Rondeau, Jean Goldsborough (Recording Secretary.) Absent Kurt Voight.

Guests: Jason Rasmussen (SWCRPC), Maryse Brand (HAF), Charlie LaBatt (Engineer), Robert Allen (Zoning Administrator), Matthew and Jackie von Unwerth, Richard Windish, Kathy Reeves, Kevin Reeves, Ann Rubright, Stephen D'Agostino, Andrew Simonet.

**The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm.**

**Zoning Board of Adjustment Hearing for Hall Art Foundation (HAF) Project**

Steve Strait gave a brief overview of the HAF's permit application for a footbridge and parking lot over the North Branch of the Black River. Anyone giving testimony must be sworn in.

**Swearing In:** Charlie LaBatt (Project Engineer, Guntlow and Associates); Maryse Brand (Director of the HAF); Matthew and Jackie von Unwerth (land abutters); Robert Allen (Zoning Administrator).

**Site Plan Review (RPC)** – Descriptions and question/answer period

Maryse Brand of HAF described the project and the documentation they have completed and provided. The project consists of a new parking area for visitors as the existing location is not meeting their needs. Also a pedestrian bridge and path that leads over the stream to the Visitor Center. The access from Route 106 will use the previous access on the north side of the bridge.

Several committee members asked questions to address the driveway, parking area, traffic flow, signage, access, landscaping, etc. (Full minutes are available on the town website.)

Abutters Matthew and Jackie von Unwerth questions – the von Unwerths had many questions and concerns as primary boundary abutters to where this project will be taking place. They were not made aware of this project much before this hearing and asked questions about procedures, flood planning, aesthetics and view, traffic patterns, affect to residential character and their property value, etc. (Full minutes are available on the town website.)

Maryse - they have had a lot of meetings with various people and agencies to revise and ensure their plan meets these requirements. The project is subject to ACT 250 so there will be additional review and the von Unwerths can participate in that process. Matt asked about opportunities to have a site visit and/or for HAF to walk and stake out the areas - Maryse will do that.

Stephen D'Agostino– questions and discussion as it affects events sponsored by the Recreation Commission. (Full minutes are available on the town website.)

The Site Plan review was recessed by Steve at 8:15 pm.

**Conditional Use and Flood Hazard Review (ZBA led by Ken Cox)** – there are certain standards that the ZBA must have findings on. Ken reviewed each section and the findings as it pertains to this project. (Full minutes are available on the town website.)

There was lengthy review and discussion of the flood plain hazard area.

Ken feels there are 2 opinions and it is not clear and would like to see the plan show this more clearly. Charlie suggests their profile map shows this. Ken feels it warrants further discussion with the ZBA members. Kathy C-R also felt it wasn't clear in the documents provided. Steve feels the only recourse is to recess so it can be discussed by ZBA members. The Flood Plan Hazard part of the review was recessed.

At 9:05 Steve reopened the Site Plan revision to discuss for decision making. Steve read his notes addressing this review.

Voting – Steve made a motion to approve the project as it meets the Site Plan review. Ken 2nd. All PC members voted to approve the Site Plan. This portion of the Site Plan review was closed.

At 9:11 Ken reopened the Conditional Use and Flood Hazard Review and discussed the key points and findings. Ken interpreted the von Unwerth's concerns will be satisfactorily addressed directly with Maryse and HAF.

Voting - Ken made a motion and Steve seconded. 3 of the 4 ZBA members voted in favor and Kevin abstained. Conditional Use passed and is recessed.

Flood Hazard Review – some discussion of whether or not each ZBA member has enough information to make a decision tonight.

Continued page 6

Voting - to accept information as presented tonight: Votes to approve the Flood Hazard Review – Steve, KK and KC voted to approve. KCR abstained. Decision is to approve the project but Ken still wants copies of the statement from the Army Corps of Engineers for the record.

The von Unwerths had additional questions mostly regarding procedures. Steve and Robert addressed these questions as best able. Maryse again offered to have a separate conversation with the von Unwerths.

Adjourned this section at 9:29 pm

Steve reopened the regular PC Meeting

No changes to the Agenda other than we will not get through it all so will roll over to next meeting

No changes to July minutes.

Mail and email – nothing of consequence. No Regional PC business. No new reports from Energy Committee Windish subdivision – Richard Windish present. Steve summarized the unique and complex circumstances.

(Full minutes are available on the town website.)

Voting - Steve made a motion to allow Mr. Windish to develop Lot #3 for his father without additional oversight with agreement that if Lot#2 is to be developed that it will be subject to Planning Commission review.

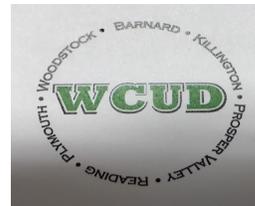
Ken seconded. All members in favor.

Next PC meeting - Steve suggested and all agreed to meet Monday, September 7 despite it being Labor Day.

Ken made a motion to adjourn. Steve 2nd. **Adjourned at 9:47 pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean G. Goldsborough, Recorder

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, 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](http://www.wcsu.net) to confirm dates and  
review meeting agendas and minutes.

## Reading Historical Society

In the Summer of issue of *Woodstock* magazine, I wrote an article about part of a tour that was featured in the 1937 book *Vermont: A Guide to the Green Mountain State*. One of the most fascinating parts of the research for the article was the changes made to Route 106 in Reading since the book was published. Here is an excerpt from the article.

In Hammondsville, the first changes in the alignment of Route 106 are noticeable. From 1955 to 1957, about four miles of the state highway were moved, widened, and given a hard surface, but not quite the asphalt we drive today.

The houses in Hammondsville are set back from the road today, but in the 1930s, Route 106 ran by their front doors, crossed Baileys Mills Road, and continued into what is now woods west of the existing route. Standing on Baileys Mills Road and looking south, it is easy to imagine the old roadbed in the flat, treeless expanse in front of the houses.

Further north, a modified cape-style house sits across from the marsh surrounding Reading Hill Brook. Like the houses in Hammondsville, this dwelling once sat directly on Route 106. Looking across the land, the path of the old highway to the right of the house is obvious. The old road rejoins the new at the driveway to Reading Farms.

After Whitmore Circle, the road begins to climb Reading Hill. The Guide refers to the ascent as “one of great beauty, but one in which drivers should exercise more than ordinary caution.” Residents of Reading who recall the road before its current alignment note that the grade was uneven and, in some places, quite steep. The 1950s roadwork evened out the grade to eight percent.

Driving Reading Hill, you can spot the old roadbed in several places. The woodlot opposite Caper Hill Road was once a bend in the road. The old route cut across the existing state highway and ran parallel to it. Their paths rejoin briefly at the highest elevation on Route 106. Here the new road is straight in its descent while the old road zigzagged. The most noticeable relic of the old Route 106 is visible to the right as you drive down the hill, a dramatic 90-degree turn demarcated by a stone wall.

To read the entire article, visit [woodstockmagazine.com](http://woodstockmagazine.com). To learn more about my research, visit [strataco.net/AmericanGuide](http://strataco.net/AmericanGuide).

Stephen D'Agostino

## Librarian's Note

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.*

## Property Sales



Silva, Sandra & Joseph 195 Grasshopper Lane	to Blais, Steven & Linda Home & 10.10 Acres	\$350,000
Vollers, Peter & Kimann 419 Baileys Mills Road	to Chace, Derek & Catherine Home & 75.56 Acres	\$475,000
Frizzell, Bruce & Juanita 988 Jenne Road	to Mascolino, Roy & Linda Tucci Home & .97 Acre	\$380,000

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**The United States Census 2020**

**An Important Way to Support Your Community**

**As of 8/12, only 47.1% of Reading residents have completed their survey**

**UNITED  
STATES  
CENSUS**

Please complete your Census document. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail. 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.

## ***Puddledock Park Parties Have Returned***

Check out the fun lineup!

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**.

***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.

### READING GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE REPORT

AUGUST 2020

Summer has been in full swing and so has Puddledock Park. With warm and sunny days it has been perfect during these space distancing times to visit the Park for just a sit or to come to the Recreation Commissions fun events. Outdoor movie nights, the ice cream social to name a few and more to come!

If you visited the park you will see all that has been transpiring to beautify the space. In a group effort we cleaned up areas, built some perennial beds, watered, watered, watered and added a wonderful stone bench built by Oliver and Ben Kaija and soon we are adding a sign and a flowering tree.

Stay tuned for a tree planting and sign dedication party!

Remember, the park is there for all of us so please visit and enjoy.

Respectfully,

Annie Rubright, Chair RGSC  
Stephen D'Agostino, Secretary  
Heather Evans  
Jean Goldsborough  
Lisa Kaija



## Meeting Schedule

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

**Fire and Ambulance 911**  
**State Police 911**  
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## Town Contact Information

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

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Nathan Willard 484-0094  
Greg Smith 802-384-2101

**Post Office Iiri Makkonen 484-5994**

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9:00 to 12:00

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8 am to 5 pm                      8am to 12pm

**Library**  
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Thursday 10:00 to 1:30, 2:00 to 5:00  
Saturday 10:00 to 2:00

**Listers 484-7258**  
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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)

## Reading- West Windsor Here to help our neighbors

.....

**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  
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Dana Waters 802-291-3299

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**September 2020**

*Please note that meetings may be held via ZOOM due to the State restrictions*

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