

TOWN MANAGER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Weather in Vermont can easily change from one hour to the next which explains the expression, "If you don't like the weather, wait an hour." Unfortunately, this maxim failed to hold true during the end of June and early July. A weather pattern involving daily (or more) very heavy downpours persisted for several weeks, leaving the ground saturated and resulting in widespread flooding. Sections of roads were washed out and portions of the Town's infrastructure damaged – not to mention the countless basements that were flooded throughout town. Stormwater related issues will become a major point of discussion over the next several years as we attempt to reduce the environmental impact that stormwater runoff is having on our streams and as we work to improve the capacity of our system to handle large storms.

Transportation and stormwater planning projects were a major focus this past year. Staff worked with the Selectboard, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission and representatives from various interest groups to take a close look at a number of transportation improvements intended to address transportation needs in part necessitated by the Governor's decision to end plans for the Circumferential Highway. In addition, work continued on developing a stormwater flow restoration plan for the Allen Brook and a Watershed Improvement Plan to prevent other streams in Williston from becoming impaired like the Allen Brook. This planning will serve as the foundation for future projects to address problems caused by stormwater runoff.

This past year, a number of employees marked service milestones: Rick Peet celebrated 25 years of service to our community. He is currently employed as the Highway Foreman. In addition, each of the following employees celebrated fifteen years of service to the Town: Susan Blair (Library); Brian Claffy (Police); Deborah Davis (Police); and Richard McGuire (Manager). Richard Ransom (Lister's Office) celebrated ten years of service.

Joining our dedicated employees in 2013 were the following individuals: Debbie Greer (Listers Office); Joshua Hansell (Police); Jeffrey Smardon (Buildings and Grounds); Kathleen DeLuca (Library); Angela Bernard (Library); Jennifer Munson (Clerk/Treasurer); Lisa Steadman (Fire).

It is the responsibility of the Selectboard, the Town Manager and support staff to take the input provided by Williston residents and translate it into services, policies and procedures that meet the needs of this community. The input citizens provide during the year is extremely important in determining the future direction of the community. This input can take many forms, ranging from a simple telephone call or letter to a more active involvement including participating on an elected or appointed Board or Commission. If you have a concern or question, please contact someone on the Selectboard or town staff. Your input is important to the future of our community.

The Manager's office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Should you wish to contact us, feel free to stop by the Town Hall or call 878-0919. You may also send email at mcguire@willistonvt.org. Please visit our web site at <http://town.williston.vt.us>. It contains a wealth of information and is updated regularly.

As always, your suggestions and comments are welcome. We remain committed to providing the highest level of service in a professional manner.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard McGuire,
Town Manager

SELECTBOARD ANNUAL REPORT

2013 was another year of solving budget challenges and maintaining the tax rate at the lowest amount possible while preserving essential services. Thanks to the innovativeness of our Town Manager, Finance Director, town department directors and staff, we were able to stay within budget and fulfill the town's obligations to its citizens. The information listed below is not all-inclusive. Please visit the town website at <http://town.williston.vt.us> for updated information.

This past year was one of many accomplishments. Amendments to the Unified Development Bylaws were proposed to update impact fees for education, recreation and transportation. Energy conservation projects on town buildings have continued and 25 solar (electric) panels were installed on town property behind Town Hall. Thanks to the Williston Green Initiative for initiating this. Erosion control was performed along Allen Brook. We have been able to extend the Host Town agreements with the two companies that operate solid waste transfer stations in Williston. A collective bargaining contract covering fire department unionized employees was signed.

Town infrastructure was improved. Several storm water projects were completed and much more needs to be done due to federal and state requirements. A policy for working with associations and others with expired storm water permits was adopted. The Selectboard and Town staff are exploring the best way to provide storm water services. Major upgrades to several sewer pump stations were completed. After over two years of meetings six preferred alternatives were reviewed and approved and sent to the Circ highway alternatives task force for their approval. Terry Macaig, Chris Roy, Bruce Hoar, Ken Belliveau and Rick McGuire served Williston well as representatives on the task force. A public works facility task force worked on plans for a new building. A preferred site was agreed on and the Town Manager was authorized to sign a purchase agreement. An affordable housing task force is exploring ways to facilitate affordable housing and will issue their report in early 2014.

The Selectboard is committed to enhancing Williston's strong sense of community. We could not do that without the competent staff in each of our Departments and in the Town Clerk's Office. Each Town employee works quietly behind the scenes to keep Williston running smoothly. A huge thank you is in order to all town staff, and in particular Public Works staff, for their work during the flooding events that occurred in the early summer. As Town Manager, Rick McGuire is primarily responsible for carrying out the policies and directives of the Selectboard. He serves as the primary contact with Town staff and the public. Thank you to Rick for all that he does and his 15 years as Town manager.

The Williston in Bloom Program continues. Our citizens made the Town beautiful once again through their financial and labor contributions. We are grateful to businesses and to all citizens who work to make our town beautiful during the spring, summer and fall. Volunteers also put in countless hours on committees, commissions and programs. Our strong planning, development review, recreation, conservation, library, sidewalk and other programs only happen because of the great people who volunteer in our community.

We encourage members of the community to stay involved and welcome input as we address different issues. We continue to listen to each of you. Please consider serving on town boards and commissions. It is a great way to serve your community and to learn more about the great Town of Williston. Thank you.

Williston Selectboard

Terry Macaig-Chair, Jeff Fehrs-Vice-chair, Debbie Ingram, Jay Michaud, Chris Roy

TOWN CLERK & TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

It was 250 years ago that greetings were received from King George the Third to Benning Wentworth, Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Province of New Hampshire, in New England.

"...Know Ye, that we of our special grace certain knowledge and meer motion for the due encouragement of settling a New Plantation within our said Province by and with the advice of our trusty and well beloved Benning Wentworth, Esq., Our Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Province,, of New Hampshire in New England and of our council of the said Province, have upon the conditions and reservations hereinafter made, given and granted, and by these presents for our heirs and successors do give and grant in equal shares unto our loving subjects, inhabitants or our said Province of New Hampshire and our other governments and to their heirs and assigns forever, whose names are entered in this grant, to be divided to and amongst them into twenty-one equal shares, all that tract or parcel of land, situate, lying and being within our said Province of New Hampshire, containing by admeasurement 23,040 acres, which tract is to contain six square miles and no more; ... and herby is incorporated into a township by the name of Williston..." These lands were granted to Samuel Willis and 64 others.

Fast forward 250 years to 2013:

We are now fully underway in our transition to a more advanced and improved computerized land record system. In August we converted to our new system and will continue to bring more and more of our older records into the system over the next year. Over this past year we have added 13,218 pages of document recording which includes Land Records, Miscellaneous Documents and Town Proceedings.

It was almost a quiet year for elections. 1241 voters elected Town Officials and approved the Town Budgets but defeated the School Budget by 27 votes. A second vote in May resulted in an approved budget by a vote of 509-241. In November the C V U High School asked voters to approve a bond to help with the costs of installing two turf fields and other improvements to the athletic fields at CVU. Once the ballots from all of the CVU towns were counted, the bond was defeated by a very slim margin.

We are now able to offer automatic debit payments for water/sewer payments as well as tax payments. As with automatic tax payments, we can initiate payments for water/sewer customers electronically on the due date.

In 2013 we bid farewell to Hannah Butler, Assistant Town Clerk, who left to help with family in Massachusetts. We welcomed a new Assistant Town Clerk, Jennifer Munson. Jennifer has a strong administrative background and has proven to be a great asset to our staff.

Statistical Information for Calendar Year 2013

Birth	72	U.S. Passports	950
Marriage	48	DMV Renewals	135
Death (Williston Residents)	45	Green Mountain Passports	67
Death (Respite House)	177	Vault Usage Hours	2200
		Dog Licenses	648

As always, do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Williston Town Clerk & Staff

Deb Beckett, CMC/CVC/CVT, Town Clerk/Treasurer	Sam Ford, Assistant Town Clerk
Sarah Mason, Assistant Town Clerk & Treasurer	Jennifer Munson, Assistant Town Clerk

250th Celebration Committee

In September 2012 an ad-hoc committee was formed to plan activities and events related to the 250th Anniversary of the Town. The committee met monthly to put into place the many ideas that were generated. The enthusiasm and dedication of this committee made for a truly outstanding celebration of Williston's Sestercentennial. The 250th Events included:

January – 250th Challenge - Williston Moves Snowshoe Hike
Catamount Family Center

March – Pot Luck Dinner and Presentation of “Town Meeting 1786, 1804 & 1850 - a whimsical and historically inaccurate look back at Town Meeting” written by Jim Heltz, Bill Skiff & Jackie Heltz

May – “Stories from Williston's Past” slide presentation by Richard Allen

June 7 – “A Day in the Life of Williston Photo Shoot”
Community Dessert Social
Premier of the Jim Heltz film “Williston Revisited”

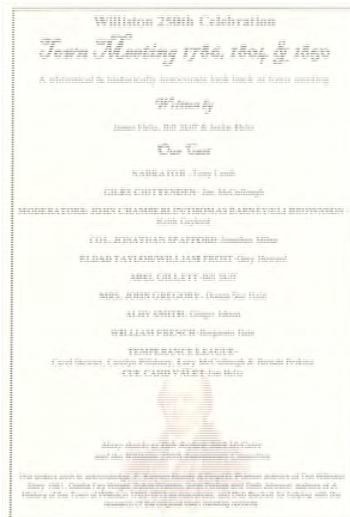
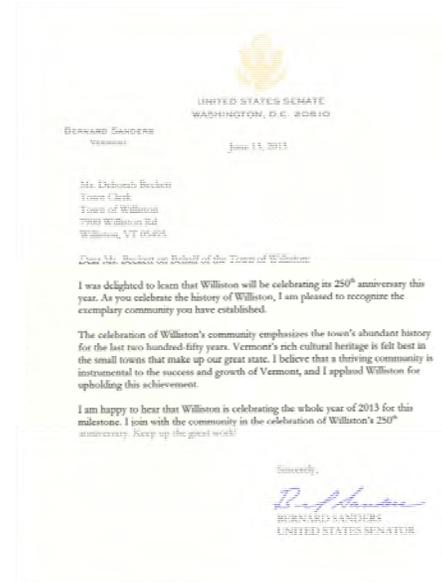
June 8 – Community Portrait

July 4 – Parade featuring Grand Marshall's Thomas & Elizabeth Chittenden, Jonathan Spoffard and Samuel Allen – Thanks to Bill Skiff, Ginger Isham, Keith Gaylord and Gary Howard

July & August - Williston 250th Commemorative Beer, Created by Marty Bonneau, Brewed at Fiddlehead Brewing and Served on Tap at McGillicuddy's Irish Ale House – Special thanks to Todd Balcom, manager of McGillicuddy's for leading this effort

June – September – Williston Moves – Williston's Healthy Challenge – Special thanks to Mike Raymond of the Rehab Gym and Jazzercise for their efforts to get Williston Moving toward a healthier lifestyle.

Committee Members: Ginger Isham, Terry Macaig, Bill Skiff, Jim McCullough, Marti Fiske, Steve Mease, Jim Heltz, Richard Allen & Deb Beckett



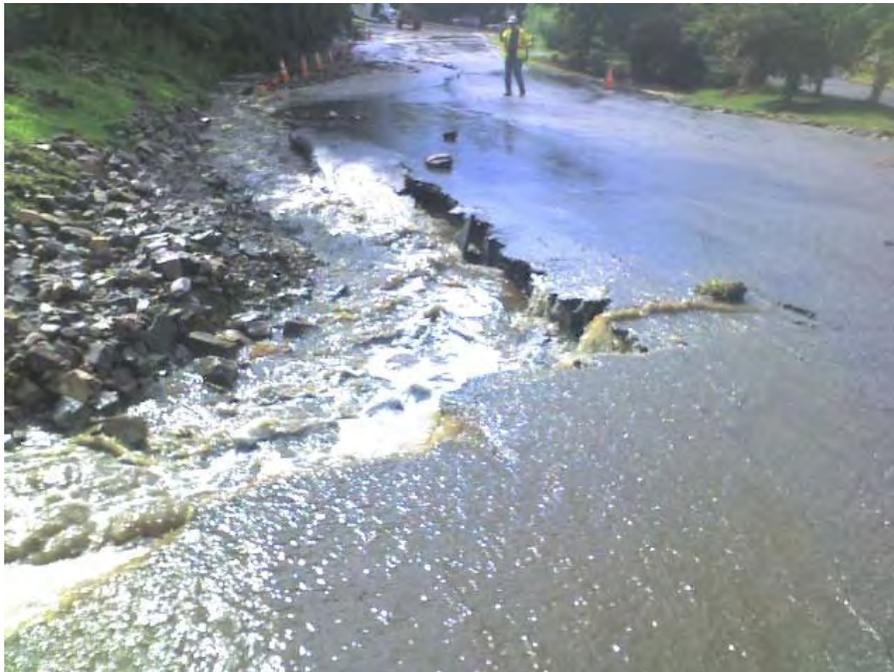
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department provides the following community services to the Town: street and highway maintenance, stormwater system maintenance, water and sewer system operation and maintenance, parks and recreation services, including management of the Lake Iroquois Beach on behalf of the Lake Iroquois Recreation District, public building maintenance and construction management and inspection oversight. Public Works has maintenance responsibility of approximately 74 miles of public streets and their related infrastructure. The water system serves a year-round population of approximately 6,800 users with a total system demand of approximately 586,641 gpd. The sewer system serves a year-round population of approximately 5,800 users with a total sewage flow to the treatment plant of approximately 671,440 gpd.

The FY15 proposed highway budget as submitted to the Town Manager and Selectboard reflects a modest increase in funding over the current spending plan. The increases suggested will allow Public Works to complete its core mission while being responsible to the residents we serve.

The water system operating budget shows an increase due largely to having to increase the amount of money that we need to put into our capital savings and an increase in the wholesale rate by our water supplier Champlain Water District. As proposed, an 12% increase in the retail rate will be required for FY15.

The sewer operating budget shows an increase of 4.1% for FY15. This is due to higher treatment rates and paying for bonds for plant refurbishment and added capacity. We are also using Sewer Fund balance to help offset a larger rate increase.



Spring rains washed out this portion of Hurricane Lane

Listed below are some of the major projects completed by Public Works this past year:

- Portions of the following Town highways were resurfaced this year: South Brownell, Harte Circle, East Hill, Christmas Hill, Oak Knoll, Paddock and Oak Hill and Marshall to be done this spring.
- Design and permit efforts are ongoing in developing a Grid Street between Williston Road and Trader Lane near Taft Corners.
- Merchants Row and the extension of Wright Avenue were completed and opened.
- Two Major Pump station upgrades were completed, Old Stage Road and Industrial Avenue.
- The new MS4 Stormwater Permit was issued and a decision was made on how to deal with expired permits.

We would like to take this opportunity to recognize all the staff of the Public Works Department (Highway, Water & Sewer and Parks & Recreation) for all their efforts and commitment to making this a better community for our residents. They are an extremely dedicated group, always willing to assist and carry a positive attitude in their work efforts.

We welcome community input and suggestions on how better to serve the citizens of Williston. The Public Works Office is located at the Town Hall Annex with office hours Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 4:30pm. Feel free to contact us at 878-1239 if you have questions or concerns, or visit the Town’s website at www.town.williston.vt.us.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bruce K. Hoar
Public Works Director



Highway Department crews took a little time away from road work to show Allen Brook School students what Public Works is all about... photo by Rick McGuire

WILLISTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Williston Parks and Recreation Department continues to serve the recreation needs of a growing population. Through diverse programming, special events, and the development and maintenance of recreation facilities, the Parks and Recreation Department offers Williston residents of all ages a wide range of choices for their leisure time.

Youth Sports Leagues:

The Recreation department organizes three youth sports leagues. Over 400 children participate in fall soccer league and over 300 participate in the winter basketball league. Lacrosse League has grown to over 100 participants. We would be unable to offer these leagues without the invaluable help of the more than 150 volunteer coaches.

Summer Camp:

In the summer months the department runs a full-time day camp program for youth. Campers take part in an enriching schedule which includes sports, fine arts, music and drama, field trips, swimming, and much more. The Recreation Department offers three different day camp programs; Explorer Camp for grades 1 – 3 based at Allen Brook School, Adventurer Camp for grades 4 – 6 based at Williston Central School, and the Teen Adventure traveling camp for grades 7 – 9. Day camp served over 400 Williston families in 2013.

LIT Program:

Our Leaders in Training program offers teens the opportunity to learn the skills to be a successful youth worker. Successful participants are offered volunteer positions in our summer day camp and many later return as paid staff members.

After School Activities Program:

The Williston Recreation Department manages the After School Activities program offered which offers a wide range of after school activities for resident children throughout the school year.

Williston Ski and Ride Program:

2013 marked the tenth year that the Williston Recreation Department has administered the Williston Ski and Ride Program formerly run by the Williston School District. Over 300 students participated in the ski program at Cochran's Ski Slope every Friday January through March.

Senior Exercise Program:

A drop in fitness program for senior citizens operated in partnership with the Williston Federated Church and the YMCA of Greater Burlington, has grown steadily in the last six years. This program, supported by voluntary donations, serves more than 75 Williston seniors.

Recreation Facilities:

Our facilities include the Community Park, Rossignol Park, Brennan Park, Five Tree Hill, Mud Pond, Mud Pond Country Park and many miles of Recreation Paths throughout town.

The Parks and Recreation Department welcomes suggestions and inquiries. If you are interested in taking a class or offering a class please feel free to contact Kevin Finnegan, the Parks and Recreation Director, at 878-1239 ext. 124 or email at finnegank@willistontown.com

Parks and Recreation Committee:

James Haug Mark Gagne
Lynn Reagan Bob Metz
Erin Carmichael Thomas Watson

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Department Annual Report

Traffic Safety Event - Texas Roadhouse



This year has been one of progress and positive change for the Williston Police Department. The Police Department has worked diligently on improving our presence in our schools throughout the year. School safety and emergency planning have been a focus for educational systems throughout the country and we have engaged in further training as well as continued to improve communications and relationships within our school system.

We are a full service police department and in 2013 we were at full staff for the first time in many years. Shifts are currently staffed with a supervisor and two patrol officers which enhance both performance and safety. We were able to open up more time for special assignments, directed patrols, and continue our goal to improve our highway safety and the quality of life for the community.

We are currently making a shift rotation for our patrol sergeants. Moving sergeants who have been on days for some time will now move to working nights and vice versa. This will allow for a change in environment for our supervisors who have been working the same shifts for years and allow officers to experience diversity in management styles and experience.

As of the beginning of 2014, we have added Officer Logan Young as a part-time officer. He will be attending the part-time officer's academy in March and upon successful completion will be moved into our recently approved full-time position that authorized by voters last year. Officer Young will then attend the August full-time officer's academy.

In this year's budget we have requested funding for another new position, of which we have received a hefty federal grant. The Department of Justice has awarded us \$125,000, which equates to approximately 52% of the positions salary and benefits over the course of the three year grant as long as we agree to retain the position for an additional fourth year.

Our overall activity has dramatically increased; 16.5% in calls for service, 10.9% in arrests, and 2% increase in officer initiated motor vehicle enforcement. The following statistics describe our activity:

	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Calls for Service	4248	4301	5013	2496/4992*
M/V Enforcement	5352	5050	5154	2681/5362*
M/V Violation Notices	2618	2094	3423	1907/2814*
Arrests	381	393	436	216/432*
Offenses Arrested For	470	584	602	280/560*

*year to date/projected for year end

In addition to the statistics shown above surrounding arrests, officers directly referred 72 additional offenders to our Community Justice Center as an alternative to traditional criminal justice approaches. This number adds to the number of arrests and offenses, but is not reported to the FBI as cases solved by arrest, even though an offender was identified, case closed, and action was taken.

Grants awarded to the Williston Police Department are as follows and are in excess of \$170,000:

US Dept. of Justice, Office of Community Policing	\$125,000	1 Officer over 4 Years
Governor’s Highway Safety & NHTSA	\$5,000	Highway Safety Equip.
Governor’s Highway Safety	\$11,000	Highway Safety Enforcement
Bureau of Justice & VLCT	\$1,800	Bullet Proof Vests
Vermont League Cities & Towns (PACIF)	\$5,177	Education and Equipment
Border Security (Stonegarden)	\$15,000	State Patrols HSU
SHARP & Occupant Protection	\$9,000	DUI Patrols

In addition to meeting all mandatory annual training, numerous officers were sent to specialized training in mid-level management, background investigations, evidence management, and a host of other training classes. Selected to become one of two dozen Drug Recognition Experts for the State of Vermont, Officer Cohen will be attending an extensive training program beginning in January for two weeks and finishing Arizona later in the year. This training is designed to detect drivers and others who are under the influence of drugs.

Our Goals:

Officers serving Harvest Lunch – Allen Brook School



We maintain our number one goal to deliver high quality services to our community. In addition, we focus on the efficiency of our operations and resources, the reduction of perceived fear within our community, and improving job satisfaction with our employees. We have made significant progress in our efforts to communicate with our community on different levels including Facebook, Front Porch Forum, WPD Blue Light News, Website, and by quickly relaying important press releases to the media.

I would like to thank the Williston community once again for selecting me to be the Chief and I thank you very much for the support shown thus far to our agency. It is very welcoming to know that the community stands behind their police department.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call. I encourage you to visit our website at www.town.williston.vt.us/police or send us an email at police@willistontown.com. All of my contact information is available on our website or call 764-1152.

Todd C. Shepard
Chief of Police

COMMUNITY JUSTICE BOARD

Summary Narrative

In the past year, the Williston Community Justice Center has provided restorative approaches to crime and conflict in the towns of Williston, Richmond, Huntington and St. George that address the needs of the citizens of those communities. The Williston CJC began actively promoting the services listed below which have resulted in greater visibility of the work of our volunteer board members and the center itself. The WCJC has performed services in the name of the communities above in the areas of:

Community Restorative Justice Panels- These panels meet six times /month and hear one to two new cases each evening and one to two completions each night depending upon the cases received in the month. The purpose of the board is to follow the mission statement by supporting victims and provide responsible parties with the opportunity to acknowledge their wrongdoing and to make amends to the individual(s) and the community where the wrongdoing occurred.

Victim support- staff and board members provide support to victims of criminal cases, where the victims choose to be involved in the process. The affected parties have the opportunity to meet face to face with the client and have a chance to describe the impact and request reasonable actions from the client aimed at repairing the harm they have experienced.

Conflict Resolution/ Medication Strategies- CJC staff and volunteers are available to help community members, local officials and the local police department address community conflict and safety concerns before a crime is committed, including neighborhood conflicts and landlord to tenant disputes. Strategies may include mediation, facilitated group meetings and individual consultation.

Community Dialogue/ Education Forums- Through its partnership with other community organizations, WCJC develops education programs and facilitates community discussions about topics that are helpful in the community and topics that address the public safety concerns shared by the communities the WCJC serves

- **FY 12-13 Highlights**
- Increased Board Membership from 16 to 21 board members
- Revised by-laws to include new mission statement and appropriate changes
- In the past calendar year, heard 139 cases from nine different referral sources which included Williston Police Department, Richmond Police Department, Vermont State Police, Rapid Intervention Community Court (RICC), Chittenden County State's Attorney's Office, Williston Schools, Jean Garvin School, Burlington Probation Parole Office and the Town of Williston (Town Manager, Public Works)
- Presented an Education Forum with Clinical Services of Rhode Island Director Reinhard Straub at Williston Central School

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Williston Fire Department is a combination (call and career staff) fire department providing Fire and EMS services, including ambulance transport. There are a total of 47 personnel on the roster including 13 Firefighters, 16 Firefighter/EMTs, 10 EMTs, 3 Chief Officers, and 1 Dispatcher. These dedicated members of your community are proud to provide protection to you and your family, 365 days per year. We operate with six full-time career shift personnel who are assigned into three groups of two – effectively working 24 hours on duty, then 48 hours off-duty. These personnel, paired with call Firefighters/EMT's, allow the firehouse to be staffed at all times. The Department is dispatched by the Shelburne Police Department and has responded to 939 fire calls and 937 EMS calls in 2013.

As Williston has grown, the community and Town Administration have been supportive of the need for growth of the Fire Department. With population increase comes the need for an infrastructure that can support the equally expanding need for services. Williston hosts over 20,000 people each weekday, and the Fire Department continues to see an increase in call volume relative to the expanding population. For over ten (10) years, I have stated that three (3) full-time career Firefighter/EMT's are needed per shift, versus the two (2) we currently operate with. Our ambulance revenue would fund one of these positions, and another position was already in the budget as part-time, so my net budget is actually a request to fund the one remaining position and the second half of the part-time position to full-time. I hope the voters will actively involve themselves in supporting this very important need.

Residents have called our duty pager in the past to request items such as burn permits. Please note that there will no longer be a duty pager after April 1, 2014. Residents are asked to call the station (878-5622) and speak with a Shift Officer regarding non-emergency service requests after this date.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Williston Fire Department is pleased to be able to provide a high quality transport ambulance service for medical emergencies in Williston and neighboring communities on a mutual aid basis. The Town's transport ambulance, now in its fourth year of service, continues to be a huge success.

The world of EMS has seen significant changes this past year. The VT State EMS Office has adopted the national standard for EMS certification, meaning EMT's will be trained and certified on a national criteria rather than just the state where they trained. This standard helps create consistency across borders and allows EMT's more flexibility when moving from one state to another. What was formerly an EMT-Basic (110 hours of classroom and clinical training) will now be an "EMT", and what was formerly an EMT-Intermediate (an additional 184 hours of classroom and clinical training) will now be an "Advanced EMT". Both the Basic and Intermediate EMT's are required to do a 30-hour crossover training, which includes the new certification and the new protocol standards the State adopted this year. We currently have three AEMT's on staff, and all six of our full-time career staff have attended the crossover training. We expect to have all of our remaining EMT's certified at the new levels by June, 2014.

We retain an EMT-Intermediate (or AEMT) for all shifts, allowing us to provide advanced life support (ALS) care for all EMS calls. Call EMT's sign up for duty slots and remain at the Fire Station for the duration of their 12-hour shift. Our facility contains a dormitory, allowing for personnel to remain in the building where the ambulances are housed. The Fire Department operates two ambulances, and was added to the Mutual Aid Matrix on July 1, of 2011.

FIRE

We provide traditional Fire Services as follows: Fire Suppression (car fires, outside fires, structure fires, building alarms); Hazardous Condition Management (downed wires, gas leaks, carbon monoxide incidents, spills), Vehicle Accident Response, Mutual Aid Assistance (police, ambulance, airport, other fire agencies), and other responses as requested. All Firefighters are trained to the minimum level of Firefighter I which consists of 208 hours of coursework. We have 18 Firefighters trained to the level of FF II, which requires an additional 244 hours of training. Three of our career staff members undertook specialized training this past year in structural collapse, rope, swift water and confined space rescue. Our remaining three career staff are enrolled for the same training this spring. Haz-Mat, CPR, wilderness/water and other specialized training classes, along with weekly department trainings, are also attended.

We continue to offer Fire Prevention activities in our community. In October, we interacted with over 600 children in local daycares, pre-schools, private and public schools. The Fire Department also sponsored numerous activities during Fire Prevention Week including an open house, live kitchen fire demonstration, Home Depot Day, numerous station tours and outreach to the community. Three members of our career staff are certified car seat technicians, which is a very popular program with inspections offered every Friday between 1-2:00pm.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Emergency Preparedness and assistance is offered to members of the community as unique and large scale events occur. Weather-related emergencies remain one of our largest demands, as flooding like that which occurred in June, 2013 requires not only significant manpower but also service related to road closures and water removal/redirection. The rescue of Tommy the horse in October will also remain a memorable event, as twelve (12) dedicated animal lovers rescued him from neck high mud.



Horse rescue by Williston Fire and EMS crews

IN SUMMARY

Your Fire Department is a 24-hour service based organization offering assistance with water issues, carbon monoxide and smoke detector calls, car seat installations and inspections, burn permits, CPR training, and many other safety needs. We maintain our own facility and grounds and perform our own repair on apparatus whenever possible. Daily meetings, pre-plans of buildings in town, an aggressive training program, and up to date operating systems and our modern facility, all allow Williston Fire to provide progressive and professional services.

I again express my gratitude to all of the personnel under my command for the generosity of their time and considerable skills. I would also like to thank the families, and the supportive employers, who share our most valuable resource – our Firefighters and EMT's.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth N. Morton, Jr.
Fire Chief

FIRE WARDEN REPORT

During the 2013 calendar year, 114 burn permits were issued in the Town of Williston.

As the Williston Fire Department continues to monitor and issue burn permits for the Town, we have seen a significant reduction in the number of brush and open fires. There were two notable brush fires in 2012 and zero in 2013. We appreciate residents adhering to the burn permit ordinance and upholding our standard of safety.

While burning on weekends is preferred, a burn permit may be issued any day that adequate staff is available at the Fire Station. Hours to call in your request are from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm. All burning should be completed by dusk.

Residents have called our duty pager in the past to request items such as burn permits. Please note that there will no longer be a duty pager after April 1, 2014. Residents are asked to call the station (878-5622) and speak with a Shift Officer regarding non-emergency service requests after this date.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth N. Morton, Jr.
State Fire Warden

LISTERS & ASSESSORS OFFICE

The Town of Williston Listers and Assessors office is responsible for maintaining the Grand List on an annual basis. The Grand List is utilized for setting the Municipal and Education Tax Rates. Each year the office continues to update individual assessments as a result of new building permits and on-going construction projects. Additionally new subdivisions are added as they are processed through the approval process.

The Listers Office is also responsible for maintaining the Tax Maps which are a valuable tool in Listing, Zoning, Planning and Public Works. The Tax Maps have been updated annually and with added features such as topographic and aerial photo layers being implemented as the budget allows.

The final Grand List for 2013 is \$1,671 billion, an increase of 1.5% from 2012. The final Common Level of Assessment for 2013 is 95.29%. The Coefficient of Dispersion, commonly known as the COD, is a study of uniformity of assessments. A low COD (under 10%) recognizes a relatively high level of equity for most property assessments. Williston's COD is at 7.12% and suggests very fair assessments within the town.

Most recent sales studies over the last year indicate a similar trend that continues over from the previous year. From April 2012 to end of March 2013 there were 161 valid sales of residential properties. The median assessment to sale price ratio stood at 97.4%. This is partially offset by a lower sales ratio of some commercial and open land sales (much lower number of sales).

The Listers want to remind property owners the Vermont Homestead Declaration needs to be filed annually. The form number, HS122, remains the same for 2014. It can be filed with the Vermont state income taxes or on-line at the State of Vermont tax department website. The HI144 (Household Income) also needs to be filed in order to receive a property tax adjustment payment from the State of Vermont. In 2013 there were a significant number of property owners who did not file on time and encountered problems upon receipt of their tax bills. Our office assisted a great number of property owners through the filing procedure. In October the Select Board waived the late filing penalty, which is 3% of the education tax portion of the tax bill. This affected about 150 property owners and about \$24,000 in waived late fees. Our office does not expect to see this waiver repeated in 2014.

The hours for the Listers Office are Monday through Friday 9:00am to 1:00 pm. There is a computer dedicated for public use in our office and the staff is always willing to assist and guide anyone with their research. There is also a link on the Williston Town website that has Grand List data as well as a frequently asked questions and answers section.

We would like to welcome Debbie Greer to the office staff as our administrative assistant. She maintains the office hours and is always willing to assist in any way she can.

The staff and the Listers would like to thank Linda Ladd for her 12 years of service as a Lister which included several years as the Chair of the Board of Listers. Linda's term is over this March and has chosen not to run again. Linda's insightfulness, common sense, and sense of humor will be greatly missed. THANK YOU, LINDA!!!!!!

Listers

Charles Coney
Gerald Huetz
Linda Ladd, Chair

Assessor

Bill Hinman

Office

Hannah Butler
Dick Ransom

DOROTHY ALLING MEMORIAL LIBRARY



“DAML YOUR HOME FOR LIFELONG LEARNING”

Our Williston town library (DAML) is a dynamic and changing place to visit; where you can come explore and discover information and opportunities that interest you. You can do a traditional search for a hard copy book, find books on CD or a movie on DVD and access wi-fi in the library or use our up-to-date online services for databases, e-books and e-audiobooks available from home on your personal devices using your library card number. If you have questions regarding using your devices, check at the desk for a training session. Also check our calendar to see if there are programs of interest to you. These are all listed on our website (www.williston.lib.vt.us).

2012-2013 Statistics

Our collections total 39,288 items varying from books and magazines to electronic formatted items. Over five thousand people in our communities are library card holders and users of our services with an average of over one thousand visits each week. During this past year we hosted 344 programs for adults and children with 9,474 patrons attending. Throughout the year, we add programs to diversify our offerings in an effort to reach more of our community members.

The community room is an active place with forty-two groups holding ninety-nine meetings in this space. Pictured at the top on the left is the UVM a cappella choir, “Zest” who provided the entertainment for our annual Christmas decorating party. Pictured at the right is an Intergenerational book discussion group that involves students from Williston Central School, community seniors and parent representatives. Pictured below on the left is a children’s pirate program that involved music, stories and action. Note that this room is available to groups with a reservation.

“Dottie,” our bookmobile is a part of our Outreach program and operated thirty evenings over the summer. Pictured below on the right is Dottie at one of her stops.



We want to thank the twenty-nine adult and twenty-one student volunteers that play such an important part in the operations of the library. You often meet them at the front desk where they welcome you and can answer or know where to get the answers to most of your questions. The adult group is pictured below at the annual May volunteer breakfast. The student volunteers include Pamela Barrett, Justin Bissonette, Cale Bombardier, Laurynn Bombardier, Delan Chen, Lily Cote, Callahan Freeman, Peter Hibbeler, Alexa Kartschoke, Grace Koutras, Mark Lang, Katherine Mathon, Lily Michalak, Brian Nelson, Emily Scott, Danielle Scribner, Josie Sinopoli, Lucien Theriault, Matthew Trifaro, Marrie Warren, Kaitlyn Zoller.

We hope that you noticed the month-long new roof work that was done by the summer. We thank the community for supporting the bond issue that funded this work. While the roof was off, energy efficient insulation was added in the ceiling and walls to decrease losses of our heat or cooling operations. We also give a big thank you to the Friends of the Library (FODAL) for their significant contribution to this project and the funding of several programs.

During the summer months, we worked to create our “Strategic Plan 2014 - 2019. This involved Community Planning Committee meetings led by Amy Howlett from the Vermont Department of Libraries, a community feedback survey, staff input, and an Executive Planning Committee that cumulated the input and wrote the plan. A copy of this report is available on our website.

The trustees and staff thank the Williston Community for its year-round support.

Respectfully submitted: The DAML Board of Trustees, Kathy Fernee, chair, Jeff Dannies, Brian Goodwin, Jude Hersey, Marcy Kass, Barb Mieder, Susan Williford



DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

The primary responsibility for the review and approval of proposals for new and expanded development in the town is held by the Development Review Board (DRB). These decisions concerning new development often have long lasting effects. The board is responsible for reviewing complex of development proposals spanning residential, commercial, industrial and institutional uses. The DRB also hears appeals of decisions made by the town's Zoning Administrator in cases where there is disagreement over the administration of the town's zoning bylaw between an applicant and the Administrator. The DRB also receives input and recommendations from the town's Conservation Commission and the Historic and Architectural Advisory Committee as well as the staff from the town's planning office. The work of the DRB and the application of the town's development regulations is one of the most important aspects of implementing the town's comprehensive plan.

The DRB is made up of seven (7) members and an alternate, and is currently chaired by Scott Rieley who has served in that role since 2011. Other board members include Brian Jennings, Peter Kelley, Philip Martin, John Bendzunas, David Turner, and Michael Alvanos as an alternate member. The members of this board are all volunteers from the town, and many of the board's members have served on the board for a number of years providing consistent leadership and oversight over the town's development review process. The DRB would like to recognize Cathy O'Brien, who left the DRB in FY 2013, for her many years of outstanding service to the town.

In fiscal year 2013 (FY 2013), the DRB held 20 meetings and reviewed 44 applications for some type of development approval. The board normally meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month in the town hall meeting room at 7:30 PM, and the meetings are open to the public.

- **Growth Management**

An important part of Williston's review and permitting of new houses and apartments is the town's residential growth management allocation review process. This process was designed to help the town manage levels of new growth activity in order to insure that essential public services and infrastructure is in place when new development occurs. Once each year in late winter, the DRB holds a public hearing where residential proposals initially heard during the previous calendar year are considered for growth management allocation.

In FY 2013, there were two requests made for residential growth management allocation: 46 units in the town's Growth Center, and two units in the area outside of the town's Sewer Service Area. The 46 units were granted to the Finney Crossing project, which has been approved by the DRB to increase its total residential unit count from 356 to 402. The request for 2 units outside of the sewer service area could not be granted because there were no units available for the DRB to allocate.

- **Zoning Administration**

The review of development proposals by the DRB is one of the most important parts of the development approval process for the town, and this review is conducted with assistance for the planning and zoning office staff in consultation with other town advisory boards. The planning staff and Zoning Administrator work with applicants in preparing their plans and proposals for Discretionary Permit review by the DRB. In addition the Zoning Administrator reviews all administrative permits requests after DRB approval and for compliance with town regulations, and coordinates zoning enforcement activities. The DRB performs all of the regulatory review functions for Discretionary Permits including the Pre-Application review, review under the town's residential growth management system, and Discretionary and Final Permit applications.

Yearly Activity

Below is a summary of the permit activity processed by the DRB and planning staff in Williston in FY 2013. Development activity in Williston remains slower than the peak years of the 2000's, but there is still continued interest in the construction of new housing and new retail commercial property and in the construction, renovation or expansion of a number of commercial and industrial properties in FY 2013.

- **DRB Review**

In FY 2013 the DRB considered 32 applications for discretionary permit approval. The DRB also considered eight master sign plan proposals and two growth management allocation requests. The DRB also issued three certificates of appropriateness for proposals in the historic town village, and heard one appeal of actions by the administrator. There was one request for a variance.

- **Replacement Dwellings**

There were no dwellings demolished or removed and replaced with new dwellings in Williston in FY 2013.

- **New Single Family Homes**

A total of 10 permits for new single family homes were issued in FY 2013. The total estimated cost of new single family home construction was \$3.3 million. This is 8 fewer units than in the previous fiscal year, and the estimated total cost of construction is \$800,000 less than in FY 2012.

- **New Attached Houses and Condominiums**

A total of 74 new attached dwelling units were issued permits in FY 2013, with a total estimated construction cost of \$10.7 million. This is significantly more than FY2012, when no large apartment buildings at Finney Crossing were permitted. The FY 2013 numbers for attached dwelling units reflect permits for 17 attached units in various buildings and projects as well as 57 units in a single new building at Finney Crossing.

Permits were also issued for four accessory apartments in FY 2013; the same number as were permitted in FY 2012.

- **Other Permits**

There were an additional 207 administrative permits issued in FY 2013. These included commercial construction, change in uses of existing buildings, additions, renovations, and site improvements; several barns; repairs, renovations and additions to existing homes; solar panels; signs; pools; home businesses; and new private roads. The Zoning Administrator also issued six special events permits and three peddler licenses.

- **Permit Applications / Construction Value**

There were a total of 280 Administrative/building permits issued in FY 2013; more than the 255 permits in FY 2012, but still below the 300+ permits issued in FY 2007 and 2008. The estimated cost of the housing construction along with the estimated cost of total construction is almost \$33 million in FY 2013, compared to \$18.3 million in FY 2012, \$22.2 million in FY 2011, \$15.6 million in FY 2010 and 2009, and \$19.9 million reported in FY 2008.

People interested in speaking with the staff from the town Planning office can reach them at (802) 878-6704, or in the Planning office located in the Town Hall Annex building at 7878 Williston Road with any questions or issues they would like to discuss.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Development Review Board members: Scott Rieley, Chairman; John Bendzunas, Vice Chairman; Brian Jennings, Cathy O'Brien (former), Peter Kelley, Philip Martin, with Michael Alvanos from the Planning Commission serving as an alternate as necessary.

By Kenneth Belliveau, AICP, Planning Director and Zoning Administrator

HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Historic and Architectural Advisory Committee (HAAC) in Williston is involved in some of the oldest and the newest development in town and serves two equally important functions in that regard:

1. HAAC members provide advisory comment to the Development Review Board and the Zoning Administrator for site plans and remodeling projects that are proposed in the Design Review District in Williston, which encompasses the town's designated Growth Center as well as sites with frontage along Routes 2 and 2A, Marshall Avenue, and Industrial Avenue.
2. The HAAC also serves the same advisory function for projects in the Village Zoning District. Within a subsection of the Village, the HAAC also advises the DRB on the issuance of certificates of appropriateness (COA) for work proposed on some of Williston's most historically valuable properties.

The HAAC is made up of seven (7) members and is currently chaired by Doug Goulette. Other board members in fiscal year 2013 (FY 2013) included Joy Peterson, Mary Jo Childs, Liz Jordan-Shook, Phil Swett, Rebekah Bose, Karen Fragnoli-Munn, and Emily Morton. The members of this board are all volunteers from the town, and the board's members bring their diverse backgrounds and qualifications as architects, engineers, long-time residents, and historic preservationists to their work.

In FY 2013, the HAAC held ten meetings and reviewed five applications for CoA's as well as several advice items for other projects in the Village. These applications included several projects on historic homes in the village. The HAAC also provided important input and comment projects in the design Review district.

The board normally meets as needed on the first and third Mondays of each month in the Planning and Zoning conference room in the Town Hall Annex at 6:15 PM, and the meetings are open to the public.

People interested in a project under review by the HAAC may wish to contact the staff from the town planning office about their concerns and can reach them at (802) 878-6704, or in the planning office located in the Town Hall Annex building at 7878 Williston Road.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the FY 2012 HAAC members: Joy Peterson, Mary Jo Childs, Liz Jordan-Shook, Phil Swett, Rebekah Bose, Karen Fragnoli-Munn, and Emily Morton.

By Kenneth Belliveau, AICP, Planning Director and Zoning Administrator

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Williston Planning Commission has the primary responsibility for the development of the town's policies and regulations governing land use and development, and setting town priorities for important public infrastructure such as transportation projects. Principle among the commission's responsibilities is the development and implementation of the town's comprehensive plan, which contains a set of policy statements of the town's goals, objectives and policies concerning the future development of the town. The Planning Commission is also responsible for developing the tools for implementing the town plan including the town's zoning and subdivision regulations, and the prioritization and funding of the towns' infrastructure, such as transportation improvements, and water sewer services. The Planning Commission receives staff support from the town planning office and works closely with other town staff in completing its work and recommendations for consideration by the Selectboard.

The Planning Commission is made up of seven members and an alternate, all from Williston, and is chaired by Jake Mathon. In FY 2012-2013 the Planning Commission met 22 times. The commission currently has a mix of many long serving members, and two new members Paul Laska and Thomas Walsh joined the commission this past year. Collectively the commission strives to be mindful of the town's past and traditions while also bringing new ideas and energy onto the commission. The board normally meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the town planning office conference room at 7:00 PM, and the meetings are open to the public. The public is encouraged to check with the town planning office for the most current schedule and agenda of the Planning Commission.

During Fiscal Year 2012-2013 worked closely with the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission on a number of transportation studies. This included a corridor study of Industrial Avenue, and a larger area transportation study of the Williston and Essex area. This included hosting a public meeting as part of the Williston-Essex Network Transportation Study also being managed by the Regional Planning Commission.

The planning commission began work on a number of potential zoning bylaw amendments including studies of the Lake Iroquois area in Williston and the area in and around South Brownell Road and Williston Road. The planning Commission completed work on a set of amendments to the town's zoning bylaw that included a general clean-up of the town's zoning regulations, the development of asset of fire safety standards in conjunction with the Fire Department. The commission also worked on a specific plan application for Maple Leaf Farm that was ultimately withdrawn by the applicant before it was concluded.

In FY 2013, the planning commission also began work on refining the town's development regulations to better address preserving and protecting wildlife habitat areas and wildlife travel corridors, and updates to the town's development impact fees. This work is expected to continue in FY 2013.

The Planning Commission also played an advisory role in the development of the town budget, and reviewed proposals for several important public improvement projects.

People interested in speaking with the staff from the town Planning office can reach them at (802) 878-6704, or in the Planning office located in the Town Hall Annex building at 7878 Williston Road with any questions or issues they'd like to discuss.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Planning Commission: Jake Mathon, Chairman; Michael Alvanos, Vice Chairman; Kevin Batson, Meghan Cope, Shannon Hiltner, Paul Laska and Thomas Walsh.

By Kenneth Belliveau, AICP, Planning Director and Zoning Administrator

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Williston Conservation Commission (WCC) is a seven member volunteer board. All are welcome at these meetings and involvement is encouraged. The Town provides one full time staff person, Jessica Demar (formerly Andreoletti), and one summer intern to staff the WCC and implement WCC-related projects.

One major function of the WCC is to advise the Development Review Board on development projects that have the potential to impact lands in rural Williston. Such lands include all parcels that are greater than 10.5-acres in the Agricultural/Rural Zoning District and those that involve streams, wetlands, floodplains, viewshed corridors, significant wildlife habitat areas, country parks, paths, and trails. During FY13, the Conservation Commission reviewed 3 pre-applications, 4 discretionary permit applications, 4 discretionary permit amendment requests, and 1 specific plan request and prepared findings and recommendations for each.

The Commission also works on the acquisition and protection of parcels where valuable natural resources are present by supporting the Environmental Reserve Fund (ERF). Since the program's inception 1989, the ERF has helped to conserve 1645-acres in Williston. The ERF is a powerful leveraging tool resulting in a \$1.4 million investment for a total value of \$2.8 million over the life of the fund. The Selectboard appropriated \$10,000 to the ERF in FY13, which had a fund balance of \$454,203 on June 30, 2013. In FY13, the WCC worked with the Vermont Land Trust to investigate conservation easement possibilities on two agricultural properties. The WCC also assisted town staff in developing a management plan for the former Lyons property, which is located behind Town Hall. The WCC continues to pursue active projects and investigate future projects.



The WCC has also continued to maintain and manage the town's growing network of parks and trails, which includes 147 acres of parkland, 279 acres of conservation areas, and 10 miles of trails. Conservation interns Zack Theberge (2012) and Tommy Nieuwenhuis (2013) worked with local volunteers and businesses, including Home Depot volunteers, and town staff to maintain Williston parks and trails by improving tread, re-designing and re-distributing trail maps, posting "No Hunting" signs, and marking park boundaries. In FY13, grant funding from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation was used to complete the construction of the new primitive trail

on the former Hill property located off Route 2A. The trail includes a series of hanging bridges, including the 58-foot long Sucker Brook Footbridge, which provides a critical cross-town link connecting a new trail head off Route 2A to the Mud Pond Conservation Area (MPCA). The town received the 2012 Vermont Trails Symposium Award in the community enhancement category for its efforts in completing the Sucker Brook Footbridge project. In FY13 the WCC also began its efforts to improve the MPCA trail by hiring Timber & Stone to complete a trail assessment. The MPCA trail has been flooded by beaver activity for nearly a decade.

The WCC continued with its sixth year of sampling 11 in-stream locations along the Allen Brook. The parameters sampled included Total Nitrogen (TN), Total Phosphorus (TP), *E. coli*, Chloride (Cl), Turbidity (NTU), and temperature. When comparing our monitoring results with the available state and federal standards (numerical standards do not yet exist for TN and TP), we found that the Allen Brook exceeded standards for *E. coli* and NTU. The Allen Brook did not exceed the federal standards for Cl. Water quality sampling along the Brook will help the town to better target problem areas and track improvements and declines in water quality over time. Sampling is expected to continue next year, pending continued funding from the VT DEC LaRosa Laboratory Partnership Grant Program, which is valued at approximately \$10,880 in laboratory services annually.

The WCC continued to oversee work on the Williston Wildlife Habitat Assessment and District Overlay project, which began in 2010 after receiving a grant award from the Lake Champlain Basin Program. The purpose of this project is to consider ways to conserve and improve wildlife habitat and wildlife travel corridors in Williston by developing a management tool designed to reduce habitat fragmentation while working in concert with the town's existing subdivision and open space rules. Draft bylaw language was sent to the Planning Commission at the end of FY13.

Work on the Williston Town-Wide Watershed Improvement Plan (formerly the Williston Stormwater Master Plan) continued with funds from the Agency of Natural Resources Ecosystem Restoration Grant in the previous fiscal year. While this project is primarily headed by the Planning & Zoning and Public Works departments, the WCC has a vested interest since the final product is intended to connect land use, stormwater management, floodplain management, river management activities, and public infrastructure needs to more effectively address all of the issues which contribute to degradation of a watershed.

In FY13, a second Agency of Natural Resources Ecosystem Restoration Grant for Phase 2 of the Town-Wide Watershed Improvement Plan was awarded as well as another LaRosa Laboratory Partnership Grant. A running tally of conservation related grants from FY09 to FY13 is provided below:

<i>Year Awarded</i>	<i>Grant Name</i>	<i>Total Award</i>	<i>FY13</i>	
			<i>Expended</i>	<i>Remaining</i>
FY09	<i>ANR Climate Change Grant</i>	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$0
	<i>DEC 319: Allen Brook Restoration</i>	\$7,650	\$7,650	\$0
	TOTAL AWARDS FY09	\$19,650		
FY10	<i>Clean & Clear: Allen Brook Restoration</i>	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
	<i>LCBP: Allen Brook Modeling & Restoration</i>	\$9,513	\$9,513	\$0
	<i>LCBP: Land Use Mapping & Wildlife Habitat District Overlay</i>	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
	<i>Rec Trails Grant: Hill Trail</i>	\$19,494	\$19,494	\$0
	<i>VTrans Enhancement Grant: Hill Trail (in-kind)</i>	\$7,800	\$7,800	\$0
	<i>VTrans Enhancement Grant: Allen Brook Ext. Trail (in-kind)</i>	\$16,100	\$16,100	\$0
	<i>LaRosa (in-kind)</i>	\$10,880	\$10,880	\$0
	TOTAL AWARDS FY10	\$83,787		
FY11	<i>Williston Stormwater Master Plan, Phase 1</i>	\$49,000	\$49,000	\$0
	<i>Rec Trails Grant: Sucker Brook Footbridge</i>	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
	<i>LaRosa (in-kind)</i>	\$10,880	\$10,880	\$0
	TOTAL AWARDS FY11	\$69,000		
FY12	<i>LaRosa (in-kind)</i>	\$10,880	\$10,880	\$0
	TOTAL AWARDS FY12	\$10,880		
FY13	<i>Williston Stormwater Master Plan, Phase 2</i>	\$75,000	\$25,601	\$49,398
	<i>LaRosa (in-kind)</i>	\$10,880	\$10,880	\$0
	TOTAL AWARDS FY13	\$85,880		
	TOTAL GRANT AWARDS (ALL)	\$269,197		

Respectively submitted by Jessica Demar (formerly Andreoletti), Senior Planner, on behalf of the Williston Conservation Commission:

Gary Hawley, Chair	Marie-Claude Beaudette, Vice Chair	Carl Runge, Treasurer
Jude Hersey	Jean Kissner	Mike Harris
		Eric Howe

TOWN HEALTH OFFICER REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

During the course of the fiscal year I traveled approximately 70 miles, conducted 5 site visits and spent in excess of 20 hours in connection with my duties. I was reappointed as Health Officer by the Commissioner of Health on recommendation of the Selectboard. Toby Rockwood was appointed Deputy Health Officer, also by the Commissioner of Health, as recommended by the Selectboard. Activities in which I have been involved are as follows:

RABIES:

Bites to humans included 5 dogs and 2 cats.

OTHER:

- Three rental housing health code complaints were received. Two required a letter to the owners and one resulted in air testing.
- One report of a precariously leaning oil tank at a mobile home resulted in a letter to the owner.
- A follow-up letter was issued to a bank regarding an abandoned condominium.
- Many thanks to the Williston Police Department for following up on animal bites.

- Williston residents should be aware that it is a violation of State law to burn trash or garbage either in-doors or out-doors. A violation may result in a fine up to \$500 and 80 hours of community service collecting trash or litter from a roadside or other public property.
- **While no wild animals tested positive for rabies in Williston this year, the disease is probably still in town. Please license and vaccinate your animals to prevent this fatal disease.**

Submitted by:

Terence D. Macaig
Town Health Officer

SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FUNDING COMMITTEE

The Social Services Organizations Funding Committee met in November 2013 to recommend to the Selectboard funding for social service organizations which serve Williston residents.

In November 2013 the Committee received social services funding requests from 20 organizations that provide a full range of assistance to Williston residents. The committee analyzed the information submitted by each, and made funding recommendations to the Selectboard based on how closely their services match the committee's priorities. Priority was given to organizations which:

- Provide services for which Williston residents are eligible
- Demonstrate fiscal responsibility, evidence of financial need and reasonable administrative costs
- Have created a mission statement that is measured, followed and evaluated
- Serve an urgent human need and collaborate and network with other local organizations
- Offer both prevention and intervention components
- Provide unique and relevant services.

The following is a list of the Committee's recommendation for Fiscal Year 2015 funding.

ORGANIZATION	AWARD	WILLISTON RESIDENTS SERVED
Howard Center	\$3,100	249
Chittenden Comm. Action	2,600	279
COTS	2,800	14
Battered Women Shelter	2,190	126
Chittenden Food Shelf	2,300	267
Williston Food Shelf	2,105	7623
Agency on Aging	1,300	148
VT Family Network	1,050	56
CVU Transition Program	1,100	54
Lund Family Center	900	37
Maple Leaf Farm	800	13
Childcare Resource	700	61
Prevent Child Abuse	700	848, training & education
Homeshare, Vt.	650	43
Assoc. for the Blind	600	15
Center for Independent Living	600	5
Re-Source	600	200
American Red Cross	515	training only
Vt. CARES	460	10
H.O.P.E. Works	450	26
Total	\$25,520	

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Giardi, Dawn Philibert, Kenn Sassorossi, Ken Stone, Carrie Williams Howe

CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Cemetery Commission had a busy and very productive year in 2013. We accomplished much during the year and continue to prepare for an equally busy and productive 2014.

We performed our annual spring cleanup in all of the four cemeteries in April as well as additional cleanup and branch removal throughout the year. We will have announcements in the Williston Observer prior to the 2014 Spring Cleanup in order to allow people to retrieve items from gravesites before the cleanup.

A big thanks once again to Boy Scout troop 692 for putting up flags in all of the Cemeteries for our most honorable Veterans. The Commissioners worked hard to make sure that flags were replaced if they were misplaced or damaged by the weather.

Former commissioner Don Phillips worked to repair a few issues to the Veterans Kiosk at the East Cemetery and completed work on a Veterans list for East Cemetery. Thank you to Don.

The Memorial Garden in Thomas Chittenden Cemetery was attended to in June. The garden was weeded and many bags of mulch were applied.

In 2013 we completed a large amount of Stone cleaning and repair in East Cemetery and also in Thomas Chittenden Cemetery. In preparation for the 250th Anniversary Celebration the Cemetery Commission had Governor Chittenden and his wife's stones cleaned.

Metal signs were created and installed in East Cemetery to identify the Cemetery Sections.

In 2013 we had 24 burials. 15 cremations and 9 full burials. We sold 12 lots in Deer View Cemetery.

We are in the process of updating the town of Williston Cemetery Regulations. A new copy will be available early in 2014.

The Cemetery Commission would like to thank the Select board, Richard McGuire, Deb Beckett and the Town Office for their support. We would also like to thank our Sexton Bob Gokey and his staff for all of their hard work on the Cemetery grounds as well as Bruce Hoar and the Public Works staff for the many helping hands they provided in 2013.

We bid farewell to two outgoing Commissioners in 2013, former chairman Paul Young and longtime commissioner Lynwood Osborne. We wish to thank them for their many years of service.

In 2013 we welcomed two new commissioners Hazel Winter and Jeffrey Carlson. They have already been hard at work and have much to offer in their roles as Cemetery Commissioners. There is one vacancy on the Cemetery Commission. Anyone interested should contact the Town Manager or any of the Commissioners.

Williston Cemetery Commissioners
Brian Meisenzahl (878-4652)
Bea Harvey (878-4291)
Hazel Winter (879-0897)
Jeff Carlson (871-9879)



LAKE IROQUOIS RECREATION DISTRICT

Lake Iroquois Recreation District (LIRD)

The Lake Iroquois Recreation District beach area, along with its 150 acres of open land, continues to serve the district towns (Williston, Richmond, Hinesburg and St. George) as well as all non-residents. The district lands provide access to swimming, picnicking, playground equipment, and walking trails. The beach area also continues to host birthday parties and other individual and group functions. Costs for septic maintenance and summer staff continue to represent the bulk of our annual expenses. Water quality sampling continues on a weekly basis and results are within State limits for beach facilities.

The LIRD along with the Lake Iroquois Association has been awarded an Ecosystem Restoration Grant to look at an ecological landscape design for the public beach. We will be working on this grant during 2013.

The beach continues to be a beautiful and affordable local recreation area. We will open for the 2013 summer season on Memorial Day weekend and close on Labor Day weekend. Please come and enjoy this wonderful facility.

Bruce Hoar, Chair – Richmond
Susan Bishop, Treasurer – Williston
Dana Bingham – St. George
Michelle Fischer-Hinesburg



*Kayaking on Lake Iroquois
photo from Williston Observer*

LAKE IROQUOIS ASSOCIATION

It has been a banner year for the Lake Iroquois Association. Membership is at an all-time high, and several projects have been brought to successful conclusions. It has also been a banner year for Eurasian Water Milfoil, which will present us with new challenges in the coming year.

The Lake Iroquois Association is beginning its seventh year of existence. In the first year or two, it was a small organization with less than 20 dues payers and 6 board members; today there are over 70 dues-paying members and the Board of Directors has expanded to 12. Each of the board members has contributed to the successes of the past year.

In the projects completed category, a major renovation to a streambed paralleling Shadow Lane was carried out with the help of the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. This area of the stream close to the lake had turned into a veritable sluiceway for pollutants from the hills above the west side of the lake. Personnel from the VUCC helped with grant writing as well as labor in completing this \$30,000 project in September. LIA provided the funding for the final phase of the work.

Also on track is solution to erosion at the Lake Iroquois Beach. Heavy rains regularly have washed out sections of the beach, sending phosphorus-bearing sand into the Lake. An engineering study funded by a grant jointly sponsored by LIA and the Lake Iroquois Recreation District has come up with a plan to vastly improve storm water drainage around the beach. A regional agent of the Department of Environmental Conservation, who has worked closely with the LIA in recent years, aided the grant writing process. Work on this plan is scheduled for either the spring or fall of 2014.

At the close of the summer, LIA took advantage of the Buffers for Blue Lakes program to encourage development of natural vegetated buffers along the lakeshore. A number of blueberry bushes were planted in areas that have shown to have unchecked storm water runoff.

The focus of the LIA for the coming year will be to create a milfoil management plan for the Lake. The literal carpet of weeds in areas of the lake curtailed its use as a recreational resource. At the September LIA Board Meeting possible solutions were outlined by the expert from the Department of Environmental Conservation. A taskforce from the board was appointed to explore best practices of controlling the weed growth. Early indications are that there is no one easy answer, and that a combination of solutions will be needed which will involve both financial and manpower resources.

While our work to date has been to monitor streams flowing into the lake, educate the public through such programs as our Greeter Station at the fishing access, and work on stemming additional sources of pollution entering the lake, the management of existing weed growth will add greatly to our expenses. We are hoping for increased involvement from the towns bordering the lake to help maintain the lake as an important community resource.

TRUSTEES OF THE OLD BRICK CHURCH

The Brick Church is a town –owned building and serves as a meeting place for community functions. Built in 1832, the Church served as the meeting house for the Congregational Society. For 67 years, the “Meeting House” was the devotional home for Williston’s most notable citizens, including the Chittenden family, the Spaffords, Millers and many others. Thirteen ministers served between 1832 and 1899. At the turn of the century, the Congregationalists joined with the Methodists and moved to the Federated Church, 300 yards to the east on Williston Road and the Brick Meeting House was closed. The period of vacancy of the building was prolonged. For almost 65 years, it languished in continuing deterioration. In 1965, ownership was given to the Town of Williston from the Federated Church and the building was accepted by the National Register as a historic site. Town funds renovated the cellar for community use, and Federal funding from Historic Sites restored the exterior and the sanctuary, while a grant from the Eva Gebhart-Gourgau Foundation enabled the restoration of the steeple to be completed. In June of 2008, a bolt of lightning directly hit the bell tower, setting it ablaze. Quick response by the Williston Fire Department saved the structure, but the water damage was extensive. An intensive effort was undertaken to restore this wonderful landmark, and through Williston Public Work’s coordination of many salvage, architectural and construction firms, the restoration was completed in time for that year’s annual Christmas Eve service.

During the 2013 calendar year, the meeting room was used on Sundays by the Christian Faith Assembly for devotional services. This cellar room was also used for rehearsal by the Town Band on a regular basis, as well as by the Williston Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, Williston Central School, and the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library. The Old Stage Estates held its annual meeting in the room. Nonprofit organizations that used the room included: Central Vermont Trout Unlimited, Northeast Fiber Arts, Rotary Club, Green Mountain Stompers, and the Williston In Bloom Committee.

The sanctuary was the site for 2 weddings, and a Federated Church Christmas Eve service. The *Brick Church Music Series* also took place in the sanctuary, and was a great success in its winter programming.

Fees for use of the sanctuary are \$200.00 plus a \$50.00 damage deposit and \$10.00 key deposit. Wedding rehearsal fees are \$50, and the fee for sanctuary use for memorial services is \$50. The meeting room usage fee is \$50.00 with the same deposit due for damage and key loss. Applications for use of the Brick Church may be obtained at the Town Clerk’s office.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Price, Chair
Alice Bieseigel
Barrett Peterson
Joy Peterson

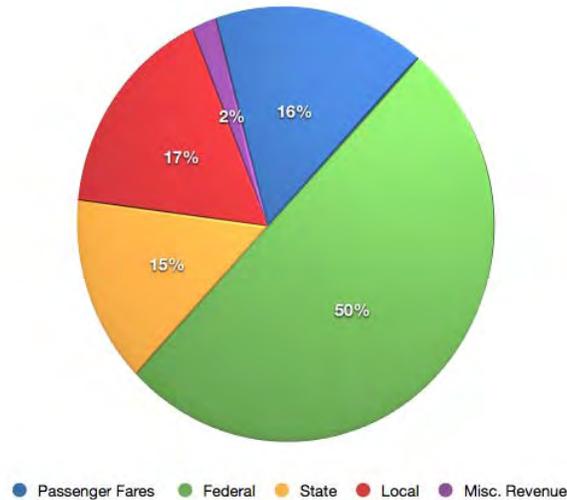
CHITTENDEN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Chittenden County Transportation Authority: Urban Area Annual Report Summary, FY13

In FY13, the Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) has continued to provide valuable public transportation services to Burlington and the greater Burlington area. Transportation services included local fixed-route bus service; inter-regional commuter service; supermarket and school tripper shuttles; and contracted ADA para-transit service for individuals who are unable to ride fixed-route service.

In FY13, a 13 member Board of Commissioners governed CCTA with two Commissioners representing Burlington and one Commissioner from Essex, Hinesburg, Milton, Shelburne, South Burlington, Winooski, Williston, Washington County, Franklin County, Lamoille County and Grand Isle County. The annual FY13 operating expenses, for the urban area, were, \$14,679,385.

Breakdown of Urban Revenues



Ridership:

CCTA provided 2,685,288 fixed route trips in FY13. CCTA Commuter routes performed well in FY13, ridership on the Milton Commuter increased by 14%; ridership on the Montpelier LINK Express increased by 15%; and ridership on the St. Albans LINK Express increased by 10% over FY12.

In response to increasing ridership on the LINK Express routes, CCTA was able to add a new fleet of commuter buses. The seven 45-foot Motor Coach Industry (MCI) buses are the largest in CCTA's fleet, offering 57 seats and the capacity for four bicycles. In late 2011, with the support of the Vermont Congressional delegation, CCTA was successful in securing a \$3,360,000.00 grant from the FTA's Bus and Bus Facilities Livability Initiative to purchase the new buses. In addition to a 46% increase in passenger capacity and a 100% increase in bicycle capacity, the new buses offer improved WiFi service, power outlets at every seat, and passenger controlled vents and lights. A launch event to introduce the new buses was held at CCTA on November 16, 2012.

Operational Improvements:

In FY13, CCTA continued our commitment to safety. The Operations Department and CCTA drivers completed trainings in the following categories: Mobility Securement, Security Awareness, Winter Driving, and Customer Service. All of CCTA's trainings are designed to provide a safe and pleasant passenger experience. Drivers also received training on the operations of new coach style buses, added to our fleet in FY13.

Improved Passenger Amenities

The Downtown Burlington Station project progressed in FY13. CCTA received FTA approval on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as FTA approval on Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The design of the station advanced to 30% complete.

In FY13, CCTA added shelters in Hinesburg, on Pine Street in Burlington, and at Community College of Vermont's Winooski campus. As part of the Circ. Alternatives project, CCTA installed six of fourteen shelters in FY13.

CCTA continued work on transit signal priority, completing an inventory of all traffic signals in CCTA's service area to ensure that each traffic signal responds appropriately to the Transit Signal Priority emitters on CCTA buses.

Environmental Commitment

As part of CCTA's ongoing commitment to the environment, the Maintenance Department performed an annual fleet tire survey. The goal of the survey was to assess the tread pattern on bus tires to control wear and tear and to improve fuel mileage per gallon.

The Maintenance Department began installing mini-hybrid systems in some of the current fleet. A mini-hybrid system increases fuel economy, lowers vehicle emissions, lowers maintenance costs, increases horsepower, and reduces the risk of hydraulic fires. In FY13, CCTA saved nearly 8,000 gallons of fuel with only 12 of 70 buses equipped with mini-hybrid systems. In coming years, CCTA will be working to install mini-hybrid systems on more buses.

July of 2013 marked CCTA's 40th Anniversary! We have been happy to provide public transportation to Chittenden County, and we look forward to providing transportation services long into the future.

Contact CCTA for Route and Schedule Information

By phone: 802-864-CCTA (2282)

By e-mail: info@cctaride.org

Or visit us online: cctaride.org

CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT - FY 13

ADMINISTRATION:

CSWD owns and oversees 10 solid waste or recycling facilities in Chittenden County for its 18 member municipalities. A Board of Commissioners, who sets policy and oversees financial matters, governs CSWD. One Commissioner is appointed by each member community.

FINANCES:

The unaudited FY13 General Fund expenditures were \$8.37 million and the revenues were \$8.40 million. This represents a \$74,000 increase in expenditures (0.9%) and a \$1.17 million (12.2%) decrease in revenues from the FY12 General Fund operating results.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES/EVENTS:

In FY13, CSWD's major initiatives were: 1) to treat our customers that had purchased herbicide-impacted compost fairly and promptly, determine the agent and the source that caused the impact with compost, and establish both chemical and biological testing protocols to avoid future problems; 2) to finish the report that weighs the advantages and disadvantages of municipal contracts for trash collection in Chittenden County and hold public information meetings with most of our member communities; 3) to assist in the passage of a paint product stewardship bill by the Vermont Legislature that will facilitate the recycling of unused paint throughout the state; 4) to begin recycling programs for sheetrock and plastic film, 5) to begin work on a consultant study evaluating residential curbside collection of organics in terms of economic and environmental impacts for various scenarios; 6) to issue a bid proposal for an equipment upgrade at our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and to begin negotiations on the operations contract (despite much lower market values for recycled commodities, we were able to keep from charging a tip fee at our MRF); and 7) due to a significant decrease in trash volumes subject to our solid waste management fee and to the unexpected expenses in our compost program, CSWD chose to raise the solid waste management fee after 4 years instead of the desired 5 years effective in FY14.

ONGOING OPERATIONS:

DROP-OFF CENTERS located in Burlington, Essex, South Burlington, Milton, Williston, Richmond, and Hinesburg collected 3,128 tons of recyclables and 6,319 tons of household trash. Customer Appreciation Days were held at each facility. The MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY in Williston processed 39,895 tons of recyclables. The ENVIRONMENTAL DEPOT and the ROVER, CSWD's hazardous waste collection facilities served 9,290 households and 733 businesses who brought 631,621 pounds of waste to be processed. CSWD's new Compost Facility expects to resume sales in FY14. CSWD brokered 13,544 wet tons of BIOSOLIDS for our member communities in FY13.

A variety of EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS and tools were available to assist residents, schools, municipalities, organizations, and businesses to reduce and properly manage their wastes. The CSWD Hotline (872-8111); Website: (www.cswd.net); e-newsletter; presentations; technical assistance; displays; workshops; facility tours; informational brochures; recycling bins and compost collectors (9,400 distributed); signage; discount compost bins; special event container loans; and grants are part of this positive community outreach. \$10,000 in Community Waste Reduction Grants and over \$17,500 Recycling and Compost Container Grants were awarded to municipalities, businesses, and haulers.

CSWD provided funding and staff time to support GREEN UP DAY efforts in Chittenden County. CSWD also contributed \$4,050 to Green Up Vermont on behalf of its member municipalities. The fall and spring APPLIANCE and TIRE ROUND UPS saved 3,173 households over \$40,000 in fees. CSWD's member municipalities expended \$4,700 in COMMUNITY CLEAN UP FUND grants to help keep their communities clean and litter free.

The Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations

The Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations (CUSI) is a multi-agency task force dedicated to providing criminal response to reports of sexual assaults, serious child abuse and child fatalities. For over 20 years, the primary focus has been to protect and support all children, adults and families. CUSI defined what is now known as a true multi-disciplinary team (MDT) method to investigating crimes of this nature. The multidisciplinary team is the heart of CUSI and is composed of eight police detectives, a unit director, victim advocate, in-house investigator with the Department for Children and Families (DCF) and a dedicated prosecutor from the Chittenden County State's Attorney's Office. We work jointly with mental health providers, medical providers and Department of Corrections. In addition CUSI houses and supports the *Chittenden County [Children's Advocacy Center](#)* (CAC).

The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), working in tandem with CUSI is a 501c3 nonprofit entity offering a range of services to children and families affected by these crimes. The primary goal of *The Children's Advocacy Center* is to ensure that children are not further traumatized by the interventions system designed to protect them. This program has many benefits, with an approach that allows for faster follow-up to child abuse reports, more efficient medical and mental health referrals, fewer child interviews, more successful prosecutions, and consistent support for child victims and their families.

CUSI and the ***CAC*** investigate these crimes in Chittenden County which consists of a population of approximately 158,000. On the average CUSI investigates 250 cases a year, nearly 65% of those cases involve child victims. In recent years we have noticed an increase in the complexity of cases given the large increase in computer usage and other devices.

The types of cases include: sexual assaults, lewd and lascivious conduct, serious child abuse, child deaths, sex offender registry violations and child pornography

CUSI works closely with the statewide ***Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC)***, ***Hopeworks***, and the ***Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program*** at the medical center, including the ***Childsafe Clinic***. We continue to work with other collaborative partners throughout the county and our state as well.

In addition, CUSI provides trainings and other resources to area departments. Ongoing efforts include prevention education and outreach to citizens of Chittenden County.

Statistics: ***From the period July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013***

Accepted: **76 Adult cases**

Accepted: **154 Juvenile cases**

VNA Request for Funding FY 2015

Care Report for FY13:

The VNA cared for **325** people in WILLISTON during our past fiscal year (July 2012– June 2013) with the following services:

VNA PROGRAM OR SERVICE	VISITS	DAYS	HOURS
Nursing	13,193		
Physical Therapy	968		
Speech Therapy	73		
Occupational Therapy	289		
Social Work, Social Service	513		
Family Educator	1		
Licensed Nursing Assistant			2,306
Homemaker			790
Waiver Attendant			5,663
Personal Care Attendant			4,853
Continuous Care			
Hospice and Palliative Care		1,785	
Total	27,862 Visits	1,785 Days	13,613 Hours

FY15 Request for Funding:

COST OF PROVIDING CARE	AMOUNT
Total cost of VNA services in WILLISTON	\$3,032,247
Amount reimbursed by Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, contracts and patient fees	\$2,816,253
Remaining care expense	\$215,994

The VNA receives annual allocations from 22 cities and towns in our two-county region. Each allocation is critical to supporting the **\$1.8 million** of non-reimbursable services we provide. Our goal is to have each city and town cover 50% of the debt the VNA incurs. The Town of WILLISTON pledged \$27,000 for FY2014. Thank you.

For fiscal year 2015, the VNA is requesting an allocation of \$30,000 which translates to 14% of the city's remaining care expense.

Contact the VNA at:
802 658-1900
www.vnacares.org
info@vnacares.org



VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION
OF CHITTENDEN AND GRAND ISLE COUNTIES

VNA Services in your Community



The Visiting Nurse Association of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties (VNA) is a 107-year-old nonprofit home health agency delivering services to people across the life span – from critically ill children to vulnerable young families to adults who need rehabilitation, long-term care, adult day services or end-of-life care.

In the past, many towns hired Town Nurses, who were responsible for providing care to residents. The VNA now has that role, caring for children, adults, seniors, and families, helping keep people where they most want to be – at home. The VNA provides medically necessary home and community-based care to individuals and families regardless of their ability to pay.

Our founders established a directive, “to serve all who turn to the VNA in their time of need,” which still guides our work today. Our agency has continued through medical challenges of cancer, heart and lung disease, diabetes, and the social challenges of dying, old age and frailty, and poverty and malnutrition.

In just the past year, **the VNA provided \$1.8 million in charitable care to our neighbors in need;** charitable care is health care provided for free or at reduced prices.



The VNA offers the following programs and services:

- In-home nursing, physical, occupational, and speech therapy
- Family and Children’s Services
- Prenatal, postpartum, and newborn care
- Hospice and Vermont Respite House
- Long-term in-home care
- Private Caregiver Services

- Flu clinics and blood & cholesterol checks
- Adult Day Program
-



Contact the VNA: 802.658.1900 www.vnacares.org info@vnacares.org

Winooski Valley Park District

Ethan Allen Homestead

Burlington, Vermont 05408

Tel: (802) 863-5744 Email: info@wvdp.org

www.WVPD.org Fax: (802) 865-0647

Yumiko Jakobcic Executive Director

The Winooski Valley Park District's mission is to plan, acquire, and manage lands and waters within the boundaries of its member municipalities for purposes of conservation, preservation of natural areas, establishment of parks, and resource-based education and recreation. The WVPD's system of natural areas offers over 13 miles of shoreline and 25 miles of trails throughout the Winooski River Valley. Williston residents voted to join the WVPD, and Town of Williston has been a supporting member for 26 years. Donia Prince was the Williston representative. Please visit www.wvdp.org for trail maps and to learn more, or stop by the WVPD's headquarters at the Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington.

Here are a few highlights from the past year:

Park Acquisitions and Improvements: The WVPD acquired two new parks this year: The Muddy Brook Wetland Reserve in South Burlington and Williston, and the Wolcott Family Natural Area in Colchester. The WVPD is currently planning the trail systems for both parks and looks forward to welcoming visitors soon. In addition, many improvements were made to the WVPD's other parks. A new bridge was installed on the Riverwalk Trail, a culvert was replaced at Macrae Farm Park, puncheon was replaced at Colchester Pond, a railing was installed at Donohue Sea Caves, and over 200 trees were planted in riparian buffer zones at the Ethan Allen Homestead and Mayes Landing.

Environmental Education: The WVPD's educator met with 1,426 children and 381 adults (including people from all of the WVPD's member towns), hosted numerous new events including a Woodside Wildlife Walk, a Full Moon Hike at Macrae, an Invasive Species 101 Workshop, and several snowshoe hikes. The WVPD's "Halloween at the Homestead" attracted 70 visitors in its second year!

Financial Sustainability: The WVPD staff worked hard to bring in additional funding to help keep costs low for member towns. This year, the WVPD received a \$15,000 grant from the Vermont Recreation Trails Program to replace the bridge at Riverwalk, received grant to put bike racks at Colchester Pond and Macrae, received grant from the Department of Environmental Conservation to hire a greeter at Colchester Pond, received a \$500 grant from IBM to purchase educational supplies, and received grant from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to cover 50% of the costs for updating the alarm system in the education center. The WVPD staff also increased their advertising efforts for the picnic shelter and exceeded their rental revenue goals for the year.

☐ **Activities for Residents and Tourists:** The WVPD's 18 regional parks offer nature trails, scenic overlooks, picnic facilities, cross-country skiing trails, canoe and kayak launches, fishing access, and public garden plots. Sign-in sheets located at the WVPD's parks have shown that visitors come from all of the WVPD's member towns and even from across the country.

☐ **Programs Offered by Others at WVPD Parks:** The WVPD provides a fantastic location for local groups to offer outdoor programs. Many school groups, summer camps, and scouts visit the WVPD's parks as part of their curriculum. The Burlington Area Community Gardens and the Colchester Land Trust offer community gardens at two of the WVPD's parks. The Vermont Community Garden Network and New Farms for New Americans lead educational gardening programs at the WVPD's Ethan Allen

Children need natural areas to stay in touch with the local landscapes that sustain them. In turn, natural areas need management to assure people and wildlife can peacefully coexist. The WVPD offers 18 natural areas embedded within the most developed county in Vermont. Each year Williston's support makes it possible for thousands of Vermonters and tourists to explore our ecologically-diverse system of natural areas. Thank you.