

2014
Town of Landgrove, Vermont
ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending December 31, 2014



TOWN MEETING • March 2nd, 2014 • 6:00pm • Landgrove Town Hall

Useful Information

Landgrove Town Offices

Phone/fax:	(802) 824-3716
Email:	townoflandgrove@gmail.com
Mailing address:	88 Landgrove Road • Landgrove, VT 05148
Hours:	Thursdays, 9am - 1pm, or by appointment
Website:	landgrove.vermont.gov
Town Clerk:	Chrystal Cleary (802) 824-5394 (home)
Town Treasurer:	Andrea Ogden (802) 824-6318 (home)
Road Commissioner:	Steve Hall (802) 824-6622 (home)
Fire Warden:	Karl T. Pfister (802) 824-4663 (office)
Assistant Fire Warden:	Jeremiah Evarts (802) 683-0518 (for burn permits)
Select Board Chair:	Jeremiah Evarts (802) 824-4202

Community Resources

L'derry Landfill & Recycle:	http://www.londonderryvt.org/index.html
Phone:	(802) 824-5506
Open:	Closed Wednesdays, call for specific hours.
Londonderry Post Office:	(802) 824-6571
Window hours:	Mon - Fri, 8:30 - 12 & 2 - 4:30pm Sat 8:30 - 11:30am
Flood Brook School:	(802) 824-6811
Burr & Burton Academy:	(802) 362-1775
Green Mtn Power:	(800) 451-2877 (report outages)
Mtn Valley Medical Clinic:	(802) 824-6901
Hours:	Mon - Fri, 8:30 - 4:30pm
On-call phone:	24 hours
VT State Police:	(802) 875-2112 (non-emergency)
Senators:	Brian Campion, bcampion@leg.state.vt.us Dick Sears, rsears@leg.state.vt.us
House of Representatives:	Patty Komline, pkomline@leg.state.vt.us

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 911

2014
ANNUAL REPORT
TOWN OF LANDGROVE
VERMONT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014

AUDITORS

PEGGY MOLE

ANNE MCCLARAN

MARY GOUGER

Town Meeting Information

Monday, March 2nd, 2015 at 6pm

Landgrove Town Hall

Potluck Supper to follow.

Table of Contents

Vital Statistics	3
Landgrove Checklist	4
Warning 2015 Annual Town Meeting	5
Town Officers Elected	7
Town Officers Appointed by Select Board	8
Minutes of Town Meeting 2014	9
Auditors' Report	12
Current Asset Balance Sheet	13
Cash Account Summary	14
Cash Account Reconciliation Detail	14
Statement of Taxes Raised	17
Statement of Delinquent Taxes Collected	18
Reserve Funds	19
General Fund Budget	22
Roads Budget	24
Select Board/Road Commissioner Report	26
Cemetery Commission	27
Clerk's Report	28
Landgrove Community Club	29
Conservation Commission	30
Map of Town Lands	32
Landgrove Historical Society	33
Listers' Report	34
Treasurer's Report	35
Trustees of Public Funds	36
Zoning & Planning	37
Statements from Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union	38

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Vital Statistics Town of Landgrove, County of Bennington

Population	158*
Area	5,586 acres
2014 Tax Rate	Resident \$1.6857
	Non-resident \$1.6647
Total Property Valuation	\$126,017,200 as of 8/14/2014

MARRIAGES

June 2 Malcolm Gordon McNair of Landgrove to Maria Eugenia De Risio of
 Califon, NJ

BIRTHS

Aug 6 Amelia Marie Eckhardt in Rutland City, VT to Kim and Greg Eckhardt

DEATHS

January 29 Dziedra Beatrisse Krievina of Landgrove

August 31 Lois C. MacArthur of Landgrove

September 10 Glen Allen Whitten of Landgrove

December 19 Alice Pitcher Dibble of Peru and Landgrove

* Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Landgrove Checklist

ADAMS, LEIGH	GRAYSON, PRISCILLA	NUTTING, HARRY O.
ADAMS, RICHARD	GREENSLIT, BRANDY	OGDEN, ANDREA
AMATO, LEE	HADDEN, JOHN	OGDEN, JOHN
AMEDEN, JAMES	HALL, STEVEN	OGDEN, MARY
AMEDEN, JOSEPHINE	HARRIS, CLAUDIA	OGDEN, SAMUEL
BIGELOW, JONATHAN G.H.	HARRIS, SUSAN U.	OGDEN, SHEILA
BIGELOW, MAGNUS W.	HARRIS, THOMAS A.	PARIETTI, LOREEN I.
BIGELOW, MARY S.	HASSETT, JERALD	PETERSON, ALICE L.
BIGELOW, MAY	HASSETT, VIVIAN	PFISTER, KARL T.
BIGELOW, MELVA	HEINEMANN, NANCIE	POMEROY, JESSE
BIGELOW, SETH W.	HENSON, CASEY	POMEROY, MARION
BOKENKAMP, GARY	HENSON, CRAIG	SABOL, BROOKE A.
BOKENKAMP, MARY ELLEN	ISHU, CHRISTOPHER JOHN	SABOL, ROBERT
BRETTA, KIMBERLEE A.	ISHU, SARAH	SABOL, SARA
CAMINITI, CHIARA A.	JEFFREY, MARION	SCHUBERT, KARL F.
CHALMERS, CAMERON	JEFFREY, MICHAEL	SEULING, BARBARA
CHECCHIA, MAUREEN	JOHNSON, FRANK	SNYDER, D. JAY
CHECCHIA, THOMAS	JOHNSON, SARAH L.	SNYDER, KATHY
CLARK, MICHAEL	JORDAN, JEAN	STIGUM, TOVE L.
CLEARY, CHRYSYAL	JORDAN, ROBERT	STONE, BEVERLY
CLEARY, JEFFERSON	KNIGHT, ROBERTA W.	SUMMERS, TODD S.
COLE, DALEN	LEFEBVRE, JENNIFER E.	SWEETMAN, CHARLES
DEE, ELIZABETH	LENNON, KALI	SWEETMAN, MARION
DIBBLE, JOCELYN	LUX, HARRY	THOMSON, KAREN
DIBBLE, REBECCA A.	MCCLARAN, ANNE	THOMSON, PETER
DIBBLE, THOMAS R.	MCCLARAN, TIM	TOLBERT, DIANNE
DOMMENG, KEVIN	MCNAIR, DANA	TOLBERT, JOHN
ECKHARDT, JOHN G.	MCNAIR, DYLAN F.	TORRE, ANDREW
ECKHARDT, KIMBERLY A.	MCNAIR, MALCOLM	USHER, BARBARA
ECKHARDT, LYNN	MOLE, MARGARET	WAITE, ROBERT
EMERSON, NATHALIE	MOLE, MICHAEL	WAITE, SARAH
ENGLISH, JOHN	MORFIT, CHRISTINE A.	WALTZ, ELIZABETH
ENGLISH, LEILA	MORFIT, MICHAEL	WILEY, JOHN D. JR
ENGLISH, MARY	MOSTOLLER, PALA Z.	YOUNG, CHRISTINA
EVARTS, JEREMIAH	MUNAT, CLARE	YOUNG, HELEN
EVARTS, KARA	NEWTON, ANNA	YOUNG-SHADIS, TEXAS V.
GOUGER, MARY	NICHOLS, CLARENCE	
GRAYSON, CARINTHIA	NICHOLS, PAULINE	

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

TOWN OF LANDGROVE Warning 2015 Annual Town Meeting

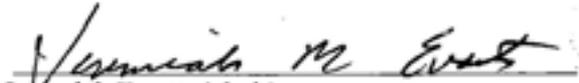
Legal voters of the Town of Landgrove, County of Bennington, State of Vermont, are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Town Hall on Monday, March 2nd at 6:00pm to act on the following Articles:

- ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 2: To elect the following officers as required by law:
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Town Clerk | 1 year term |
| Town Treasurer | 1 year term |
| Selectman | 3 year term |
| Auditor | 3 year term |
| Lister | 3 year term |
| Cemetery Commissioner | 5 year term |
| Collector of Delinquent Taxes | 1 year term |
| Grand Juror | 1 year term |
| Mtn. Towns RED Director | 3 year term |
| Town Agent | 1 year term |
| Town Constable | 1 year term |
| Trustee of Public Funds | 3 year term |
- ARTICLE 3: To hear the reports of the Town Officers and take proper action on the Auditors' report.
- ARTICLE 4: To see whether the Town will appropriate \$10,000 to the Landgrove New Cemetery Stonewall project.
- ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will authorize its Select Board to apply any surplus or unanticipated funds towards the proposed budget.
- ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to pay its taxes on real and personal property on or before October 1, 2015.
- ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise the budgeted monies necessary to pay Town expenses and obligations for the 2015 year.
- ARTICLE 8: To transact any other non-binding business proper to come before said meeting, not acted upon in the preceding articles.

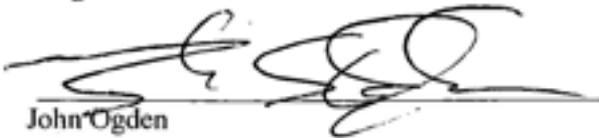
TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Dated January 22, 2015

Select Board of Landgrove, Vermont


Jeremiah Evarts (chair)


Greg Eckhardt


John Ogden

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Town Officers Elected

POSITION	NAMES	TERM EXPIRES
Moderator (1 year term)	Clare Munat	2015
Town Clerk (1 year term)	Chrystal Cleary	2015
Town Treasurer (1 year term)	Andrea Ogden	2015
Selectmen (3 year term)	Greg Eckhardt	2015
	John Ogden	2016
	Jeremiah Evarts	2017
Board of Auditors (3 year term)	Anne McClaran	2015
	Mary Gouger	2016
	Peggy Mole	2017
Board of Listers (3 year term)	Jerald Hassett	2015
	Chuck Sweetman	2016
	Mary Gouger	2017
Board of Cemetery Commissioners (5 year term)	John English	2015
	Clarence Nichols	2016
	May Bigelow	2017
	Andy Torre	2018
	Lynn Eckhardt	2019
Collector of Delinquent Taxes (1 year term)	Sarah Waite	2015
Grand Juror (1 year term)	Claudia Harris	2014
Town Agent (1 year term)	Chrystyna Young	2015
Constable (1 year term)	John Wiley	2014
Trustees of Public Fund (3 year term)	Sarah Waite	2015
	Dick Adams	2016
	Andrea Ogden	2017
MTN TOWN RED Director (3 year term)	Jeff Cleary	2015

Justices of the Peace

Charles Sweetman, Robert Waite, Chrystyna Young, Anna Dibble
and Clare Munat

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Town Officers Appointed by Select Board

POSITION	NAME	3 YEAR TERM EXPIRES
Zoning Administrator	John LaVecchia	2016
Planning Commission (includes ZA)	Malcolm McNair (chair)	2017
	Chrystyna Young	2015
	Chuck Sweetman	2015
	Michael Mole	2015
	Harry Lux	2016
	Mary English	2016
	Jerald Hassett	2017
	Leigh Adams	2017
Zoning Board of Adjustment (Includes all members of the Planning Comm. except the Zoning Administrator)	Mary English (chair)	2016
BCRC Member	Jerald Hassett	
Health Officer	Greg Eckhardt	2016
Conservation Commission	Seth Bigelow (chair)	2017
	Priscilla Grayson	2018
		One Year Terms
Town Service Officer	Chair, Select Board	2015
Emergency Management	Harry Nutting	2015
Forest Fire Warden	Karl T. Pfister	2015
Asst. Fire Warden	Jeremiah Evarts	2015
Road Commissioner	Steve Hall	2015
Assistant Town Treasurer	Sarah Waite	2015
911 Coordinator	John LaVecchia	2015

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Minutes of Town Meeting 2014

At Landgrove Town Hall, 88 Landgrove Road

Monday, March 3, 6:00 PM

Attendance: 43 Voters, Senator Bob Hartwell, Esther Fishman (Londonderry SW Group) and Chrissy Blaylock (the Collaborative)

Senator Bob Hartwell spoke about bills in the senate in Montpelier and explained the rise in property taxes at the state level, as affected by the declining number of students-solutions like our Mountain Town Regional Educational District may help if adopted by more communities statewide. There are challenges facing the legislature as it attempts to face down the problem of drugs-for-guns from out of states, both in terms of prevention and treatment as well as increased sentences for offenders. Esther Fishman explained the new recycling laws coming and the schedule and logistics to accommodate them, Chrissy Blaylock from the Collaborative presented the drug abuse program Refuse to Use and other Collaborative programs enhancing our community.

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year. The Clerk cast one ballot for Clare Munat – Nominated by Jeremiah Evarts, seconded by John Ogden. The article passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 2. To elect the following officers as required by law:

Town Clerk, 1 year term- The Clerk cast one ballot for Chrystal Cleary – nominated by Claudia Harris, seconded by Mary Gouger.

Town Treasurer, 1 year term- The Clerk cast one ballot for Andrea Ogden – nominated by Sally Waite, seconded by Jay Snyder.

Selectman, 3 year term- The Clerk cast one ballot for Jeremiah Evarts – nominated by Melva Bigelow, seconded by Dalen Cole.

Auditor, 3 year term- The Clerk cast one ballot for Peggy Mole – nominated by Kathy Snyder, seconded by John Ogden.

Lister, 3 year term- The Clerk cast one ballot for Mary Gouger – nominated by John Ogden, seconded by Jeremiah Evarts.

Cemetery Commissioner, 5 year term- The Clerk cast one ballot for Lynn Eckhardt – nominated by Clarence Nichols, seconded by Kathy Snyder.

Collector of Delinquent Taxes 1 year term- The Clerk cast one ballot for Sarah Waite – nominated by Andrea Ogden, seconded by Chrystyna Young. The Town congratulates Sarah for her 25th term and thanks her for her excellent service!

Grand Juror, 1 year term- The Clerk cast one ballot for Claudia Harris – nominated by Melva Bigelow, seconded by Malcolm McNair.

Town Agent, 1 year term- The Clerk cast one ballot for Chrystyna Young – nominated by Charles Sweetman, seconded by Jeremiah Evarts.

Town Constable, 1 year term- The Clerk cast one ballot for John Wiley – nominated by Claudia Harris, seconded by May Bigelow.

Trustee of Public Funds, 3 year term- The Clerk cast one ballot for Andrea Ogden – nominated by Robert Waite, seconded by Jeremiah Evarts.

ARTICLE 3. The article was moved by Jonathan Bigelow, seconded by Sally Waite

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

and passed unanimously.

To hear the reports of the Town Officers and take proper action on the Auditors' report: Jeremiah Evarts presented the Selectmen's Report, highlighting improvements in road maintenance, high speed internet access, the success of the Pitcher Forest project, and savings the Town has enjoyed from increased recycling. John Ogden explained the details of getting the last corner of Landgrove connected – that Fairpoint is scheduled to replace the switch in Weston (hopefully this year) which will enable service to the area of town served by the Weston lines. Andy Torre spoke for the people in thanking Senator Bob Hartwell for helping bring internet access to town.

All are reminded that Selectmen's meetings are at 8:00AM on the second Thursday, and 6:00PM on the 4th Thursday of each month, and the public is welcome. Thanks to the Landgrove Historical Society and Steve Hall for renovating the library/stage section of the schoolhouse.

The town website is landgrove.vermont.gov and it contains many useful items such as zoning regulations, the town plan, and a calendar. In addition, our new data management system is working well and we need everyone's help to keep contact info for townspeople up to date, especially email addresses. Andrea reminded everyone that the address for the town is 88 Landgrove Road, and that the PO Box we previously held is not in service and the forwarding order would soon expire.

Our Treasurer also reminded all to file their annual Homestead Declaration, due April 15th, and that computers are available this evening to do so online if anyone wishes. Homestead filing date reminder was written on the blackboard, along with an outline of the way property taxes are determined and the many factors that go into that calculation.

Chuck Sweetman presented the Listers' report and all the work going into our town-wide reassessment. Property visits should be completed the end of March or the beginning of April. Letters of the new assessed values will go out in June as usual. The Selectmen thanked the Listers for all their hard work and long hours in the cold working on this project.

Seth Bigelow spoke briefly about the Conservation Commission and the next steps for Pitcher Forest: spring cleanup by the logger, planting of oaks, the walking path and a memorial plaque and ceremony honoring Lynn Pitcher. He reminded citizens to visit Facebook and like the Landgrove Conservation Commission.

In the Cemetery Report, Clarence Nichols presented the Commission's desire to replace the chain link fence around the cemetery with a new stone wall and the details and costs associated with that. Selectman Jeremiah Evarts said the Selectmen will look at that with him when the snow is gone.

May Bigelow announced the Historical Society's annual Pancake Breakfast for Sunday March 30

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will authorize its Select Board to apply any surplus or unanticipated funds toward the proposed budget. The article was moved by

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Robert Waite, seconded by Chrystyna Young and passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to pay its taxes on real and personal property on or before October 1st, 2014. The article was moved by Kathy Snyder, seconded by Sally Waite and passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to raise the budgeted monies necessary to pay Town expenses and obligations for the 2013 year. The article was moved by May Bigelow, seconded by Lynn Eckhardt and passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 7. To transact any other non-binding business proper to come before said meeting, not acted upon in the preceding articles. Moved by Melva Bigelow, seconded by Sally Waite, and passed unanimously.

- Karl Pfister proposes that the Town approach Gisela Gamper about a section of her property on Landgrove Road/Ridge Road for the Town Equipment Barn.

- Dana McNair asked for volunteers to assist with the playground Community Build at Flood Brook School from 15 through 18 May.

- Charles Sweetman complimented Andrea Ogden on an excellent Town Report and website. Thanked the Selectmen for doing an excellent job managing our Town.

- The final item for Town Meeting was to agree to meet again in 2015 on the first Monday in March at 6:00PM, moved by Claudia Harris, seconded by John Ogden and passed unanimously.

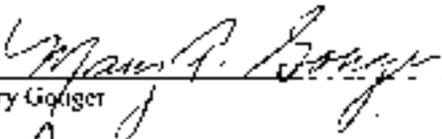
March 3rd 2014

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

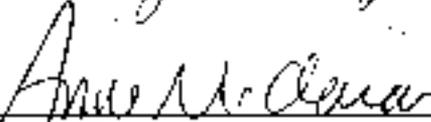
Auditors' Report

We, the undersigned auditors of the Town of Landgrove, have reviewed all the books and accounts of the Town of Landgrove on this 22nd day of January, 2015.

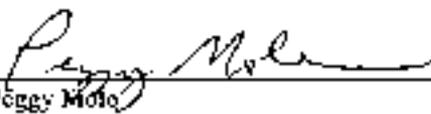
We wish to report that all the entries have been properly made and all accounts are in balance.



Mary Gogger



Anne McClaran



Peggy Molo

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Current Asset Balance Sheet

	2014	2013	\$ Change
Cemetery Checking	1,807.10	3,876.06	(2,068.96)
Public Fund Trusts			
Cemetery Endowment Fund	39,878.68	34,423.65	5,455.03
Conservation Fund	18,843.82	16,887.22	1,956.60
Town Accounts - Stifel Nicolaus			
Operating Account	941,734.12	858,123.13	83,610.99
Reserve Funds			
Cemetery Wall Fund	(1,372.48)	-	(1,372.48)
Dog License Account	2,837.70	2,725.83	111.87
Equipment Fund	40,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Listers Fund - Ed	1,030.88	770.63	260.25
Listers Fund - Reappraisal	6,118.31	25,061.85	(18,943.54)
Records Restoration	4,612.98	5,156.30	(543.32)
Town Hall Maint Fund	7,176.57	10,990.30	(3,813.73)
Total Reserve Funds	60,403.96	64,704.91	(4,300.95)
Total Town Accounts	1,002,138.08	922,828.04	79,310.04
TOTAL ASSETS	1,062,667.68	978,014.97	84,652.71

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Cash Account Summary

	Income	Expense	Balance
Register Balance 1/1/14			922,828.04
Adjust - 2013 voided check	813.60		
NET INCOME	78,453.70		
Change in Payroll Liability	42.74		
Register Balance as of 12/31/14			1,002,138.08
Uncleared Checks	9,307.84		
Uncleared Deposits		-	
Bank Balance as of 12/31/14			1,011,445.92

Cash Account Reconciliation Detail

	Income	Expense	Balance
INCOME			
Copier	500.75		
Current Use	46,410.00		
General Fund	87,172.50		
Grants - State	4,000.00		
Green Mountain Forest	2,096.00		
Historical Society Rent	701.00		
Licenses & Permits	435.00		
Recording Income	3,407.00		
Roads Fund	131,800.00		
VT State Highway Aid	34,370.87		
Interest - Operating & Reserve	447.36		
Total Penalty Collected	4,861.44		
Total Reserve Fund Income	22,026.75		
Taxes - Current Year	1,428,092.71		
Taxes Delinquent	62,640.26		
Unbudgeted Misc Income	21,603.88		
total Income	1,850,565.52		1,850,565.52

Cash Account Reconciliation continued on following page.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Cash Account Reconciliation continued from previous page.

	Income	Expense	Balance
EXPENSE			
General Fund			
Appropriations - Community		12,433.50	
Appropriations - Town		11,000.00	
Insurance		2,926.98	
Legal & Accounting		2,855.45	
Listers' Expenses		783.59	
Staff Costs		34,417.94	
Stipends		11,000.00	
Tax Map Revisions		600.00	
Taxes, Assessments & Fees		31,998.00	
Town Hall & Office		12,716.75	
Warnings & Notices		841.32	
Zoning & Planning		133.24	
total General Fund		121,706.77	1,728,858.75
Roads			
Equipment Fund		20,000.00	
Gas & Oil		7,456.50	
Licenses & Insurance		6,478.00	
Machine Maint & Repairs		9,003.45	
Misc		7,730.66	
Rent		500.00	
Utilities		611.79	
Total Summer		65,932.41	
Total Winter		76,361.18	
total Roads		194,073.99	1,534,784.76
OTHER EXPENSE			
Education Payments			
MT Towns RED		438,624.00	
State of VT - 2nd FY 14		438,441.17	

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Cash Account Reconciliation continued from previous page.

	Income	Expense	Balance
State of VT - 1st FY 15		531,129.00	
total Education		1,408,194.17	
Cemetery Wall Project		5,000.00	
Landgrove Community Club		500.00	
New Flagpole & Wall Rebuild		10,577.75	
Pitcher Forest Expenses		750.00	
Paid to Collector		4,861.44	
total Other Expense		1,429,883.36	104,901.40
RESERVED FUND EXPENSE			
Cemetery Restoration		22,189.88	
Dogs		222.13	
Listers Ed		125.00	
Reappraisal		19,174.64	
Records Restoration		1,922.32	
Town Hall Building		6,313.73	
total Reserved Fund Expense		49,947.70	54,953.70
NET ASSETS MOVED TO RESERVE FUNDS			
Equipment Fund		(20,000.00)	
Records Restoration Fund		(1,000.00)	
Town Hall Maint Fund		(2,500.00)	
total Assets Moved to Reserve		(23,500.00)	
NET INCOME			78,453.70

*Referenced in Cash Account Summary on page 14

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Statement of Taxes Raised

	Education	Municipal	Combined
Homestead	1.49	0.20	1.70
Non-Resident	1.46	0.20	1.66
Note: Rates are per \$100 worth of property assessment (ex: \$100,000 x .01 x rate = tax)			

	Tax Rate	Grand List	Total Raised
Non-Residential Education	1.46	766,795.00	1,119,367.34
Homestead Education	1.49	300,057.00	447,294.97
Municipal - Roads	0.12	1,066,852.00	131,542.85
Municipal - General Fund	0.08	1,066,852.00	87,055.12
Late Homestead Penalty			4,954.13
			1,790,214.42

Received By Treasurer as of 12/31/14	
2014 Taxes ¹	1,647,065.21
2014 Delinquent Tax	23,936.88
Current Use	46,410.00
Municipal Tax Adjustment	1,835.88
Education Tax Adjustment	62,393.04
Total Collected	1,781,641.01
Taxes Outstanding 12/31/14	29,103.85
Tax Income Allocated as of 12/31/14	
Ed - Mt Town RED	438,624.00
Ed - State of VT Ed Fund	1,062,259.93
Municipal Budget	218,972.50
Total Allocated	1,719,856.43

¹ Includes late homestead penalty collected.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Statement of Delinquent Taxes Collected

The following funds have been collected in delinquent taxes in 2014:

2013 taxes, penalties and interest collected	41,436.27
2014 taxes, penalties and interest collected	26,065.53
Total delinquent taxes collected 1/1/14-12/31/14	67,501.70

The following are delinquent at the time of the printing of this report:

Deutsche Bank (former Handshaw property)

Ishu

Whitten property

TAX SALE POLICY: When property taxes are in arrears for a period of one year and the second (current) year's taxes have not yet been paid, a letter will be sent to the delinquent tax payer by certified mail asking if there is any reason why the Town should not proceed with a tax sale on the property.

Please note that taxes are due on or before October 1. Payments received or post-marked after that date are considered delinquent and are subject to a penalty fee of 8% and additional interest of 1% for the first three months or part thereof, and 1 ½% per month or part thereafter, as allowed under the laws of the State of Vermont.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Reserve Funds

The following funds are all held within the Town's Stifel-Nicolaus cash account. A summary of these funds can be found on the Current Asset Balance Sheet on page 13.

Cemetery Wall Fund			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance 1/1/14			-
Donations - 50 donors	20,719.40		
Wall Payments		22,091.88	
Balance 12/31/14			(1,372.48)

This fund was established in May 2014 for the beautiful stone wall project in the New Cemetery. The fund currently shows a deficit of \$1,372.48. The Cemetery Commission and the Select Board hope voters will support Article 4 at Town Meeting. The \$10,000 raised by this article will go a long way toward completing the project, and the Cemetery Commission will continue to seek additional private donations. Members of our greater Landgrove community have been extremely generous and the Commission and the Select Board are confident that this beautiful addition to the scenic quality of our valley will be fully funded.

Donations are fully tax-deductible and can be mailed to the Town Treasurer.

Dog License Account			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance 1/1/14			2,725.83
Licenses Issued	334.00		
Cost of Tags		70.13	
State of VT		152.00	
Balance 12/31/14			2,837.70

Landgrove does not have an Animal Control officer and therefore, should the situation arise that we need to implement an animal control program, we would have to hire an outside service. The money in this account is held in reserve to cover costs should the need become real.

Dog licenses are available at the Town Clerk's office any time after January 1st each year. For a spayed or neutered dog, the charge is \$8 and for an unaltered

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

dog, the charge is \$12. After April 1st, a late charge of \$2 and \$4 will apply for altered and unaltered dogs, respectively. New puppies or dogs acquired after April 1 will be charged half of the regular fee.

Please note that rabies inoculations must be current before a license can be issued.

Equipment Fund			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance 1/1/14			20,000.00
Taxes raised (as voted)	20,000.00		
Balance 12/31/14			40,000.00

This Fund is used to minimize the impact to taxpayers of large equipment purchases used to maintain our roads. Taxpayers allocate money to the fund each year and the fund accumulates until it is necessary to draw funds down for a large purchase. The fund was exhausted in 2012 due to the purchase of the John Deere grader.

Listers' Funds - Reappraisal and Education

Reappraisal Fund			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance 1/1/14			25,061.85
State of VT - per parcel	2,128.00		
NEMRC		19,000.00	
Lister Expenses		2,071.54	
Balance 12/31/14			6,118.31

The Reappraisal Fund is held in reserve to cover costs associated with a town-wide reappraisal, which happened this year.

Lister Ed Fund			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance 1/1/14			770.63
State of VT	385.25		
Software Training		125.00	
Balance 12/31/14			1,030.88

This Lister Education fund is intended to cover trainings that are certified by the State of VT Property Valuation and Review department.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Records Restoration			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance 1/1/14			5,156.30
Taxes raised (as voted)	1,000.00		
Recording Fees	379.00		
Grand List Binding: 1888 - 1899		1,922.32	
Balance 12/31/14			4,612.98

The Records Restoration fund is money held in reserve for preserving the town's historical records. Income sources are the town appropriation and the state-mandated \$1 per page recorded by the Town Clerk.

Town Hall Building Fund			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance 1/1/14			10,990.30
Taxes raised (as voted)	2,500.00		
South Wall Project		6,313.73	
Balance 12/31/14			7,176.57

This fund is intended to grow gradually to help mitigate the costs of large projects associated with proper care of our town hall building. Projects may include exterior painting, floor refinishing, the new shades, or other improvements not included in the annual maintenance budget.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

General Fund Budget

	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2014 ACTUAL	2015 PROPOSED
Income				
Raised By Municipal Taxes	133,372.00	87,172.50	87,172.50	79,294.00
Copier		-	500.75	400.00
Current Use		40,000.00	46,410.00	40,000.00
Green Mountain Forest			2,096.00	2,000.00
Historical Society Rent			701.00	701.00
Licenses & Permits			365.00	300.00
Prior Year Surplus/Deficit		-	-	15,000.00
Recording Income			3,407.00	2,500.00
Total Income	133,372.00	127,172.50	140,652.25	140,195.00
Expense				
Community Appropriations				
The Collaborative	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
Green Up	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Londonderry Fire Dept.	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Londonderry Rescue	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Mental Health Services	166.00	166.00	166.00	166.00
MVMC	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Neighborhood Conn.	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
So. Londonderry Library	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Visiting Nurse Alliance	615.00	615.00	615.00	615.00
West River Sports	600.00	852.50	852.50	745.00
	12,181.00	12,433.50	12,433.50	12,326.00
Town Appropriations				
Cem Endowment Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Cem Maintenance	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
Records Restoration Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Town Hall So. Wall Project	7,500.00	-	-	-
Town Hall Maint. Fund	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
	18,500.00	11,000.00	11,000.00	11,000.00

General Fund Budget continued on following page.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2014 ACTUAL	2015 PROPOSED
Taxes And Assessments				
Benn. County Regional Comm.	1,803.00	1,839.00	1,839.00	1,875.00
Bennington County Tax	7,437.45	8,000.00	7,427.15	7,500.00
Londonderry Land Fill	17,107.21	18,000.00	13,945.85	17,000.00
Southwest N.H. Dispatch	7,207.00	7,400.00	7,822.00	8,000.00
VT League of Cities & Towns	931.00	1,000.00	964.00	994.00
	34,485.66	36,239.00	31,998.00	35,369.00
Salaries And Stipends				
Asst. To The Clerk	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
Listers	3,000.00	3,000.00	6,000.00	3,000.00
Payroll Expenses	2,204.95	2,400.00	2,172.44	2,400.00
Road Commissioner	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
School Director	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Selectmen	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Town Clerk	14,000.07	16,000.00	16,000.08	16,000.00
Treasurer	13,999.92	14,000.00	13,999.92	12,000.00
Zoning Administrator	1,791.25	3,000.00	2,245.50	3,000.00
	39,996.19	44,400.00	45,417.94	42,400.00
Town Hall & Office				
Heat	2,360.01	3,000.00	3,219.97	3,000.00
Maintenance	3,017.40	3,000.00	4,405.39	4,000.00
Office Supplies	3,328.16	3,000.00	2,942.38	3,000.00
Utilities	2,449.45	2,500.00	1,904.01	2,300.00
Training	285.00	500.00	245.00	500.00
	11,440.02	12,000.00	12,716.75	12,800.00
Other Expenses				
Insurance	2,808.20	2,800.00	2,926.98	3,000.00
Legal And Accounting	445.00	5,000.00	2,855.45	20,000.00
Listers' Expenses	274.64	500.00	783.59	500.00

General Fund Budget continued on following page.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2014 ACTUAL	2015 PROPOSED
Notices & Warnings	951.48	1,500.00	841.32	1,500.00
Tax Map Revisions	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
Zoning & Planning	605.52	700.00	133.24	700.00
Total Expense	122,287.71	127,172.50	121,706.77	140,195.00
Surplus/Deficit	11,084.29	-	18,945.48	-

Roads Budget

	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2014 ACTUAL	2015 PROPOSED
Income				
Raised by Municipal Taxes	176,300.00	131,800.00	131,800.00	148,230.00
State Highway Aid	34,421.62	30,000.00	34,370.87	34,000.00
Prior Year Surplus/Deficit		41,000.00	41,000.00	17,000.00
Grants			4,000.00	-
Highway Permits			70.00	70.00
Total Income	210,721.62	202,800.00	211,240.87	199,300.00
Expense				
Equipment Fund	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Gas & Oil	7,402.22	9,000.00	7,456.50	7,500.00
Licenses & Insurance	6,178.00	6,200.00	6,478.00	6,200.00
Machine Maint. & Repairs	6,504.73	10,000.00	9,003.45	10,000.00
Misc	746.99	1,000.00	7,730.66	1,000.00
Rent & Electric	973.73	1,100.00	1,111.79	1,100.00
Training	260.00	500.00	-	500.00
	42,065.67	47,800.00	51,780.40	46,300.00

Roads Budget continued on following page.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2014 ACTUAL	2015 PROPOSED
Summer Roads				
Chloride	2,820.00	5,000.00	2,498.52	4,000.00
Culverts	664.15	7,000.00	12,509.45	15,000.00
Ditches	30,693.76	7,000.00	33,956.94	15,000.00
Grading	6,175.00	10,000.00	6,987.50	10,000.00
Resurfacing (Gravel)	3,625.00	30,000.00	3,130.00	15,000.00
Roadside Mowing	6,096.25	6,000.00	5,950.00	6,000.00
Storm Repair	910.00	5,500.00	900.00	4,500.00
	50,984.16	70,500.00	65,932.41	69,500.00
Winter Roads				
De-Icer	4,264.50	10,000.00	7,638.68	9,000.00
Plowing & Sanding				
Labor	22,630.00	25,000.00	25,084.50	25,000.00
Machine Rental	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
Sand	36,663.00	35,000.00	32,788.00	35,000.00
Storm Repair	3,677.00	5,500.00	1,850.00	5,500.00
	76,234.50	84,500.00	76,361.18	83,500.00
Total Expense	169,284.33	202,800.00	194,073.99	199,300.00
Surplus/Deficit	41,437.29	-	17,166.88	

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Select Board/Road Commissioner Report

The Landgrove Select Board had another successful year completing and supporting town projects that we feel will be enjoyed by residents for years to come. We are proud of the newly installed flag pole and reconstructed stone wall at the town offices. We feel the new steps to the main entrance to the Town Hall are safer than the prior set and the attractive lighting on the flag adds to the overall safety and security of the Town Hall. The other great stone wall project has been the beautiful Landgrove Cemetery wall project which the town, through the Select Board, generously contributed to in 2014 and has committed to continue to support in 2015. We all look forward to watching the progress this coming summer.

We had no large equipment purchases this year but we did acquire a shipping container to consolidate and safeguard our town equipment and an electric fuel pump to aid in fueling our equipment. Jay Merrill continues to do a great job keeping our roads well maintained both in the winter and the summer. Jay will be working closely with road commissioner, Steve Hall, this coming summer on road and bridge resurfacing projects along with our yearly road ditching program.

We worked with Allison Langsdale from the Bennington County Regional Commission on a Town Hazard Mitigation Plan which is complete and can be seen at the Town Hall or online at the towns website. This plan should help residents and town officials if a major natural disaster or human-caused hazard takes place.

The Select Board continues to work closely with the Conservation Committee on town lands projects. Seth Bigelow (Chair of the Conservation Committee) has worked many hours with Bennington County Forester, Kyle Mason, on long term plans for our town lands. The Select Board continues to support the committee's management of town lands. (see Conservation Committee report)

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Board of Listers for their hard work on the town real estate reappraisal process which finished up last summer. They did a great job and we support their work on all issues going forward. We will be involved in litigation with two landowners this coming year regarding their assessments.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremiah Evarts, Chair

FYI

Select Board meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:00am and the 4th Thursday of each month at 6pm at the Town Hall. Members of the public are always welcome to observe the meeting. Please contact the clerk a week in advance of the meeting to get on the agenda. Also, please note that the minutes of the meeting are public record and are available at the Town Hall and on our website at landgrove.vermont.gov.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Cemetery Commission

Our report begins with a big thank you to everyone that donated monies, stones, and support to our stone wall project. We could not have started this project without your help. We thank the team of Monk Ogden, Cameron Chalmers, and Luke Bonang for converting an idea into reality. Monk, Cameron, and Luke have created a stone wall that everyone can be proud of and we have received many positive comments about it. We plan to continue the stone wall work, and create a small expansion area toward Hapgood Pond Road next year for a few more plots. This year marks the 125th anniversary of this cemetery.

We also want to thank the Johnson family for grooming our two large cemeteries.

One burial plot was sold this year. There are forty-one unsold lots remaining with the present configuration.

There was one interment:

Fay LaPrade -- July 16, 2014

Respectfully submitted for the cemetery commission,

Clarence Nichols

Cemetery Commissioners:

Lynn Eckhardt, May Bigelow, John English, Andrew Torre, Clarence Nichols

And honorary commissioner Monk Ogden

Note: Commissioners can be reached via the town email townoflandgrove@gmail.com.

Cemetery Operating Account - People's Bank			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance 1/1/14			3,876.06
Taxes Raised (as voted)	6,500.00		
Donations	100.00		
Plot Sales	710.00		
Plot Sales - Recording Fee		10.00	
Plots Sales - Endowment		200.00	
Grounds Maintenance		9,100.00	
Veterans' Flags		68.96	
Bank & Reg. Balance 12/31/14			1,807.10

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Clerk's Report

2014 was a very busy year for your Town Clerk and provided opportunities for growth in several areas, beginning with convening the Board of Civil Authority (which includes the Clerk, Selectboard and all Justices of the Peace) to review the Voter Checklist in preparation for election season. After the release of the assessments rendered by last winter's town-wide reassessment of all properties, the BCA also heard a few property tax assessment appeals, conducted site visits and rendered judgment. This required some research as there are state-mandated procedures to be followed for clarity, fairness and thorough documentation.

In addition, 2014 was my first time conducting elections, so I attended two trainings to prepare: one with the Vermont Clerks and Treasurer's Association and another with Will Senning from the Secretary of State's office, to acquire the most up to date laws, documents and procedures, and walk through election day counting and reporting. Our Primary went smoothly and was an excellent intro to the process for me. The General Election that followed was a particular source of pride. The Primary experience honed our counting and reporting skills and use of the forms for an efficient, accurate count but especially because Landgrove officially achieved the highest voter turnout rate in the state at 71%. That's a great rate in any election year, but especially 2014 as many towns reported rather dismal voter participation percentages in the teens and low 20's, as was true across the nation as well.

I want to thank the BCA members for giving so much of their time this year to the Appeals process as well as both elections, and to all of the citizen volunteers who sat the polls on election day, and finally to all who came out to vote. In our small town we understand that it takes our attention and involvement to make government work the best it can!

Finally, I'd like to remind all that warnings, agendas and minutes for meetings of all Town boards can be found at our website: landgrove.vermont.gov and that meetings are open to the public, so please come down and be a part of your local government, or just watch it in action! Dog licenses are available now for 2015, and dogs must be registered before April 1st. I look forward to seeing you at the Town Hall!

Yours in service,

Chrystal Cleary

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Landgrove Community Club



Fourth of July news this year included the newly decorated bass drum! Special thanks to Harry Nutting, Chrystal Cleary and Rob Haussein. Aidan Stone was the Drummer in Training.

And, although these next two notices are not official Community Club sponsored events, they are noteworthy as tremendous additions to our community offerings.

For more information about the community club, email Andrea Ogden at andreadammeierogden@gmail.com

Yoga Class at the Town Hall

Bonnie Bokenkamp has been teaching yoga classes this winter at the Town Hall. Our beautiful school room turns out to be a light-filled, roomy place to center your mind and body. Class days and times are Tuesday at 8:30-10:00am and 5:30-7:00pm. Both classes are open to all levels. For more information, email Bonnie at bgboke@earthlink.net.

The Art Club

The Art Club is a dream come true. Elaine and Don often talked about having an art camp or something similar for the kids around here. But, as the saying goes, life always seemed to intervene. Now, what she valued most is

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014



happening. The Art Club and its young members from Landgrove and the surrounding towns are drawing from the model, painting with acrylics, and even taking on the demanding art of calligraphy. And thanks to the selectmen and some very helpful neighbors all of this is taking place right here in the town hall. Hopefully, this is only the beginning.



Conservation Commission

In 2014, forestry treatments planned by Kyle Mason (Bennington Country Forester) and the Landgrove Conservation Commission were carried out on Pitcher Memorial forest. The town forest was dominated by an 80-year old red pine plantation in which tree growth and survival rates had greatly decreased because of minimal management in recent decades. Our vision was to convert the decadent pine plantation into a naturally regenerated, mixed-wood forest that would provide better wildlife habitat. The treatments included 1) harvest and sale of most of the red pines along with some associated trees such as red maple, cherry, and white pine, 2) thinning (i.e., cutting) some individual hardwood trees to increase growth of desired species such as sugar maple, 3) making harvest detritus piles and planting them with red oak acorns with the help of community volunteers, and 4) making a loop trail for hiking and bicycling. Marble signs commemorating Private Lynn Pitcher have been made

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014



Figure. The first day of forestry treatments. These red pine trees are very slender for their height because the dense plantation had not been thinned recently. Note harvesting machine in center background.

and will be permanently installed in spring 2015. The sale of timber generated approximately \$21,000 for the town.

The Conservation Commission also initiated and assisted Kyle Mason with a resource assessment of the Bobby Comfort Town Forest. This assessment involved investigating boundary lines, classifying the forest into a small number of stands (areas of similar vegetation and topography),

inventorying the amount of timber, and doing a qualitative assessment of wildlife habitat, water resources, and soil fertility. A summary report was written which is available in PDF form by request to the conservation commission. A conservation commission meeting in which the report was presented and preliminary ideas for forest management discussed was attended by 11 residents and landowners of Uphill road. Subsequently, the Select Board entered into discussions for sale of the Comfort Town Forest.

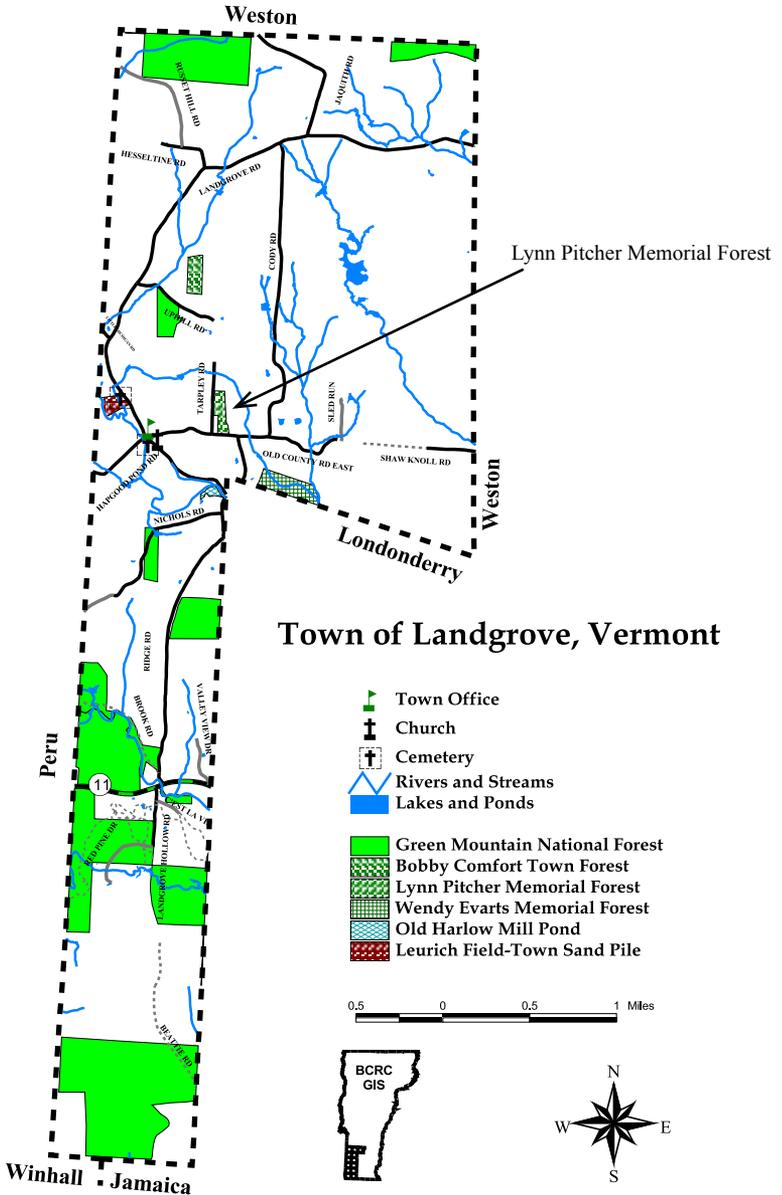
Additional activities of the Conservation Commission included hosting a visit of State of Vermont river scientist Shannon Pytlik for an assessment of the Utley Brook and flats; attendance at a workshop for creation of forest trails; attendance at the Vermont Town Forest Summit; maintenance of a Facebook page with natural history observations; and sponsoring a Fourth of July walk and re-commemoration of Pitcher Memorial forest. One Conservation Commission member resigned, leaving Seth Bigelow and Priscilla Grayson as remaining members. Please contact Seth or Priscilla if interested in serving on the commission!



Figure. Forestry treatments revealed a stark and beautiful landscape of ancient boulders in the northern end of Pitcher memorial forest. Pictured is Bennington Country forester Kyle Mason.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

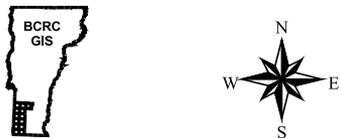
Map of Town Lands



Town of Landgrove, Vermont

- Town Office
- Church
- Cemetery
- Rivers and Streams
- Lakes and Ponds
- Green Mountain National Forest
- Bobby Comfort Town Forest
- Lynn Pitcher Memorial Forest
- Wendy Everts Memorial Forest
- Old Harlow Mill Pond
- Leurich Field-Town Sand Pile

0.5 0 0.5 1 Miles



Map produced January 22, 2013 by BCRC.

Special thanks to the Bennington County Regional Commission and Jim Henderson for preparing this map for our Town Report. A similar map can be found in the Town Plan.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Landgrove Historical Society

Collections: Blair Williams returned for two weeks to complete the cataloging of Karl Pfister's LOPC (Landgrove Old Photograph Collection). It totals 445 photographs, most with Karl Pfister's captions. We also hired Fia Bigelow to enter all our oral history tapes on to our computer for ease of listening, and she transcribed a few of them including Ludwig Zuber's whose art exhibit is described below.

Stage: This renovation, financed by the Town at the cost of \$6,313.73 was completed by Steve Hall providing design and carpentry/painting man power. May Bigelow contributed her decorating talents. Meg Pennypacker and Marion Sweetman guided a downsize of the books. They now comprise four main categories: Landgrove Authors & Illustrators, Vermontiana & Research, Children's Books & Classics, and Adult Classics. We would like to start a swap library for contemporary paperbacks and would welcome a volunteer to provide leadership on Thursday mornings.

Events: We had a busy summer. There were **two talks** sponsored by LHS in partnership with other organizations. Judith Edwards (July 18) spoke about the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps as background to the red pine winter harvesting and summer dedication of the Lynn Pitcher Memorial Town Forest. Greg Sharrow of the Vermont Folklife Center spoke (August 15) on the legacy of farming in Vermont based on oral histories.

Our 8th(!) **Annual Pancake Breakfast** (March 30) featured Ann Hausslein's pancakes and syrup from Rob Hausslein's *Sugar Bob's Finest Kind* and Jerry Evarts' and Jonathan Bigelow's *Landgrove Sugarworks* plus berries for topping.

Our **3rd Annual Potluck/Square Dance** (July 19) was held in the Town Hall this year, its traditional location beginning in the 1940s. The band and caller occupied the stage making room for four squares.

The summer ended with an **art exhibit** of Ludwig Zuber's acrylic paintings at a well attended reception on August 30th and on display until October 25. It was hung on the stage using our new art hanging system. Anthony Wood (third generation Bogoslavsky family) loaned works from his collection. The paintings were mounted by him, Anthony Badalamenti



Newly renovated stage area featuring the Zuber exhibit.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

and Anna Dibble. Zuber was a frequent visitor to Landgrove. He taught at the Bogoslavsky's Cherry Lawn School (New Canaan, CT). The sound of his voice and sense of humor heard on the oral history interview with Virginia Laprade ten years ago enlivened the reception. Now living in Florida he celebrated his 100th birthday last September.

Our **Great Road** sequel took a rest in 2014. The old exhibit will remain up for the time being. The next segment will feature the gable front house, formerly Evarts, now Burke, at 13 Old County Road East.

Board of Directors

May Bigelow, President	Rob Badger	Sally Ogden
Meg Pennypacker, 1st VP	David Eckhardt	Kathy Snyder
Mary Gouger, Treasurer	Michael Mole	Marion Sweetman
Priscilla Grayson, Secretary	Clarence Nichols	

Advisors: Ann Hausslein, Jonathan Bigelow and Andrea Ogden

Special Thanks to Anne McClaran who resigned but continues in an ad hoc capacity. She is also responsible for color-coordinated fresh paint on some town hall furniture.

Listers' Report

Last year we indicated that we would be conducting a complete town wide reappraisal in 2014 and we did. In fact, the complete reappraisal of Landgrove's 5700 acres consisting of approximately 210 parcels of which over 160 have structures, was completed on time and within budget.

We sent out mailings and made calls to set up individual appointments with residents and non residents to visit their properties inside and out. We thank our tremendous community for the cooperation and support we received. With the significant assistance from the excellent and professional firm (NEMRC), we visited inside each dwelling with the exception of one where the homeowner did not give permission to enter and for whom we used alternative methods to reappraise.

We felt it was important to do this project in an intensified time period for equity and consistency. We worked approximately three days a week during the challenging January thru April months. For each visit at least one and usually two or three listers accompanied our very thorough professional. Because we tried to accommodate owners' schedule wherever possible, we ended up crisscrossing the town a great deal as we car-pooled and traveled over a thousand miles. We also, as part of the process, visited each property a second time from the outside in May for a final review to reaffirm entered data and to reaffirm consistency and equity while fully realizing that in Landgrove virtually no two properties are the same.

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

All data sheets on all properties have been updated; a current picture taken from the outside of each property has also been added to the file; an updated land curve/land schedule was also developed; the computerized CAMA system has been put in place and we are now in the 21st century.

The overall process was well received by our property owners as every effort was made to professionally and equitably reassess each property. Most property owners saw a decrease in their assessed values from the prior assessment, which for the majority was based on the 2007/08 town reassessment. A printed report listing all properties with the previous and new 2014 values was developed and mailed to all property owners in mid May along with their own change of appraisal notice.

The select board and the State of Vermont have accepted our town wide reappraisal. There were two property owners that decided to appeal their assessments to the courts after having their appeal hearings with the listers and then with the Board of Civil Authority. The BCA rejected both appeals. The court will hear the cases in late spring; the town/BCA has legal representation handling the cases.

Finally, our sincere thanks for the great cooperation we received in this entire process. We are very, very happy to be done!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Gouger

Jerry Hassett

Chuck Sweetman

Treasurer's Report

I would like to thank everyone who reads this report. One of the hardest jobs as Treasurer is to make sure that people hear and respond appropriately to information coming from our office. Increasingly I use our email list program to communicate with tax payers and residents about important deadlines, often ones with penalties associated if missed. If you have not received an email from Chrystal or me regarding town business, please send us your email address. Our email addresses (and all future clerks and treasurers) are townoflandgrove@gmail.com and treasureroftlandgrove@gmail.com. If you do not have an email address, perhaps you can share one with someone close to you who can pass along the important notices?

One of the significant deadlines I am hoping Landgrove residents will pay attention to is the Homestead Declaration deadline of April 15th. Usually this is filed along side your VT income tax. Sometimes people file for an extension on their income tax. However, the Homestead Declaration remains due on April 15th. The declaration can be filed online at <https://secure.vermont.gov/hd/index>.

A goal for 2015 is to continue to improve the school room. We

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

anticipate replacing the large window shades this year. This should help with reducing our heating bill in the winter and perhaps keep the room cooler in the summer. The current shades are worn and beyond repair. If you have ideas about things that could be done, please let me know. There has been discussion of repainting the interior of the old foyer.

We also plan to continue our slow but steady progress of bringing town resources into the digital age. Our website currently has many interesting and useful documents, but we are working to make the zoning forms and the tax maps also available online. Any ideas about things you'd like to see on our website, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Ogden, Treasurer

Trustees of Public Funds

The Trustees of Public Funds manage two funds for the people of Landgrove. The first fund is the Cemetery Endowment. This fund was established as an endowment to ensure that the cemeteries of Landgrove would be maintained in perpetuity. The principal of the fund is not to be touched, and each year the Trustees of Public funds will determine what percentage of the interest on the account can be disseminated to the Cemetery checking account. In 2014, the interest earned on the principal was \$612.54, which is a considerable increase over 2013. The trustees agreed to again roll that amount into the principal investment with hopes that next year we may be able to draw on the growth of the fund. The Town's appropriation of \$1000 per year is greatly appreciated and will help this endowment achieve its goal of providing earnings to support the lawn mowing expenses. The other income source is a portion of cemetery plot sales. Please consider including this endowment fund in your annual and/or end of life giving - the fund has a long way to go to be big enough to fund the maintenance of our beautiful cemeteries.

The second account in the care of the Trustees of Public Funds is the Conservation Fund. This fund was created with money raised by towns people to help with the costs associated with the 1996 conservation easement of the Martin fields in the Utley Flats. It was agreed that the excess money be put into the management of the Trustees of Public Funds and used to aid in the legal expenses of future land conservation projects in the town. If you are considering putting your land into conservation, please contact us to see how these funds might help your process move forward. We are pleased with the growth of this fund in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Ogden

Sally Waite

Dick Adams

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Cemetery Endowment Fund			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance 1/1/14			34,423.65
Town Appropriation (as voted)	1,000.00		
Plots Sales	400.00		
Interest	612.54		
Unrealized Gain/Loss	3,442.49		
Balance 12/31/14			39,878.68

Conservation Fund			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance 1/1/14			16,887.22
Interest	292.67		
Unrealized Gain/Loss	1,663.93		
Balance 12/31/14			18,843.82

Zoning & Planning

Following a very busy year in 2013 for permits, 2014 saw a single application for a subdivision and no applications for building permits.

- Craig Henson was granted a permit for a subdivision of his property on Landgrove Hollow Road.

The Zoning Administrator was busy following up with the significant permits that were issued late in 2013 with work continuing into 2014. Certificates of Occupancy or Use were issued where work was completed.

Additionally the Zoning Administrator assisted the Select Board with continuing projects and devoted significant time to working with Enhanced 911 in establishing a new road and Emergency Service Number off Holden Hill Road.

Residents were assisted whenever questions arose.

Respectfully submitted,

John B. LaVecchia, ZA

How to Contact the ZA?

John LaVecchia • jbllog@comcast.net • (802) 362-3534
Office Hours at Town Hall: Tuesdays 12:30pm - 2pm

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

Statements from Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

JANUARY 2015

The Landgrove Town School District became part of the Mountain Towns Regional Education District on July 1, 2013, and the Mountain Towns Regional Education District is assigned to the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union (BRSU) in Sunderland. Please reference the Mountain Towns RED Annual Report for information regarding the RED.

MOUNTAIN TOWNS RED ANNUAL REPORT

January 2015

Education, both in terms of funding and in teaching, is a hot topic all across the state of Vermont. Even though for the last few years we have bucked the state's trend by growing our number of students and keeping the portion of our district's budget that we do control to very limited growth, the fact that our funding and our education methods are part of the whole state becomes even more clear. While we strive to give the best education possible in a reasonable budget, there are a number of factors beyond our control that dictate our budget and how we educate. All of which lead to this year's budget. For details, please see the Mountain Towns Regional Education District 2014 Annual Report and be sure to go to the Annual Meeting at Flood Brook School Feb. 24 at 7pm.

This coming year, we will see a substantial increase to our budget by about 12-14%. The majority of that increase comes from a greater number of high school students and an increase in our anticipated special education needs.

This past Fall, the RED Board surveyed the community to ask about the effectiveness of our unified arts programs (music, art, languages, etc). The results told us that there is great interest in more music education, theater, and after school opportunities. To that end, we added for next year an expanded theater program, in-school instrumental lessons for those who are interested, and expanded our afterschool programs. The surveys also told us that there is significant interest in improving our health education at all levels, so we added a full-time health teacher, something we do not currently have.

These improvements are part of the Flood Brook budget we control, which, with other cost of living increases, comes to about a 4% increase. These improvements will substantially improve the educational opportunities of our students, and, considering that last year's Flood Brook budget was essentially flat, is a responsible way to answer the community's call for better education for our students.

This year's state legislature is at an important point in our community's

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

and state's history. Our current method of funding education, and ensuring that we are educating our students to their fullest potential, is under scrutiny for its effect on all the districts across the state. We are in this together. I urge you to contact our representatives in Montpelier to give your point of view and discuss improvements on the current system. I also encourage you to contact me anytime with questions, concerns, and especially ideas, on how to improve both how we pay for education, and most importantly, how to improve the education of our students.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Cleary, Landgrove Mountain Towns RED Director
824-5394 or jeffclearylandgrove@gmail.com

TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2014

A few of the faces we miss seeing about town.

Alice "Cissy" Pitcher Dibble



*Glen Whitten
& Dziedra Beatrisse Krievina*



Lois MacArthur



Town of Landgrove
88 Landgrove Road
Landgrove, VT 05148

**PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU
TO TOWN MEETING.**