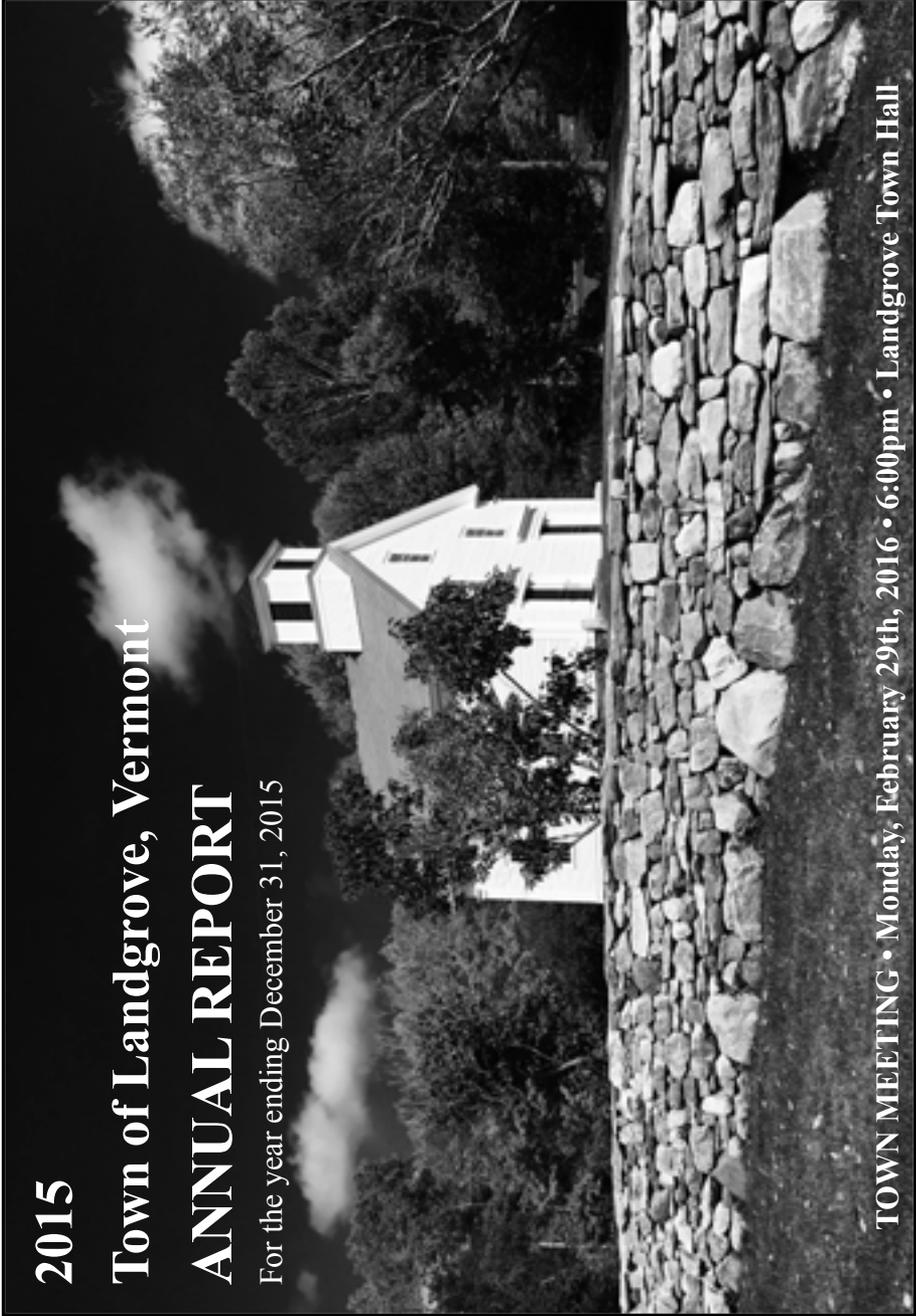


**2015**

**Town of Landgrove, Vermont  
ANNUAL REPORT**

For the year ending December 31, 2015



**TOWN MEETING • Monday, February 29th, 2016 • 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:	<a href="http://www.londonderryvt.org/index.html">http://www.londonderryvt.org/index.html</a>
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**

**2015**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**TOWN OF LANDGROVE**  
**VERMONT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015

AUDITORS

ANNE MCCLARAN • MARY GOUGER

Town Meeting Information

Monday, February 29th, 2016 at 6pm

Landgrove Town Hall

Potluck Supper to follow.

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# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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## Vital Statistics Town of Landgrove, County of Bennington

Population	158*
Area	5,586 acres
2015 Tax Rate	Homestead      \$1.8521 Non-resident    \$1.7516
Total Property Valuation	\$125,826,700 as of 1/19/2016

## MARRIAGES

June 20	Dylan McDonnell Fagan to Jenny Fan Zhang, both of Oakland, CA
July 18	Jesse Edward Irons to Emily Miriam Dahl, both of Jamaica Plain, MA
Sept. 6	Christopher David Walter to Elizabeth Katherine Seuling, both of New York, NY
Sept. 12	Danner Friedman of Beaufort, SC to Elizabeth Kent of Beaufort, SC
Dec. 20	Karl F. Schubert to Pala Z. Mostoller, both of Landgrove

## BIRTHS

Nov. 27	Felix Ryan Foster to Ryan and Kate Foster, of Landgrove and Weston, VT
April 6	Brittany Villagran Mata to Alma Raquel Mata Peralta and Edgar Villagran Pineda of Landgrove
Sept. 19	Casey James Reed to Jennifer Rene Derby and Eric Lamar Reed of Landgrove

## DEATHS

Nov. 1, 2014	Elizabeth R. Love of Fairfield, CT
January 28	Waverley Byrd LaPrade, of Landgrove
April 29	Raymond W. Winkler, of Landgrove and Vero Beach, FL
July 13	Jasper M. Evarts of South Dartmouth, MA
August 23	Frank J. Tammera, of Landgrove and Hope, NJ

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

# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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## Landgrove Checklist

ADAMS, LEIGH	GRAYSON, CARINTHIA	OGDEN, MARY
ADAMS, RICHARD	GRAYSON, PRISCILLA	OGDEN, SAMUEL
AMATO, LEE	GREENSLIT, BRANDY	OGDEN, SHEILA
AMEDEN, JAMES	HADDEN, JOHN	PARIETTI, LOREEN
AMEDEN, JOSEPHINE	HALL, STEVEN	PETERSON, ALICE
BIGELOW, JONATHAN	HARRIS, CLAUDIA	PFISTER, KARL T.
BIGELOW, MAGNUS	HARRIS, SUSAN	POMEROY, JESSE
BIGELOW, MARY	HARRIS, THOMAS	POMEROY, MARION
BIGELOW, MAY	HASSETT, JERALD	SABOL, BROOKE
BLACK, SANDY	HASSETT, VIVIAN	SABOL, ROBERT
BOKENKAMP, GARY	HEINEMANN, NANCIE	SABOL, SARA
BOKENKAMP, MARY ELLEN	HENSON, CASEY	SCHUBERT, KARL
CHALMERS, CAMERON	HENSON, CRAIG	SNYDER, D. JAY
CHECCHIA, MAUREEN	JEFFREY, MARIAN	SNYDER, KATHY
CHECCHIA, THOMAS	JEFFREY, MICHAEL	STONE, BEVERLY
CLARK, MICHAEL	JOHNSON, FRANK	SWEETMAN, CHARLES
CLEARY, CHRYSTAL	JOHNSON, SARAH	SWEETMAN, MARION
CLEARY, JEFFERSON	JORDAN, JEAN	THOMSON, KAREN
COLE, DALEN	JORDAN, ROBERT	THOMSON, PETER
COLE, JULIETTA	LEFEBVRE, JENNIFER	TOLBERT, DIANNE
DEE, ELIZABETH	LENNON, KALI	TOLBERT, JOHN
DIBBLE, JOCELYN	LUX, HARRY	TOMKINSON, VICTORIA
DIBBLE, REBECCA	MCCLARAN, ANNE	TORRE, ANDREW
DIBBLE, THOMAS	MCCLARAN, TIM	USHER, BARBARA
DOMMENG, KEVIN	MCNAIR, DANA	WAITE, ROBERT
ECKHARDT, JOHN	MCNAIR, DYLAN	WAITE, SARAH
ECKHARDT, KIMBERLY	MCNAIR, MALCOLM	WILEY, JOHN
ECKHARDT, LYNN	MOLE, MICHAEL	YOUNG, CHRYSTYNA
EMERSON, NATHALIE	MORFIT, CHRISTINE	YOUNG, HELEN
ENGLISH, JOHN	MORFIT, MICHAEL	YOUNG-SHADIS, TEXAS
ENGLISH, LEILA	MOSTOLLER, PALA	
ENGLISH, MARY	MUNAT, CLARE	
EVARTS, JEREMIAH	NICHOLS, CLARENCE	
EVARTS, KARA	NICHOLS, PAULINE	
EVARTS, PIPPIN	NUTTING, HARRY	
FOSTER, KATE	OGDEN, ANDREA	
FOSTER, RYAN	OGDEN, JOHN	
GOUGER, MARY	OGDEN, KATHARINE	

# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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## TOWN OF LANDGROVE Warning 2016 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, 29th 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 |
| Select Board Member           | 3 year term |
| Auditor                       | 3 year term |
| Auditor                       | 1 year term |
| Lister                        | 3 year term |
| Cemetery Commissioner         | 5 year term |
| Collector of Delinquent Taxes | 1 year term |
| Grand Juror                   | 1 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 whether the Town will appropriate \$10,000 to hire the Winhall Police for enforcement of traffic ordinances.
- ARTICLE 6: To see whether the Town will appropriate \$1,000 for the Flood Brook Athletic Association, as petitioned<sup>1</sup>.
- ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will authorize its Select Board to apply any surplus or unanticipated funds towards the proposed budget.
- ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to pay its taxes on real and personal property on or before October 1, 2016.

## TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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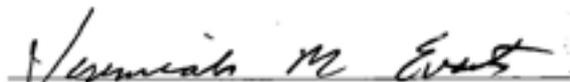
ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise the budgeted monies necessary to pay Town expenses and obligations for the 2016 year.

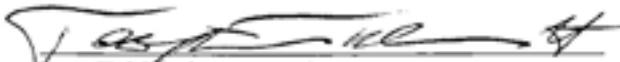
ARTICLE 10: To transact any other non-binding business proper to come before said meeting, not acted upon in the preceding articles.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will agree to meet in 2017 on the first Monday (March 6th) before the first Tuesday in March at 6pm for the annual Town Meeting.

Dated January 28, 2016

Select Board of Landgrove, Vermont

  
Jeremiah Evarts (chair)

  
Greg Eckhardt

  
John Ogden

<sup>1</sup> Information regarding Flood Brook Athletic Association and this petition is available at the Town Hall and will be available at Town Meeting.

# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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## Town Officers Elected

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>NAMES</b>	<b>TERM EXPIRES</b>
Moderator (1 year term)	Claudia Harris	2016
Town Clerk (1 year term)	Chrystal Cleary	2016
Town Treasurer (1 year term)	Andrea Ogden	2016
Select Board (3 year term)	John Ogden	2016
	Jeremiah Evarts	2017
	Greg Eckhardt	2018
Board of Auditors (3 year term)	Mary Gouger	2016
	vacant	2017
	Anne McClaran	2018
Board of Listers (3 year term)	Chuck Sweetman	2016
	Mary Gouger	2017
	Jerald Hassett	2018
Board of Cemetery Commissioners (5 year term)	Clarence Nichols	2016
	May Bigelow	2017
	Andy Torre	2018
	Lynn Eckhardt	2019
	John English	2020
Collector of Delinquent Taxes (1 year term)	Andrea Ogden <i>appointed Sept. 2015</i>	2016
Grand Juror (1 year term)	Claudia Harris	2016
Town Agent (1 year term)	John Hadden	2016
Constable (1 year term)	John Wiley	2016
Trustees of Public Fund (3 year term)	Dick Adams	2016
	Andrea Ogden	2017
	Sarah Waite	2018
MTN TOWN RED Director (3 year term)	Jeff Cleary	2018

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## Justices of the Peace

Anne McClaran, Clare Munat, Charles Sweetman, Robert Waite,  
and Chrystyna Young

# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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## Town Officers Appointed by Select Board

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>3 YEAR TERM EXPIRES</b>
Zoning Administrator	John LaVecchia	2016
Planning Commission (includes ZA)	Malcolm McNair (chair)	2017
	Harry Lux	2016
	Mary English	2016
	Jerald Hassett	2017
	Leigh Adams	2017
	Chrystyna Young	2018
	Chuck Sweetman	2018
	Michael Mole	2018
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	Priscilla Grayson	2018
	Anne McClaran	2019
		<b>One Year Term</b>
Town Service Officer	Chair, Select Board	2016
Emergency Management	John Ogden	2016
Forest Fire Warden	Karl T. Pfister	2016
Asst. Fire Warden	Jeremiah Evarts	2016
Road Commissioner	Steve Hall	2016
Assistant Town Treasurer	Sarah Waite	2016
911 Coordinator	John LaVecchia	2016

# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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## Minutes of Town Meeting 2015

Town Meeting March 2, 2015

Landgrove Town Hall, 88 Landgrove Road

Attendance: 37 voters, Esther Fishman (Londonderry SW Group), Chrissy Blaylock (the Collaborative) and Representative Patti Komline

Jeremiah Evarts called the Meeting to order at 6:04pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lynn Eckhardt, then Chrystal Cleary read the checklist.

Esther Fishman went over the transfer station policies and new Universal Recycling Law. Representative Patti Komline discussed some issues in the legislature with regard to property taxes and education, as well as Forest Fragmentation and Energy Bills. She reminded everyone who receives health care thru exchange to file a 1095 form. Chrissy Blaylock from the Collaborative distributed the annual survey- Collab runs after school program, substance abuse education, smoking cessation classes, discussion nights, activities for families.

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator for the ensuing year. The Clerk cast one ballot for Claudia Harris- Nominated by Clare Munat, Jerry seconded the nomination. The article passed unanimously. We thanked Clare for 20 years of service as moderator! Claudia went over a few rules.

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

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Nominated, Seconded</b>
Town Clerk	1 year	Chrystal Cleary	May Bigelow, Seth Bigelow
Town Treasurer	1 year	Andrea Ogden	Sally Waite, Barbara Usher
Selectman	3 years	Greg Eckhardt	Clare Munat, Lynn Eckhardt
Auditor	3 years	Anne McClaran	Chrystyna Young, Seth Bigelow
Lister	3 years	Jerald Hassett	Chuck Sweetman, Jeremiah Evarts
Cem. Commiss.	5 years	John English	Clarence Nichols, May Bigelow
Coll. Del. Taxes	1 year	Sarah Waite	Andrea Ogden, Dalen Cole
Grand Juror	1 year	Claudia Harris	John Wiley, Sally Waite
Town Agent	1 year	John Hadden	Chrystyna Young , Melva Bigelow
Constable	1 year	John Wiley	Sally Waite, John Ogden
Trustee Pub. Funds	3 years	Sarah Waite	Dalen Cole, Anne McClaran
MT Town RED	3 years	Jeff Cleary	Jeremiah Evarts, Chrystyna Young

ARTICLE 3: To hear the reports of Town Officers and take proper action on the Auditors' report. Moved by Melva Bigelow, seconded by Chrystyna Young

Discussion - Jeremiah briefly summarized some town actions: flagpole, roads, ditching, culverts, staying ahead of problem spots. John urged all to check fuel tanks now to ensure delivery while roads are frozen- roads will be posted March 15- May 1st against big trucks in mud season. Motion approved unanimously.

## TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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ARTICLE 4: To see whether the Town will appropriate \$10,000 to the Landgrove New Cemetery Stonewall Project. Moved by Bobby Waite Seconded by Andy Torre. Sally Waite would like to state that the Cemetery wall looks beautiful. Clarence Nichols thanks all for support, got 150 feet done- this year they expect to complete 50 more feet along the road and 70 feet on the west end as well as sourcing Vermont made wrought iron gates, and consulting an environmental engineer about the edge along the river. A letter will go out to solicit donations for the Cemetery improvements in the New Cemetery. Bids are going out, so there will be a final amount for project completion in that letter. Malcolm McNair asked where the money comes from- the answer is the General Fund- it is not in the budget as published, this article adds \$10,000 to the budget for the Cemetery Commission. This \$10,000 will be reflected in next years budget booklet. The motion was approved unanimously.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to apply any surplus or unanticipated funds toward the proposed budget. Moved by Clare Munat, seconded by Sally Waite. The motion is approved unanimously.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to pay its taxes on real and personal property on or before October 1, 2015. Moved by Lynn Eckhardt Seconded by May Bigelow. Motion is approved unanimously.

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. Moved by Seth Bigelow, seconded by Andy Torre. Andrea points out the Roads and Municipal (General Fund) budgets in the Town Report. The motion carries unanimously.

ARTICLE 8: To transact any other non-binding business proper to come before said meeting, not acted upon in the preceding articles. Moved by Lynn Eckhardt, seconded by John Ogden. Will the Town agree to meet in 2016 on the first Monday before the first Tuesday in March (February 29th) at 6pm for the annual Town Meeting? The ayes have it, the motion was passed.

Motion to adjourn Town Meeting, moved by Melva Bigelow, seconded by Jeremiah Evarts.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:37pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Chrystal Cleary, Town Clerk

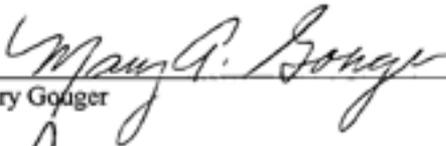
# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

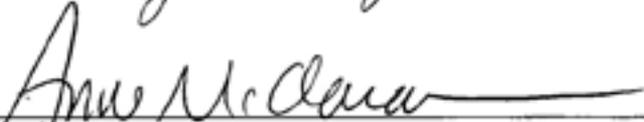
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## Auditors' Report

We, the undersigned auditors of the Town of Landgrove, have reviewed all the books and accounts of the Town of Landgrove on this 21st day of January, 2016.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Gouger

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anne McClaran

## TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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### Current Asset Balance Sheet

	2015	2014	\$ Change
<b>Cemetery Checking</b>	747.19	1,807.10	(1,059.91)
<b>Trustee of Public Funds</b>			
Cemetery Endowment Fund	41,371.60	39,878.68	1,492.92
Conservation Fund	19,086.19	18,843.82	242.37
<b>Town Accounts - Stifel Nicolaus</b>			
Operating Account	1,002,604.60	941,734.12	60,870.48
Reserve Funds			
Cemetery Wall Fund	(1,254.53)	(1,372.48)	117.95
Dog License Account	2,961.32	2,837.70	123.62
Equipment Fund	60,000.00	40,000.00	20,000.00
Listers Fund - Ed	1,416.11	1,030.88	385.23
Listers Fund - Reappraisal	7,870.58	6,118.31	1,752.27
Records Restoration	5,845.98	4,612.98	1,233.00
Town Hall Maint Fund	9,676.57	7,176.57	2,500.00
Total Reserve Funds	86,516.03	60,403.96	26,112.07
Total Town Accounts	1,089,120.63	1,002,138.08	86,982.55
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,150,325.61</b>	<b>1,062,667.68</b>	<b>87,657.93</b>

## TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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### Cash Account Summary

	Income	Expense	Balance
Register Balance as of 1/1/2015			1,002,138.08
Net income	87,973.19		
Change in Payroll Taxes Liability		80.48	
12/31 QB Payroll Liability <sup>1</sup>		910.16	
Register Balance as of 12/31/15			1,089,120.63
Uncleared Checks	3,876.75		
Uncleared Deposits		-	
Bank Balance as of 12/31/2015			1,092,997.38

<sup>1</sup>Quickbooks payroll liability included in 12/31/15, but paychecks were dated 1/1/2016. Direct Deposit Fee of \$7 (in TH Supplies) was included in Cash Account Reconcile, but rest of liability shows in 2016.

### Cash Account Reconciliation Detail

	Income	Expense	Net Income
<b>INCOME</b>			
Copier	631.00		
Current Use	40,654.00		
General Fund	89,294.00		
Grants - State	-		
Green Mountain Forest	2,071.00		
Licenses & Permits	1,445.00		
Recording Income	2,097.00		
Rental of Town Hall	876.00		
Roads Fund	148,230.00		
VT State Highway Aid	34,336.42		
Interest - Operating & Reserve	92.98		
Total Penalty Collected	3,783.40		
Total Reserve Fund Income	49,053.49		
Taxes - Current Year	1,478,688.44		
Taxes - Delinquent & Interest	67,283.77		
Sale of Comfort Forest	86,340.00		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,004,876.50</b>		<b>2,004,876.50</b>

*Cash Account Reconciliation continued on following page.*

## TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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*Cash Account Reconciliation continued from previous page.*

<b>BUDGETED EXPENSE</b>			
General Fund		151,896.53	
Roads Fund		199,176.28	<b>1,653,803.69</b>
<i>For more detail, see GF &amp; Roads Budgets on pages 21 and 24, respectively.</i>			
<b>OTHER EXPENSE</b>			
Civil Union Licenses		145.00	
Education Payments			
MT Towns RED		447,244.00	
State of VT - 2nd FY15		508,830.30	
State of VT - 1st FY16		578,396.00	
Total Education		1,534,470.30	
Flood Mitigation - Leurich Field		550.00	
NSF Fee - Tax payment		20.00	
Paid to Collector		3,783.40	
Shades for Town Hall		4,018.38	
Total Other Expense		1,542,987.08	110,816.61
<b>RESERVED FUND EXPENSE</b>			
Cemetery Wall		22,571.04	
Dogs		272.38	
Listers Ed		-	
Reappraisal		-	
Records Restoration		-	
Town Hall Building		-	
Total Reserved Fund Expense		22,843.42	87,973.19
<b>NET INCOME*</b>			<b>87,973.19</b>

\*Referenced in Cash Account Summary on page 14

# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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## Statement of Taxes Raised

	Education	Municipal	Total
Homestead	1.63	0.22	1.85
Non-Resident	1.53	0.22	1.75
	Tax Rate	Grand List	Total Raised
Non-Resident Education	1.53	767,242.00	1,174,340.61
Homestead Education	1.63	307,351.00	501,320.22
Municipal - Roads	0.14	1,074,593.00	148,186.37
Municipal - GF	0.08	1,074,593.00	89,298.68
Late Homestead Penalty			-
Adjustment to Grand List			(16,443.02)
Prior Year Adjustment			(15,365.00)
		Total Billed	1,881,337.85
		State Payments	(87,103.62)
		<b>Total Raised</b>	<b>1,794,234.23</b>
<b>Received By Treasurer as of 12/31/15</b>			
2015 Taxes	1,714,515.11		
2015 Delinquent Tax	35,912.87		
<b>Total Collected</b>	<b>1,750,427.98</b>		
2015 Taxes Outstanding 12/31/15	46,378.63		
	1,797,543.99		
<b>Tax Income Allocated as of 12/31/15</b>			
Ed - MT Town RED	447,244.00		
Ed - State of VT Ed Fund	1,087,226.03		
Municipal Budget	237,524.00		
<b>Total Allocated</b>	<b>1,771,994.03</b>		

# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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## Statement of Delinquent Taxes Collected

Annual Report of Collector of Delinquent Taxes  
December 31, 2015

	Received for			12/31/2015
Year	Collection	Collections	Abatements	Balance
2013	-	-	-	-
2014	31,464.01	28,392.64	-	3,071.37
2015	82,291.10	35,912.87	-	46,378.63
	113,755.11	64,305.51	-	49,449.60
Total Collections	64,305.51			
Interest Received	2,240.88			
<b>Remitted to Treasurer</b>	<b>66,546.39</b>			

As stated in the Treasurer's Report, I was appointed to the position of Delinquent Tax Collector after Sally Waite resigned in the fall of 2015 after many years of service to the town. There are many resources available to aid in learning procedures, but Sally's support and knowledge-base has been invaluable to me. If anyone is interested in learning more about the position or is considering running for office at Town Meeting, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either me or Sally.

As of 12/31/2015, there are five properties with unpaid taxes from 2014 and/or 2015. Information about which properties are delinquent is public information and is available at the town hall for anyone who is interested.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Ogden  
Collector of Delinquent Taxes

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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 - 2015

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### 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.

<b>Cemetery Wall Fund</b>			
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Balance 1/1/15			(1,372.48)
Donations - 47 donations	22,786.99		
Ogden & Chalmers		22,471.04	
Express Copy		100.00	
Stamps		98.00	
Balance 12/31/15			(1,254.53)

This fund was established in May 2014 for the beautiful stone wall project in the New Cemetery shown on the cover of this report. The fund currently shows a deficit of \$1,254.53. The Cemetery Commission and the Select Board hope voters will again support Article 4 at Town Meeting. The \$10,000 raised by this article will go a long way toward finishing the wall toward the river, and the Cemetery Commission will continue to seek additional private donations. As you can see, members of our greater Landgrove community were extremely generous again this summer. The Commission and the Select Board are confident that this beautiful stone wall will be fully funded and finished in 2016.

<b>Dog License Account</b>			
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Balance 1/1/15			2,837.70
Licenses Issued	396.00		
Cost of Tags		93.38	
State of VT		179.00	
Balance 12/31/15			2,961.32

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 \$9 and for an unaltered

## TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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dog, the charge is \$13. 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.

<b>Equipment Fund</b>			
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Balance 1/1/15			40,000.00
Taxes raised (as voted)	20,000.00		
Balance 12/31/15			60,000.00

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

<b>Reappraisal Fund</b>			
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Balance 1/1/15			6,118.31
State of VT - per parcel	1,752.27		
Balance 12/31/15			7,870.58

The Reappraisal Fund is held in reserve to cover costs associated with a town-wide reappraisal, which last occurred in 2014.

<b>Lister Education</b>			
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Balance 1/1/15			1,030.88
State of VT	385.23		
Balance 12/31/15			1,416.11

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 - 2015

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<b>Records Restoration Fund</b>			
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Balance 1/1/15			4,612.98
Taxes raised (as voted)	1,000.00		
Recording Fees	233.00		
Balance 12/31/15			5,845.98

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. No grand lists were preserved in 2015.

<b>Town Hall Maintenance Fund</b>			
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Balance 1/1/15			7,176.57
Taxes raised (as voted)	2,500.00		
Balance 12/31/15			9,676.57

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, or other improvements not included in the annual maintenance budget. This year, the Select Board opted to use the unallocated reserve fund to purchase new shades for the school room rather than tap this fund.

# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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## General Fund Budget

		2014	2015	2015	2016
		ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
	<b>Income</b>				
1	<b>Raised By Municipal Taxes</b>	<b>87,172.50</b>	<b>89,294.00</b>	<b>89,294.00</b>	<b>91,057.32</b>
2	Copier	500.75	400.00	631.00	500.00
3	Current Use	46,410.00	40,000.00	40,654.00	40,000.00
4	Green Mountain Forest	2,096.00	2,000.00	2,071.00	2,000.00
5	Licenses & Permits	365.00	300.00	1,445.00	300.00
6	Prior Year Surplus/Deficit	-	15,000.00	15,000.00	-
7	Recording Income	3,407.00	2,500.00	2,097.00	2,000.00
8	Rental of Town Hall	701.00	701.00	876.00	750.00
9	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>140,652.25</b>	<b>150,195.00</b>	<b>152,068.00</b>	<b>136,607.32</b>
10	<b>Expense</b>				
11	Community Appropriations				
12	The Collaborative	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00
13	Green Up	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
14	Londonderry Fire Dept.	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
15	Londonderry Rescue Squad	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
16	Mental Health Services	166.00	166.00	166.00	166.00
17	MT Valley Medical Clinic	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
18	Neighborhood Connections	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
19	So. Londonderry Library	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
20	Visiting Nurse Alliance	615.00	615.00	615.00	615.00
21	West River Sports	852.50	745.00	745.00	425.00
22	<b>Total Community Appropriations</b>	<b>12,433.50</b>	<b>12,326.00</b>	<b>12,326.00</b>	<b>12,006.00</b>
23	Town Appropriations				
24	Cem Endowment Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
25	Cem Maintenance	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
26	Cem Wall		10,000.00	10,000.00	
27	Records Restoration Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00

*General Fund Budget continued on following page.*

## TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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		2014	2015	2015	2016
		ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
28	Town Hall Maint. Fund	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
29	<b>Total Town Appropriations</b>	11,000.00	21,000.00	21,000.00	11,000.00
30	Taxes And Assessments				
31	Benn County Reg Comm	1,839.00	1,875.00	1,875.00	1,913.00
32	County Tax	7,427.15	7,500.00	7,524.75	7,530.00
33	Londonderry Land Fill	13,945.85	17,000.00	12,730.59	16,264.32
34	Southwest N.H. Dispatch	7,822.00	8,000.00	8,467.00	8,500.00
35	VT League of Cities & Towns	964.00	994.00	994.00	1,044.00
36	<b>Total Taxes &amp; Assessments</b>	31,998.00	35,369.00	31,591.34	35,251.32
37	Salaries And Stipends				
38	Asst. To The Clerk	-	1,000.00	100.00	1,000.00
39	Listers	6,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
40	Payroll Expenses	2,172.44	2,400.00	2,142.00	2,200.00
41	Road Commissioner	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
42	School Director	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
43	Select Board	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
44	Town Clerk	16,000.08	16,000.00	16,000.06	16,000.00
45	Treasurer	13,999.92	12,000.00	11,999.99	12,000.00
46	Zoning Administrator	2,245.50	3,000.00	2,317.50	4,000.00
47	<b>Total Salaries &amp; Stipends</b>	45,417.94	42,400.00	40,559.55	43,200.00
48	Town Hall & Office				
49	Heat	3,219.97	3,000.00	2,022.21	2,500.00
50	Maintenance	4,405.39	4,000.00	5,194.84	4,500.00
51	Office Supplies	2,942.38	3,000.00	2,751.05	3,000.00
52	Training	245.00	500.00	65.00	250.00
53	Utilities	1,904.01	2,300.00	1,678.66	1,800.00
54	<b>Total Town Hall &amp; Office</b>	12,716.75	12,800.00	11,711.76	12,050.00

*General Fund Budget continued on following page.*

## TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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		<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
		<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
55	Other Expenses				
56	Insurance	2,926.98	3,000.00	3,006.41	3,000.00
57	Legal And Accounting	2,855.45	20,000.00	28,779.79	10,000.00
58	Listers' Expenses	783.59	500.00	545.24	600.00
59	Notices & Warnings	841.32	1,500.00	918.29	1,500.00
60	Tax Mapping	600.00	600.00	600.00	3,000.00
61	Zoning & Planning	133.24	700.00	858.15	5,000.00
62	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>121,706.77</b>	<b>150,195.00</b>	<b>151,896.53</b>	<b>136,607.32</b>
63	<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	18,945.48		171.47	

# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

## Roads Budget

		2014	2015	2015	2016
		ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PROPOSED
	<b>Income</b>				
1	<b>Raised by Municipal Taxes</b>	<b>131,800.00</b>	<b>148,230.00</b>	<b>148,230.00</b>	<b>163,280.00</b>
2	State Highway Aid	34,370.87	34,000.00	34,336.42	34,000.00
3	Prior Year Surplus/Deficit	41,000.00	17,000.00	17,000.00	-
4	Grants	4,000.00	-	-	-
5	Highway Permits	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00
6	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>211,240.87</b>	<b>199,300.00</b>	<b>199,636.42</b>	<b>197,350.00</b>
7	<b>Expense</b>				
8	Equipment Fund	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
9	Gas & Oil	7,456.50	7,500.00	6,989.49	7,500.00
10	Licenses & Insurance	6,478.00	6,200.00	6,462.00	6,500.00
11	Machine Maint. & Repairs	9,003.45	10,000.00	9,898.36	10,000.00
12	Misc	7,730.66	1,000.00	836.31	1,000.00
13	Rent & Electric	1,111.79	1,100.00	1,063.33	1,100.00
14	Training	-	500.00	-	250.00
15	<b>Total General</b>	<b>51,780.40</b>	<b>46,300.00</b>	<b>45,249.49</b>	<b>46,350.00</b>
16	<b>Summer Roads</b>				
17	Chloride	2,498.52	4,000.00	2,872.57	3,000.00
18	Culverts	12,509.45	15,000.00	4,834.50	15,000.00
19	Ditches	33,956.94	15,000.00	18,090.00	15,000.00
20	Grading	6,987.50	10,000.00	6,331.00	10,000.00
21	Resurfacing (Gravel)	3,130.00	15,000.00	32,543.50	15,000.00
22	Roadside Mowing	5,950.00	6,000.00	5,950.00	6,000.00
23	Storm Repair	900.00	4,500.00	1,785.00	4,500.00
24	<b>Total Summer</b>	<b>65,932.41</b>	<b>69,500.00</b>	<b>72,406.57</b>	<b>68,500.00</b>

Roads Budget continued on following page.

## TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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		<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
		<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>PROPOSED</b>
25	<b>Winter Roads</b>				
26	De-Icer	7,638.68	9,000.00	8,628.40	9,000.00
27	Plowing & Sanding				
28	Labor	25,084.50	25,000.00	23,602.00	25,000.00
29	Machine Rental	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,159.00	9,000.00
30	Sand	32,788.00	35,000.00	37,548.32	35,000.00
31	Storm Repair	1,850.00	5,500.00	2,582.50	4,500.00
32	<b>Total Winter</b>	76,361.18	83,500.00	81,520.22	82,500.00
33	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>194,073.99</b>	<b>199,300.00</b>	<b>199,176.28</b>	<b>197,350.00</b>
34	<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>17,166.88</b>		<b>460.14</b>	

# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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## Select Board/Road Commissioner Report

We continue to look for an appropriate location for our town garage/shed for storage of your winter salted sand and protection of our road maintenance equipment. We looked closely at a property on Nichols Road which unfortunately after a state and private investigation was found to be too small to build an adequate municipal garage site. We will continue to seek approval to build and improve the current Leurich field location.

The Select Board completed the sale of the last non-strategic town property Comfort Forest and has currently earmarked the proceeds to be put towards the Leurich field location.

The Select Board would like to thank the Board of Listers for their tireless work on the two tax appeals we had this past year (one was settled, one has carried over to this year). The Town of Landgrove underwent a complete reappraisal in the spring of 2014 with the assistance from an independent consulting firm called NEMRC. The Select Board will continue to support the Board of Listers valuations of our residential properties. We are disappointed that these appeals came up after an enormous amount of hard work and expense.

The Select Board recently took a further step forward in upgrading our office technology with a contract with CAI Technologies. CAI Technologies will complete a digital conversion of our tax maps. The clerks report goes into greater detail on the new digital tax maps.

We had no large equipment purchases this year. 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 this coming summer on road and bridge resurfacing projects along with our yearly road ditching program. Also, we are continuing the search for an appropriate location in Landgrove for an equipment and sand shed.

The Select Board has received many comments from concerned residents on the speeds drivers are driving in town (all parts of the town). At this year's town meeting the Select Board will bring up the question whether the town should contract the Winhall Police Department to enforce our speed limits and stop signs.

We continue to support the Landgrove Cemetery stone wall project and look forward to seeing further progress this coming summer.

### 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](http://landgrove.vermont.gov).

# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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## Cemetery Commission

We are pleased to report that the funding from voters and donors has allowed us to continue work on our stone wall project. The Company of Ogden & Chalmers, with builder Luke Bonang, completed the wall along the road and constructed a Galloway Dyke style wall on the western side down to the main gate. A small portion of the eastern wall was built to define the northwest corner of the cemetery. Some of the large boulders were placed to provide seating for visitors and barriers for vehicles. The work area was smoothed over and re-seeded to reduce a construction site type appearance. As funding becomes available, we plan to complete work at the entrance and construct a 300 foot Galloway Dyke wall on the eastern side. John and Andrea Ogden have given permission to build the wall on the outside of the existing chain link fence which abuts some of the burial sites. The Galloway Dyke wall uses more random shaped and fewer stones, as well as less time to construct. We have a large supply of stones on site, however more funding is required. Thank you for your consideration of Article 4 at this year's Town Meeting.

The cemetery commission and the Historical Society joined together to clean headstones at the older cemetery. This project, organized by Lynn Eckhardt, was well attended and is being planned for next year.

Our sexton, Ed Johnson, has retired. Ed and his family groomed our cemeteries for many years and we thank him for his valuable service. Many people have given us compliments about the first class condition of our cemeteries and we will miss his expertise.

There were six interments this year:

- Thomas Dibble Sr.
- Alice Dibble
- Harriet Gamper
- Raymond Winkler
- Elizabeth Love Corroon
- Ludwig Zuber

Respectfully submitted for the cemetery commission,

Clarence Nichols

Cemetery Commissioners: May Bigelow, Lynn Eckhardt, John English, Andy Torre, Clarence Nichols

Honorary Commissioner: Monk Ogden

## TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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<b>Cemetery Operating Account - People's Bank</b>			
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Balance 1/1/15			1,807.10
Taxes Raised (as voted)	6,500.00		
Donations	-		
Plot Sales	-		
Plot Sales - Recording Fee		-	
Plots Sales - Endowment		-	
Grounds Maintenance		7,510.13	
Veterans' Flags		49.78	
Bank & Reg. Balance 12/31/15			747.19

### Clerk's Report

Technology has been the theme for the Clerk's Office over the past year as we move to enhance accessibility to services for Landgroviens, given our limited office hours, via an online map/parcel management program and the State's new Vermont Elections Management Software (VEMS).

You can now register to vote, request an absentee ballot, view sample ballots and election-day info such as polling hours as well as update your contact info from a link on the town website [landgrove.vermont.gov](http://landgrove.vermont.gov) Your Clerk has attended a three day training on the new Election Management program, and I'm really excited about how streamlined the features of this system will make all the pre- and post-election work for me. There is a lot that goes on for your Board of Civil Authority to administer elections, man the polls, count ballots and report results. With the presidential primary March 1st, State primaries in August, and the General Election in November, 2016 will be a busy year! Consider volunteering for an hour or two at the check-in/check-out table for one of the elections- it helps share the load, serves your fellow citizens and gets you out to see the neighbors. Talk to me if you are interested or browse your way to the My Voter Page link <https://mvp.sec.state.vt.us> and check off "Interested in helping at the polls"

The Town Map management program is something we have researched the last few months. I became aware of it at the annual Clerks Training seminar that I attended in Killington this summer and the Selectboard invited the owner of the company CAI-TECH (who already produces our large paper maps) to come demonstrate the system at a Selectboard meeting this past fall. This

## TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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program will put our parcel maps online in the cloud where we can access them anytime and not have to wait for the office to be open. The system interfaces with the Listers' CAMA and NEMRC systems so as those are updated, the info will update in the Town Maps as well. Overlays for Zoning maps, FEMA flood maps (which just updated this year as well), and photographic maps such as Google Earth can be switched on under the parcel boundaries. Most importantly, when a parcel is selected the user can print out a copy of the map, or the Lister card with the public parcel information, or select abutters and print the mailing addresses to notify them of planned construction, for example. At the moment, this procedure requires that a person come in during office hours and utilize several indexed binders, 7 large paper maps and a cabinet full of lister files to gather the info and make copies, requiring the assistance of the Clerk for around 20 minutes per request. Requests for info that could be handled by the Town Map system come in at a consistent clip of about 3 a week during office hours.

The cost for the Map system is not cheap, but few quality things are, so I took the step of contacting other clerks in similarly small towns (Weston and Pawlet use the same system) to see if they felt it was worth it, if they used it often, if it saved work and if the townspeople found it helpful- responses from both towns were completely positive. It does provide significant value in terms of access to public information for landowners and their contractors, as well as freeing the Clerk to accomplish more work at other responsibilities during office hours, additionally the system is well-crafted, easy to use and reliably hosted in the cloud with all maintenance handled by CAI-TECH. Ease of access to your parcel info should also enable maintenance of the greatest accuracy of the information- Mary Gouger and I went through all the maps with a fine toothed comb to ensure that all parcels are aligned with NEMRC this fall and corrected many tax map inconsistencies that have probably been there for a long time.

When the system is up, an intro night will be held for everyone who'd like to see and learn their way around the interface.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve the Town of Landgrove as Clerk. See you all at Town Hall!

# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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## Landgrove Community Club



*Every day is Green Up Day for Tony Wood! Thank you to all our garbage hounds as well!*



*For goat's sake, everyone is welcome in the Landgrove Fourth of July Parade! Thank you to Kass Felion getting her goat to join us!*



*Town Meeting 2015 was an incredible potluck supper!*

### **Yoga Classes Continue!**

Bonnie Bokenkamp's Yoga Classes have returned for the winter to the Town Hall! Classes are taught on Tuesdays from 8:30 until 10am and 5:30 until 7pm. Both classes are open to all levels. For more information, email Bonnie at [bgboke@gmail.com](mailto:bgboke@gmail.com).

# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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## Conservation Commission

**The Pitcher Town Forest** Work that proceeded after the red pine harvest in 2014 included installation of two marble plaques and a trail. The County Road West road entrance has “Pitcher Town Forest” visible from the road. At the north end the “Pitcher Forest” plaque is placed on a large erratic (boulder) near the north boundary wall. A trail forms a loop marked with small red flags. Trail maintenance is minimal at this point and would benefit from use by walkers or snowshoers/skiers.

The Pitcher Town Forest received a one time centennial award that recognized one community in each Vermont county for its town forest conservation work. Our nomination came from the Vermont Department of Forest Parks, Recreation County Foresters in Bennington County.

In September, the Pitcher Town Forest became a certified member of the American Tree Farm System (# Vt. 1674). Its parent organization is the American Forest Foundation (AFF) which provides tools and information to help keep our forests healthy and productive.

**The Comfort Forest** This 14 acre parcel located off Uphill Road was gifted to the town many years ago by Bobby Comfort with approval of her neighbor, Don Bolognese. The only access to it by automobile is via the driveway of Michael and Christine Morfit. The issue of public access as required for town land and proper management became problematic. The Morfits offered to purchase the parcel and the sale was completed in fall of 2015.



*Seth Bigelow and Chrystal Cleary with Centennial Award.*

**The Wendy Evarts Memorial Forest** The Evarts forest is a 20 acre rectangular parcel with “right of way” access from Cody Road. Kyle Mason, Bennington County Forester in collaboration with Seth Bigelow, worked on elements of the 2015 management plan which we expect to be completed in 2016. This plan includes the following:

- 1) Selective clearing to provide a view shed from an area that will have a sitting bench

## TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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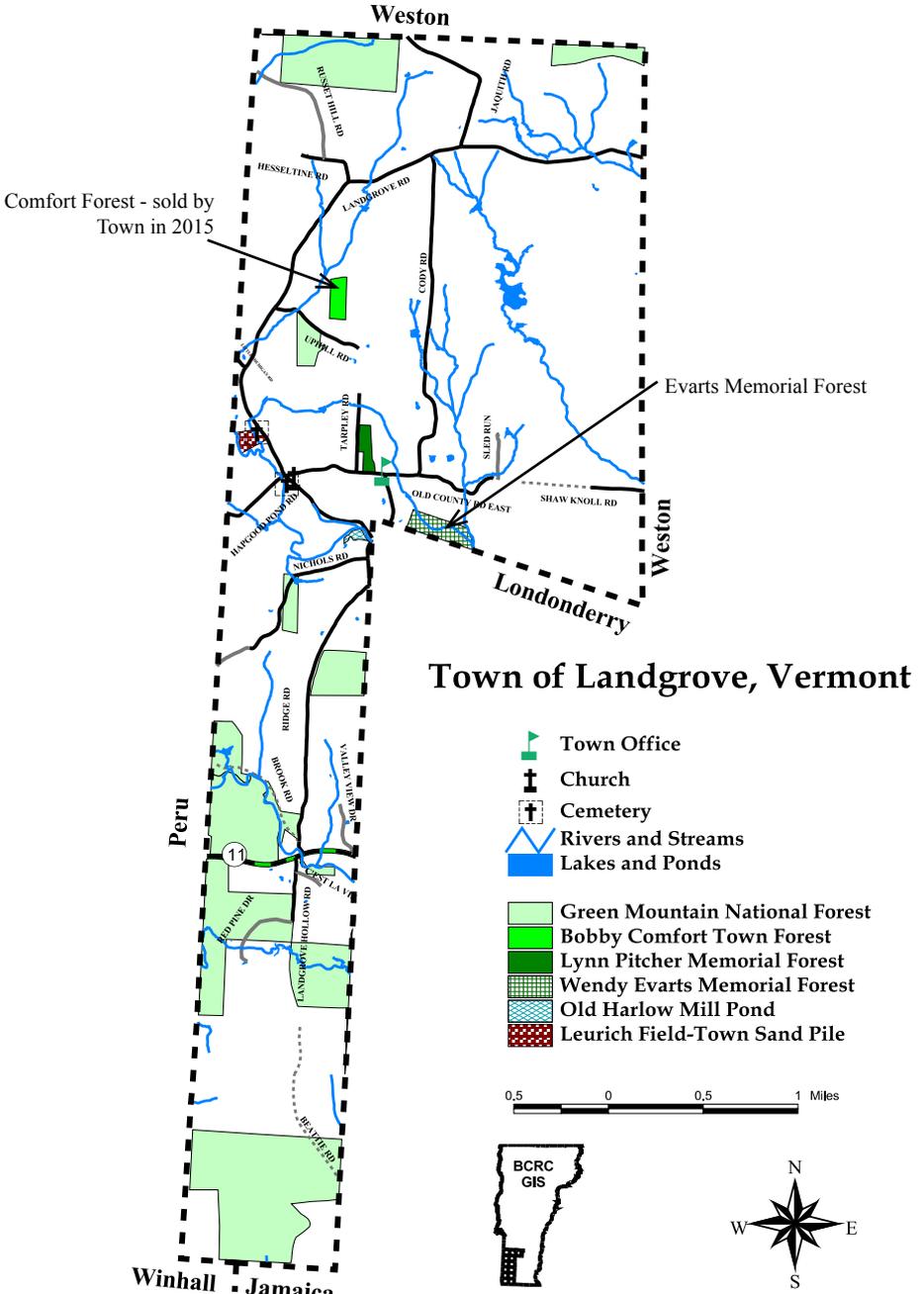
- 2) Creation of a hiking trail
- 3) Creation of a parking area at the entrance of the Forest off the right of way
- 4) A timber harvest of selected trees in the cherry stand to provide a better growth habitat for the remaining cherries, another thinning in 20 years and a clear-cut 20 years after that.

**A Salute to Seth Bigelow** The Conservation Committee feels bereft at the loss of its knowledgeable and tireless leader, Seth Bigelow. He has taken on a challenging new job in Georgia. We wish him well. The Pitcher Forest award is wholly due to his dedication and hard work.

Conservation Committee  
Priscilla Grayson and Anne McClaran

# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

## Map of Town Lands



Comfort Forest - sold by Town in 2015

Everts Memorial Forest

### 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



Map produced January 28, 2016 by BCRC.

# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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## Landgrove Historical Society

**Collections:** Our overall goal, now a work in progress, is to make parts of our collection accessible for members and visitors outside the confines of the LHS office and for research queries inside the office.

- 1) Kerry Howard is reconstructing past exhibits mounted during 2001-2013 in the form one or more large albums. She has been employed part-time and will continue during 2016.
- 2) We plan to create a three ring binder with copies of the Karl Pfister Landgrove Old Photo Collection with their captions to be available to visitors outside the office.
- 3) We are developing a search key to the LOPC to hang on the wall inside the storage room for ease in finding subjects and location of photos.

**Membership:** We currently have 63 members.

### Events During 2015:

- March 28: Pancake breakfast with Anne Hausslein's pancakes and syrup from Rob Hausslein's Sugar Bob's Finest Kind and Jerry Evarts' and Jonathan Bigelow's Landgrove Sugarworks.
- July 4: In partnership with the Landgrove Meeting House and the Vermont Humanities Council and led by David Eckhardt, the audience joined in readings from Frederick Douglas' 1852 address.
- July 12: Exhibit by the Children's Art Club of Landgrove under the direction of Don Bolognese.
- July 24: Coco McCabe spoke in the Town Hall about the work of Oxfam, a global organization working to right the wrongs of poverty, hunger and injustice. She showed slides of her travels in third world countries and Oxfam's work there.
- Aug. 8: In partnership with the Cemetery Commission and with the leadership of Clarence Nichols and Lynn Eckhardt, we cleaned about 1/3 of the headstones in the Old Cemetery. We will continue this project every year.
- Aug. 22: The fourth annual potluck and square dance was held in the Town Hall.

### Board of Directors

May Bigelow, President	David Eckhardt	Sally Ogden
Meg Pennypacker, 1st VP	Craig Hafer	Kathy Snyder
Rob Badger, 2nd VP	Clarence Nichols	Marion Sweetman
Mary Gouger, Treasurer		
Priscilla Grayson, Secretary		

**Advisors:** Jonathan Bigelow, Ann Hausslein, Anne McClaran and Andrea Ogden

# TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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## Listers' Report

This past year has been an interesting year for us.

The listers and the select board had representatives at two different day-long mediation sessions with our lawyer and two property owners (and their lawyers) who have been involved in appeals of the appraisals done as part of the 2014 town wide reappraisal. A number of steps and issues had to be dealt by us and by the select board on these two properties. As of January 2016, one mediation this summer ended in an agreement/ resolution that was recommended by the listers and approved by the select board (final authority). The second property went to mediation this past summer as well and ended without an agreement/resolution. This last property is scheduled to be heard by the court the end of January 2016. The town is represented by legal counsel, an independent appraiser, representatives from the listers and the select board, as well as support from NEMRC, our town wide reappraisal firm. The court has agreed to do a site visit as well.

We also reviewed five construction projects in town this year and adjusted appraisals as appropriate. As of the start of 2016, we have at least three construction projects that are on going. We were also involved with the annual paperwork as a result of current use changes by the state. We continue to keep our computerized CAMA files on each property updated as necessary. Numerous state reports were submitted as required.

The state sent us a report in December 2015 that our certified Equalized Education Property Value effective January 2016 is \$105,827,000. The education grand list is one percent of taxable property. In addition, the state reported that our Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) is 8.31%. The COD, as defined by the state, is a measure of uniformity of appraisal for all properties in the grand list. The state notes that a COD of 10% or less is considered to reflect a relatively high level of equity across taxpayers' assessments.

We continue to appreciate the cooperation we receive on a regular basis from our fellow taxpayers as we perform our mandated responsibilities. Thank you.

Submitted with vigor and respect,

Mary Gouger

Jerry Hassett

Chuck Sweetman

# **TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015**

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## **Treasurer's Report**

I am pleased to report that not one of our homestead tax filers missed the homestead filing deadline of April 15! For those of you that have missed this filing deadline in the past (myself included), you know that there is a healthy penalty associated with this deadline. Meeting the deadline also makes other aspects of the tax billing process easier, so it is a win-win when no one is late.

The fall, Sally Waite stepped down as Delinquent Tax Collector. She has held this challenging position for 27 years and has heard and dealt with it all. In just the few months I have held the position, I have gained a tremendous appreciation for all that Sally has done for the town by holding this position. Thank you, thank you! A new Delinquent Tax Collector is elected every year. If you are at all curious about running for the position, please feel free to ask me or contact Sally with questions.

Regarding the long term goal of incorporating technology into our town services, I am looking forward to implementing the online tax mapping service. I do believe this will be a useful tool for town officers, taxpayers and the public. The more public information that can be available online, the more efficient and accurate our town services will be.

There are not any immediate plans for further improvement to the school room. In 2015, the Select Board adopted a new Town Hall Use Policy which includes a nominal rental fee for use. This summer, use of the building was at an all time high and a system was needed to make sure events didn't conflict.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Ogden

## **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 2015, the interest earned on the principal was over \$700. The trustees agreed to again roll that amount into the principal investment with hopes that in future years 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

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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. A document from Dr. Karl Pfister has recently surfaced indicating that perhaps his intent for this fund going forward was to serve as a Town Trust Fund, rather than as a resource for legal expenses associated with land conservation. Clarifying and writing a clear statement of purpose for this fund is a goal of the Trustees for 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Ogden

Sally Waite

Dick Adams

### PUBLIC FUNDS

<b>Cemetery Endowment Fund</b>			
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Balance 1/1/15			39,878.68
Town Appropriation (as voted)	1,000.00		
Plot Sales	-		
Interest	733.96		
Unrealized Gain/Loss	(241.04)		
Balance 12/31/15			41,371.60

<b>Conservation Fund</b>			
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Balance 1/1/15			18,843.82
Interest	361.89		
Unrealized Gain/Loss	(119.52)		
Balance 12/31/15			19,086.19

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## Zoning & Planning

The following applications were considered in 2015 and permits issued except as noted.

- 1) 15-01 to David Ortiz (Co-Trustee for Barbara Carder Trust) for a sub-division at Old County Road West.
- 2) 15-02 to Joshua and Nicole Wengard to expand and re-model a house at 284 Landgrove Rd.
- 3) 15-03 to Michael Jeffrey for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) under Utleby Flats Scenic Overlay District (UFSOD) to construct an addition to a house at 8 Nichols Rd.
- 4) 15-04 to Peter Maxson to construct a barn at 31 Cody Rd.
- 5) 15-05 to Michael and Christine Morfit to construct a garage at 45 Uphill Rd.
- 6) 15-06 to Andrea and John Ogden for a CUP under UFSOD to construct a pergola at 69 Landgrove Rd.
- 7) 15-07 to Claudia Harris and John Wiley for CUP under UFSOD to construct an addition to a house at 38 Old County Rd. West and remove certain trees.
- 8) 15-08 to Corey and Darcy Cooke to construct a pond at 8 Old County Rd. East.
- 9) 15-09 to Steven Hall to construct an addition to a house at 382 Landgrove Rd.
- 10) 15-10 to Doug Williams to construct an addition to a house at 178 Landgrove Rd.
- 11) 15-11 to Mary E. Bigelow to enlarge a pond at pond at 15 Jaquith Rd.

During the year the Zoning Administrator had conversations with many residents and landowners regarding various questions as to procedures, potential issues and general information.

Respectfully submitted,

John B. LaVecchia, ZA

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### 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 - 2015

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## MOUNTAIN TOWNS RED ANNUAL REPORT

These are challenging but exciting times to be members of Vermont School Boards. Anyone paying attention to VT politics is probably already tired of hearing about Act 46, but probably still wondering what it will mean to our local students and families. Act 46 mandated that VT school districts with less than 900 students complete mergers to form larger consolidated districts. Even as school boards engage in challenging and time consuming conversations about possible consolidation, they are faced with the additional challenge of trying to make sure local budgets do not exceed the “Allowable Growth Rates” that were also included in Act 46. Like boards around the state, the Mountain Town’s RED Board has been engaging all year in dialogue with other school boards in our area while continuing our focus on supporting the administration and staff at Flood Brook School in their efforts to provide the best possible education for our children, and making sure that we do so at a reasonable cost.

### **Act 46 and its Implications**

Act 46 was passed by the VT Legislature last spring and requires that school districts across the state merge into larger districts under the premise that larger districts can provide a broader range of opportunities for students, allow the sharing of valuable resources and allow districts to save money by taking advantage of economies of scale. As board members, we are often asked what we think of Act 46 and our answers will vary, but most of us are in agreement that there will be benefits and there will be drawbacks. What we will all agree on is that there is a lot of work ahead in attempting to figure out just what these benefits and drawbacks are. Act 46 requires districts that have the same structures of school choice within a single supervisory union to merge into a larger district or face the possibility that the VT Board of Education will force the district into a merger of its choosing. In the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union (BRSU) which we are a member of, those similar Districts include Manchester and Dorset. While Danby, Mt. Tabor and Sunderland currently offer school choice in seventh and eighth grade, they are considering giving up that middle-school choice. As a result, the Mountain Town’s RED Board has voted along with those other five towns to form a “Study Committee” under Act 46 to look at the pro’s and con’s of forming a consolidated district and making a recommendation to voters to be voted on in the spring of 2017. If a merger is completed in 2017 and at least four districts, or an adequate number of students are involved, the result will be a new, larger Regional Education District (RED) and there are tax incentives that can be realized by the towns involved.

Mergers under Act 46 are not fundamentally about reducing the number of schools in the State, but about reducing the number of administrative units and making it easier for resources to be shared across schools. Under current law, it is very difficult for schools in different districts to share resources that

## TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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might not always be needed at one school or another. Combining districts would make this much easier. A big change as a result of a merger would be the consolidation of school boards and budgets. There would no longer be a school board for each school as we have now in our region, but a regional board that operates a number of schools with a combined budget. Under the new structure, that board would have the flexibility to allow resources to be shared across schools, as well as having the option to give students school choice among the schools operated by the district. The centralization of budgeting should also help with a longstanding challenge that towns in our area have faced since the passing of Act 60 which is formulaic fluctuation in our per-pupil spending because we pay tuition for secondary students and small fluctuations in numbers tend to have a disproportionate effect.

While there are clearly potential benefits to mergers under Act 46, concerns are often cited that another degree of local control is being taken away, as a larger, regional district would govern our local school. Consolidated budgets would also mean that a single budget would have to be approved by all of the voters in the regional district that would include the operation of all of the schools. As the Act 46 Study Committee begins meeting this winter, it will be challenged to more thoroughly identify and quantify some of the pro's and con's of forming a consolidated district and bringing a recommendation back to our towns early next year. This is an extremely important time for our schools and we on the RED Board highly encourage our residents to stay informed and make sure their voices are heard in the process.

### Budget Discussion

Flood Brook School and our local communities continue to be successful in attracting families to our towns and our schools and we are enjoying the financial benefits of this growth. Since 2014, our official count of "Equalized Pupils" which the State uses to count students has grown by about 52 students or 13%. During that time, our total education spending has grown, but this growth in students has allowed us to keep our per-pupil spending down and it is this amount that is used by the State in determining our local tax rates. The budget proposed for this year includes a per-pupil spending amount that represents a 3.1% decline from last year's amount.

Year	Equalized Pupils	Net Education Spending	Per-Pupil Spending
2014	411	\$6,423,261	\$15,611
2015	439	\$6,678,730	\$15,226
2016	458	\$7,336,566	\$16,012
2017 (proposed)	463	\$7,189,503	\$15,519

Our ability to successfully maintain per-pupil spending at this level can be attributed in part to the growth in students, in part to the efforts of our

## TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015

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administration and Board to operate efficiently and control costs, and in part due to changes that are largely beyond the control of any of us. In particular, the ebb and flow of secondary students in our area has a large effect on year-to-year budgets and we are predicting a decline for the coming year. This has a positive impact on the proposed budget as it allows us to budget for fewer students, while the count of students used by the state is a rolling average that still includes a higher number. In the long run, continuing to attract families to our towns and our schools should have a positive effect, both on keeping our communities vibrant and allowing us to control the costs of educating our children.

In addition to the dropping number of secondary students budgeted for next year, there is a significant decline in expected Special Education costs. This is due in part to the sharing of some extraordinary costs with other schools in the Supervisory Union and in part due to changes in the services required by our students. Flood Brook and our Supervisory Union continue to work hard to keep these costs under control while providing all of our students with the resources they need to be successful.

With the formation of the Mountain Town's RED 4 years ago, our towns received tax incentives from the State that reduced our tax rates and helped control changes over a 4 year period. The 2017 budget year is the final year in which those incentives apply and as a result, from this year forward, our four towns will have the same education tax rate before being adjusted for property values by the "CLA." In 2017, our towns will receive a \$.02 discount on our tax rates in the final year before the incentives offered under Act 153 expire.

As we confront the changes brought on by Act 46 in the next couple years, it is ever more important that all members of the community be informed and lend their voices to the conversations. Strong schools build strong communities. While some neighboring towns and many across VT have faced declining student enrollments in the last several years and these are predicted to continue, our communities continue to belie this trend and grow. Growing our student population helps to control our costs, but more importantly, it keeps our communities vibrant and supports our local economies. While families with young children have been leaving many VT communities, they continue to come to ours and this reflects the value our community places on strong schools and the support that our schools receive. It is a reminder that even though we may not all have students in our schools, the quality of our schools affects us all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jon Mowry, Peru, Board Chair on behalf of the Mountain Town's RED Board  
*Melissa Brown, Londonderry; Charles Cave, Londonderry; Carrie Chalmers, Weston; Jeff Cleary, Landgrove; Wendell Coleman, Londonderry; Rosalind Klezos, Londonderry; Debra Lyneis, Weston*

**TOWN OF LANDGROVE - 2015**

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*Some faces we miss seeing  
around town.*



*Waverley Byrd LaPrade  
1929 - January 28, 2015*



*Elizabeth R. Love  
1959 - November 1, 2014*



*Raymond W. Winkler  
1925 - April 29, 2015*



*Frank Tammera  
1993 - August 23, 2015*

