

.

# **Village of Wells River Annual Report**

*For the year ending 1/31/2022*

Village Meeting Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 7PM

15 Creamery Street Wells River VT 05081

# **Village of Wells River, Vermont**

## **Village Office Hours**

**Monday 8am – 12 noon**

**Wednesday 8am -12 noon**

**Thursday 8am – 12 Noon**

**Or by appointment**



# **Village of Wells River 2022 Annual Report**

## **Table of Contents**

<b>Village Warrant</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
<b>2022 Officers</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Trustees Message</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Treasurers Report</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>Village Financial Statement</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>General Fund Budget</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>Water Dept. Budget</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Water Dept Report</b>	<b>Page 8</b>
<b>Highway Dept</b>	<b>Page 9</b>
<b>Baldwin Library</b>	<b>Page 10</b>
<b>WRAP</b>	<b>Page 11-12</b>
<b>302 CARES</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
<b>Newbury Historical Society</b>	<b>Page 14</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Of July Report</b>	<b>Page 15</b>
<b>2022 Village Minutes</b>	<b>Page 16-19</b>

Warning  
Annual Village Meeting  
April 18, 2023

The legal voters of the Village of Wells River are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Village Garage/Office at 15 Creamery Street, Tuesday April 18,2023 at 7:00 p.m. to transact the following business by floor vote.

Article 1: To elect Village officers by floor vote:

- One Village President for a two year term
- Three Village Auditors for a one year term
- One BMU School Board member for a three year term
- One Trustee for a three year term
- One Trustee for a two year term
- One Village clerk, treasurer and tax collector for a two year term
- Two Baldwin Memorial Trustees for a three year term

Article 2: To hear and dispose of Village Reports


Article 3: To see if the Village will authorize the Trustees to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

Article 4: To see if the Village will vote to collect taxes as follows:

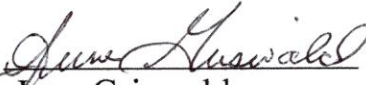
- ½ payable by September 20,2023 & ½ payable by November 20,2023
- and set interest rate: 1% per month for first 3 months and 1 & ½ thereafter
- Delinquent Penalty of 8% after November 20,2023

Article 5: Shall the voters of the Village of Wells River raise and appropriate the sum of \$328,850.00 for the operating budget for the Village for the 2023-2024 fiscal year

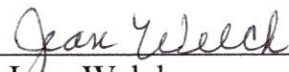
Approved and adopted at a meeting of the Trustees of the Village of Wells River duly called, noticed and held March 16,2023.



Brian Emerson

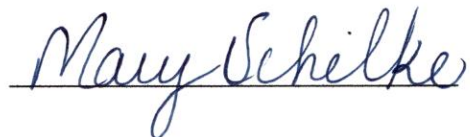


June Griswold



Jean Welch

Received for record this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023 by



Mary Schilke  
Village Clerk

## **Warrant**

### **2022 Village Offices**

Village Clerk	Mary Schilke
Village Treasurer	Mary Schilke
Village Tax Collector	Mary Schilke
Trustee Chair	Brian Emerson
Trustee	June Griswold
Trustee	Jean Welch
Auditors (elected)	Lyndia Melchin
	Jeff Morin
Budget Committee	Don Waterman
	Jason Winchester
Animal Control Officer	Glen Godfrey
Charter Committee	Brian Emerson
	Chip Conquest
	Richard Roderick
Fire Chief	Jeff Morin
Highway Foreman	Shannon Young
Water Department	Jeff Morin

## Wells River Village Trustee Report

2022 has been another trying year with so many rules and regulations that most of us aren't familiar with and that we are trying to update. Sadly, Brian Emerson has decided to step down after the annual Village meeting this year and June Griswold has decided not to run for reelection, this will leave 2 open Trustee positions. Chip Conquest has thrown his hat in the rink for Brian's position.

Once again a BIG,BIG thank you goes to Mary Collins for her countless hours helping Mary Schilke with the new accounting system. We also would like to thank Mary Schilke for taking classes and working extra hours trying to keep the Trustees up to date on everything. Mary keeps our website (wellsrivervillage.org) updated with lots of info pertaining to the Village - like when Trustee meeting are (the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday's of the month at 4p.m.) and then she posts the agendas and minutes of these meetings. Thank you, Mary.

In addition, the following actions are being worked on:

**Village Charter** -The trustees have been working to update procedures and policies and have appointed a committee to update the Village Charter, which hasn't been updated since 1937. The updated copy of the Charter is on the website and will be voted on at the annual meeting. If you don't have access to a computer, you can pick up a copy at the Village office.

**Budget** – A budget committee was formed last year to try to get our budgets under control and hopefully save the taxpayers some money. The budget committee has been meeting after the Trustees meetings this year and still working to get our budget down.

**ARPA GRANT** -. The Village received ARPA (America Recovery Plan Act) grant money . The Trustees held a meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Wells River Congregational Church to get community input on how to spend this money.

\$5000 was slated to upgrade office technology.

\$10,000 to bring the Cross Vt Trail into the Village

\$20,000 to upgrade the playground in Berry Field

\$5000 to Baldwin Library - \$2000 to Peggy Hewes and \$3000 for library upgrades

**Revolving Grant** – The trustees have established a committee to work on a long unused grant, that can be offered to help small businesses in the village more news to be forth coming.

**Audit**- A copy of the final audit is on the website and if you don't have access to a computer, you can pick up a copy at the Village office.

The Village lost longtime residents George Jasmine and Carmen Jordan this year.

Please note the current board is dedicated to transparency and lowering your tax rates.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trustees,

Brian Emerson    June Griswold    Jean Welch

## **Wells River Village Clerk/Treasurer/Tax Collector Report**

Hello Village Residents,

2022 has been a busy year with lots going on, a website has been created and launched to keep the residents of Wells River current on all happenings. minutes, water reports etc. can all be found there. Please take a moment to log in using the QR code shown on the inside cover.

The financial audit by Sullivan & Powers was completed and can be read online, some of the suggestions they recommended to implement have been addressed, here are a few:

- A. A new accounting software called NEMRC has been purchased and put into use within the office. This tool keeps detailed and accurate reports of all funds.
- B. All financial transaction must be approved on a warrant with 2 trustee signatures. This warrant lists all check/eft transactions written and will ensure there are no financial actions taken without their knowledge.
- C. The General Fund and Highway Funds will now be consolidated under a General Fund.

Based on these new systems in place and the switch to subcontracted positions as voted on last year at the annual Village meeting, we have once again lowered the projected budgets for 2024 which will in turn lower your tax rate.

Regarding delinquent taxes, due to the Covid mandate issued by the state of Vermont my hands were tied to have a tax sale, this has now been lifted and it is my plan to retain a lawyer and move through the process of cleaning up the past due amounts. It is important to note that it is required that once this procedure is started all delinquent amounts will go to the sale. It is estimated we have approximately \$ 76,000 of delinquencies and a list is available in my office should you want to see the actual names of those in arrears.

If you are in need of assistance, I recommend you go to the VHAP website there is financial aid available with generous income guidelines.

Please note if you need assistance during non-office hours, I'm happy to meet by appointment.

Regards,

Mary Schilke

Wells River Village Clerk, Treasurer & Tax Collector



Village of Wells River  
P.O. Box 737  
Wells River, Vermont 05081  
802-757-3401

2022 Audit

Auditors Jeff Morin and Lyndia Melchin have audited the  
General Fund Accounts of Wells River Village and found all to  
be in order .

Lyndia Melchin  
Lyndia Melchin

3/14/23  
Date

Jeff Morin  
Jeff Morin

3/15/2023  
Date



## Treasurers Report Fiscal Year Ending 1/31/2023

### General Fund

Beginning Fund Balance		\$213,693.65
Revenue	\$884,636.51	
Expenses	*655,350.29	
Net Gain (Loss)	\$229,286.22	
Fund Balance 01/31/2023		<b>\$442,979.87</b>

### Water Fund

Beginning Fund Balance		\$164,420.23
Revenue	\$168,721.28	
Expenses	158,246.48	
Net Gain (Loss)	10,474.80	
Fund Balance 01/31/2023		<b>\$174,895.03</b>

### ARPA Fund

Beginning Fund Balance		\$ 57,242.73
Revenue	\$ 57,271.33	
Expenses	72,126.76	
Net Gain (Loss)	(14,855.43)	
Fund Balance 01/31/2023		<b>\$ 42,387.30</b>

### Water Revolving Loan Fund

Beginning Fund Balance		\$131055.73
Expenses	\$10,018.81	
Fund Balance 1/31/2023		<b>\$123,536.92</b>

### Other Fund Balances

Revolving Loan Fund		83,434.46
Petunia		5330.87
3 Month CD		8937.36
Truck Saving Account		<u>606.43</u>
Total Other Fund Balances		<b>\$221,846.07</b>

**\*Includes BMU tax Payment of \$365,799.98**

**Village of Wells River  
General Fund**

	Budget 2022	Actual 2022-23	Budget 2023
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b><u>General Fund</u></b>			
Payroll	\$ 15,000	\$ 22,065	\$ 21,300
	\$	\$	\$
FICA expense	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,688	\$ 1,700
IRS Penalties PR	\$ 0	\$ 8,501	\$ 500
Education/	\$ 250	\$ 58	\$ 250
Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 100
Supplies	\$ 8,000	\$ 1,719	\$ 2,000
Telephone/internet	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,750	\$ 2,000
Utilities oil/electricity/phone	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,755	\$ 6,000
Office Equipment	\$ 0	\$ 2,272	\$ 750
Repairs/Maint	\$ 3,500	\$ 912	\$ 3,500
Rubbish	\$ 500	\$ 670	\$ 400
Software/yearly program fees	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,493	\$ 5,000
Election Expenses	\$ 500	\$ 245	\$ 500
Library	\$ 20,600	\$ 20,600	\$ 20,600
Berry field	\$ 500	\$ 0	\$ 500
Wrap Approp	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
July 4th	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 300
Dues	\$ 250	\$ 1,632	\$ 1,000
Insurance	\$ 30,000	\$ 8,144	\$ 10,000
Legal	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,871	\$ 3,000
Audit	\$ 20,000	\$ 16,393	\$ 500
Police	\$ 0	\$ 4,254	\$ 0
Misc.flowers/gifts	\$ 500	\$ 863	\$ 1,000
Advertising	\$ 500	\$ 582	\$ 1,000
Trustee stipend	\$ 6600	\$ *	\$ *
<b><u>Highway</u></b>			
Payroll	\$ 52,000	\$ 32,895	\$ 0
FICA expense	\$ 16,000	\$ 2,516	\$ 0
Medical	\$ 10,068	\$ 3,550	\$ 0
Retirement	\$ 16,000	\$ 10,250	\$ 0
Cell phone	\$ 900	\$ 300	\$ 0
<b>Total Subcont. Fees</b>	\$ 0	\$ 38,441	\$ 107,500
Highway	\$ 125,500	\$	\$ *96800
Street Sweeping	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,295	\$ *1500
Roadside Mowing	\$	\$	\$ *1200
<b><u>Landscape Services</u></b>	\$ 0	\$ 4,249	\$ *8000
Street Lights	\$ 13,000	\$ 9,997	\$ 20,000
Gas/Diesel/Oil	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,774	\$ 1,500
Equipment Repair/maintenan	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,006	\$ 750
Equipment lease	\$ 4,500	\$ 0	\$ 0
Equipment Purchase	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,962	\$ 0
Winter maintenance	\$ 7,000	\$ 6,715	\$ 0
Salt	\$ 15,000	\$ 8,901	\$ 15,000
Paving/ reconstruction	\$ 100,000	\$ 111,866	\$ 100,000
<b>**Highway Tax to Newbury</b>	\$ 37,000	\$ 35,889	\$ 0
Truck payment	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,234	\$ 0
Building Repair	\$ 1,500	\$	\$ 0
Misc.dues/fees	\$ 2,000	\$ 711	\$ 2,000
<b>Budget totals</b>	\$ 432068	\$ 289,550	\$ 328,850

\* incl. in Payroll

\*\*Collected by Newbury

**Village of Wells River  
2023 Water Budget**

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
<b><u>Water Expenses</u></b>			
Electric	\$ 7500	\$ 5135	\$ 6000
Permit to Operate /Service Fees	\$ 900	\$ 3062	\$ 3500
Propane	\$ 3500	\$ 2358	\$ 3000
Schooling and Dues	\$ 300	\$ 560	\$ 750
Repairs and maintenance	\$ 5000	\$ 10116	\$ 30,000
Water Supplies	\$ 4500	\$ 2162	\$ 4500
Water test	\$ 2000	\$ 2559	\$ 3000
Bond payment	\$ *30000	\$	\$ 15000
Software	\$	4445	500
mileage	\$	\$ 177	\$ 500
advertising	\$	\$ 96	\$ 200
<b><u>Sewer Expenses</u></b>	\$	\$	\$
Repairs and maintenance	\$ 9500	\$ 14759	\$ 15000
Sewer Supplies	\$ 1000	\$ 5027	\$ 2500
Sewer to woodsville	\$ 45000	\$ 63141	\$ 60000
sewer electric	\$ 4000	\$ 1931	\$ 2500
sewer Phone	\$ 600	\$ 553	\$ 600
sewer legal fees	\$ 500	\$ 645	\$ 800
 <b><u>Payroll</u></b>	 \$ 25000	 \$	 \$
Clerk		2057	2500
Operator		23662	20000
Subcontracted		3519	6000
Payroll taxes	\$ <u>1000</u>	\$ <u>1968</u>	\$ <u>2000</u>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 140300</b>	<b>\$ 158702</b>	<b>\$ 178850</b>
 <b>*USDA Bond</b>	 \$	 \$ 10019	
<b>State Bond</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 449</b>	

\*paid from WRLF

## VILLAGE OF WELLS RIVER WATER & WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT

The water department has been working on compliance issues with the State of Vermont Water Division. Several items were noted as issues and have been corrected since the last report.

There are still some issues with the new filter system that was installed a few years ago and those are also being worked on at this writing.

The new reservoir is due for an inspection in 2023 and we are hoping to have this completed when warm weather returns in late spring. M & K Divers will do either a Remote viewing with a remote controlled camera or an actual live dive into the tank. This company takes great care in ensuring that there are no contaminants on their equipment or personnel.

The State wants the Village to make a plan to replace the water line from the reservoir all the way to the end of the system. This will be a huge undertaking and cost many, many dollars. We are in hopes that there will be some low cost loans or grants available to help us get this job done. They also want the low pressure on the Bible section of our system repaired. This was abandoned during the original work of a few years ago due to cost restrictions. We only have a few connections on this line and are working on a solution for this.

We had two water leaks this past year. One was at the Village office which was a small leak but needed to be dug and the line replaced into the building. The other was a substantial leak across from the Chevy dealership. This leak ended up being an old water service that apparently use to go to the Sunoco Station (Chat-n-Chew)(Now the Welcome Center) It seems that when this building was razed many years ago they only shut off the water at the end of the line. The shutoff was located 3-1/2 feet under the parking lot surface and still turned on. We shut off the main line and removed the tap from the main and installed a plug to correct the problem. This leak was approximately 10 thousand gallons per day.

## WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT

The pump station on Railroad St. had several issues that were addressed this last year. The gallonage meter was not working correctly was checked and we attempted to calibrate but it needed to be replaced with a new meter.

There was an issue with the floats that control the pumps that was identified. We had the float system replaced with a much newer and easily repaired system.

One of the pumps seemed to not be pumping so we had AAA pump service of Manchester, NH come to address the issue. They corrected the problem and got the pump back working well again. They recommended to have the other pump rebuilt in 2023 as the impeller was becoming worn.

One other issue was on Schaffer Hill near the Waterman residence. Their wastewater didn't seem to be flowing properly from the home. We had the system checked and it seemed to be their problem, but with further investigation it was determined that the issue was under the roadway. During the water line replacement project their line was apparently dislodged from the sewer main causing a partial clog.

The roadway was dug, and the line followed back to the main sewer line finding this issue. The line was cleaned and repaired back to their property line and the problem was resolved.

2024 will hopefully see some of the lines checked and pressure washed to make sure all is flowing correctly.

Sincerely

Jeffrey Morin

Part Time Operator

## **Highway Report**

I'd like to introduce myself to all of you, my name is Shannon Young, and I was hired late fall of 2022 to be the new subcontracted Highway Foreman, this kept me busy from the start with cleaning the garage, ditching & cleaning culverts and preparing for the winter season. We added a new security system to the garage to protect village property and the outside of the building. It seemed to work great as we were able to catch footage of the catalytic thieves and share the info with the police! There have been some big learning curves such as learning the weather difference between downtown village weather and top of Bible hill, talk about weather difference wow ! I also had to learn the sidewalk and snow removal best practices.

I'm looking forward to spring and summer months and have hopes to pave and repair Tullar Road, repair culverts, sidewalks, and road signs. Some of you have noticed I removed a portion of the playground, this is because new playground equipment will be coming this Spring (funded by the ARPA Grant & WRAP) for the village children to enjoy, new picnic tables and a net for the tennis court will also be installed.

I have had great help from Bob Beaulieu learning all the different state requirements of the position and we are working towards sharing paving cost to help lower the villages expenses. I'd like to thank both the trustees and Bob Beaulieu for their support and guidance.

In closing I would like to thank you, the Village of Wells River for your support.

Sincerely,

Shannon Young

Youngs Maintenance

## BALDWIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

33 Main St. North, P.O. Box 337, Wells River, VT 05081

802-757-2693 [librarian@baldwinlibraryvt.org](mailto:librarian@baldwinlibraryvt.org)

Monday 10-5, Wednesday 12-6, Friday 12-7

### ANNUAL REPORT – 2022

As I write this, I'm preparing to hand over the reins to your next librarian, Melissa Beaulieu of Ryegate. By the time you read this, hopefully you will have already visited the library and made her welcome. I've had a wonderful 30-year run, and now I join you in looking forward to the new ideas and energy that Melissa will bring to the Baldwin.

Pandemic concerns have persisted in 2022. Although the library has been consistently and fully open, programming was abbreviated. That didn't stop us from enjoying a robust summer of programs in outdoor venues. We hosted two hikes, one with a story component, on Tucker Mountain. Wendy Buhner led us to a vernal pool being monitored by homeschool families and the VT Center for Ecostudies, and Tom Kidder and Susan Culp introduced a new trail to the beaver pond. We also spent time at local lakes. At Ticklenaked Pond, Casey and Clarissa Kendell read from their newly published book *I Appreciate Your Resilience*, with an accompanying craft project, and Ryegate author/artist Jim Arnosky gave a mini-workshop on drawing from nature. At Halls Lake, VT Game Warden Mike Scott introduced us to VT's fur-bearing mammals, and storyteller/author Michael Caduto entertained and educated us with native legends. Finally, per tradition, we hopped on bikes at the end of the summer and pedaled the rail trail to Hatchland for ice cream.

As a library, of course we love to lend books. But we also believe that every child deserves to have his/her own library at home, which is why we grab many opportunities to give away free children's books. We show up at the Wells River Family Picnic Day in June, at the Ryegate Summer Festival, and at the West Newbury Summer Festival with our little red wagon full of new/like-new books for kids. (We also happened to bring MARKO the Magician to the Wells River picnic and Rockin' Ron the Friendly Pirate to S. Ryegate, but hey – it's the books that are important!)

Speaking of books... we're in the middle of VT READS, the state-wide, read-and-discuss program sponsored by the VT Humanities Council. The book chosen for this cycle is *The Most Costly Journey*, a graphic novel illustrated by New England cartoonists. Each chapter tells the story of a Vermont immigrant farmworker in his/her own words. If you haven't already gotten a copy of this book, you can pick one up at the libraries in Wells River and S. Ryegate, one of the local churches, Blue Mountain Grange, or Little Rivers Health Care. And watch for a program announcement coming soon!

Thanks to our volunteers Alicia King, Barbara Zimmer, Jim Marsden, Bill O'Malley, Phyllis Eaborn, Suzannah Nelson, Nessa Flax, Ben Gitchel, Linda Libuda, and others whom I've undoubtedly forgotten to name.

Library Visitors: 3,166 adults, 341 children (67/week)	Reference Questions: 136
New Members: 45 adults, 25 children	Computer Use: 314
Home Deliveries: 103	Interlibrary Loans Supplied: 60
Curbside Loans: 16	Interlibrary Loans Received: 569
Total Circulation: 4,418 (85/week) (Not recorded: # of free audiobook/e-book downloads)	

Library Trustees: Karen Kreis (Chair), Sandy Parker, Kim Goody, Ann Fredella, Chip Conquest, Chris Buhner  
Respectfully submitted, Peggy Hewes, Librarian

**WRAP**  
**WELLS RIVER ACTION PROGRAM**  
**Post Office Box 538**  
**Wells River, Vermont 05081**

President – Kelsey Root-Winchester  
Vice President – Lyndia Melchin  
Secretary – Lauren Nelson  
Treasurer – Connie Philleo  
[wrapwr@gmail.com](mailto:wrapwr@gmail.com)

Greetings!. In the year 2022, during the continued the pandemic, we have stayed true to our mission, which is “The mission of WRAP is to enhance the quality of life in Wells River Village and its immediately surrounding villages and towns by promoting affordable and accessible housing, supporting and developing business and economic development, preserving the rural and historic character and ambiance of Wells River Village and establishing avenues of cooperation with other organizations and governmental agencies”. WRAP is now on [facebook.com/WRAPVT](https://www.facebook.com/WRAPVT)

**Housing** - The renovations of the 29 Wells River Historic Housing apartments (formerly the WRAP Apartments) now owned by Evernorth (formerly Housing Vermont) that began in Spring 2021 finished. Under a partnership agreement WRAP sends a liaison to the Evernorth Development Team meetings to keep up on the construction progress and to provide assistance or offer suggestions as appropriate. WRAP continues its role as a link between Evernorth, EP Property Management Corp, and the Wells River community. The Baldwin Block received a new roof and the exterior was painted. Of the 29 units most have receive new stoves and refrigerators. In the spring the final exterior work, landscaping work and last minute interior work was completed on all 5 buildings.

**Annual Meeting** – The 2022 Annual meeting was held again by zoom on February 6th, 2022. The guest speakers were Lorenzo Wilhite the new President and CEO at Wells River Savings Bank and Kim Russell, a SASH Coordinator at Rural Edge, a housing and community development corporation.

**WRAP Up** - Volume 17, Issues 1 and 2 of the WRAP Up were published in May and November of 2022. The newsletters were hand-delivered to the apartments and businesses in Wells River and were mailed to Wells River property owners through the generosity of Wells River Savings Bank. The WRAP Up provides on going information about WRAP’s programs as well as Wells River community and business news. It couldn’t be published without all the volunteer writers, photographers, and the production and distribution crew.

**Flower Barrels and Holiday Lights** - During the spring, summer and fall, bright flowers graced the village with a variety of colors. Holiday trees and lights brightened the village during the winter season. All flowers, barrels and trees were purchased locally. WRAP added a few more barrels this year to fill in some gaps.

**Rowe Community Garden** - The eleventh season of the garden was successful. This year five gardeners tended seven plots at the Rowe Garden and with generous donations of manure and fencing the gardeners were able to supply three different food shelves – the Virginia Onorato Emergency Food Shelf at the Congregational Church, Little Rivers Health Care and the Baldwin Memorial Library, with a variety of fresh veggies. Collections for Share the Harvest at the Baldwin Memorial Library filled the rolling cooler (donated by Newbury United) nearly every week from June to October. There will FREE garden plots available in April 2023. Contact Janis Moore at 802 376 6044.

**Welcome Center** – We welcomed 1787 visitors this year. We had visitors from 43 states. Missing states are Alaska, Arkansas, Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota, Utah and West Virginia. International travelers came from Belgium, Denmark, Australia, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Germany, Israel and 26 Canadians. Thank you, to all the volunteers that keep the doors open on Memorial Day weekend and then from Father's Day Weekend in June to Indigenous Peoples Day in October. And thank you to the Village of Wells River for support in providing water, insurance, lawn mowing and spring opening and fall close-up. This year as several volunteers from 2021 were not able to volunteer several new greeters had to be recruited. If you would like to be a volunteer greeter this year, email WRAP at [wrapwr@gmail.com](mailto:wrapwr@gmail.com) or contact Sandy at 802 -757-2319.

**Village Clean Up Day-** was with Vermont Green Up day. On May 7<sup>th</sup> volunteers from Wells River and Ryegate cleaned up Main Street. We swept, hosed, and trimmed up all along the downtown.

**Community Picnic** – The ninth annual community picnic and ice cream social was back. It was held June 25<sup>th</sup> and had Marco the Magician. There was food from Tuttle’s and Hatchbox. It was a fun day.

**So Long Summer – Hello Fall Festival** –The 10th annual festival was held September 3th. There was an Antique Tractor Ride and Show sponsored by Wells River Chevrolet. The weather was wonderful and sunny, the turn-out was good and both sides of Main Street were once again lined with a wide variety of food, retail, and crafts vendors as well

as the Library book sale and community and non profits booths providing information. This was the 11th year for the Giant Zucchini Contest as the Contest was held during 2020. While 22 entrants were vying to win this year and it was more than the 19 last year, it didn't come close to the 28 in 2020.

**302 Cares** -The 302 Cares Coalition a subcommittee of WRAP, is a group of individuals and organizations who agree to work together for the common goal of reducing substance use, misuse among youth and adults. They have held a number of programs for the community, Youth and Adult mental health first aid trainings., Opioid overdose prevention workshop. Currently, several members of 302 Cares meet monthly with a prevention coalition at BMU and one in Haverhill with the purpose of sharing information and exploring ways to work together. We welcome new members and would like to hear from you if you would like to be included on our email distribution list. Meetings are typically held on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m via zoom. For further information, or to be placed on the email distribution list, contact Cheryl Chandler at [c.chandler@nvrh.org](mailto:c.chandler@nvrh.org) or 802-748-7555 or coalition coordinator Kelsey Root-Winchester at [302cares@gmail.com](mailto:302cares@gmail.com) or visit on facebook/302cares.

**Project Committee** - - The committee has begun some village projects. In conjunction with the Wells River Trustee's we have ordered some new playground equipment for the Berry Memorial Field and it should arrive the spring of 2023. We are working on some more projects for 2023.

**In Memoriam** WRAP extends its condolences to the family of George Jasmin who died on December 11<sup>th</sup>. George and his late wife Marilyn were long time members and supporters of WRAP. By selling at a reasonable price, two of their houses containing 6 apartments, enabled WRAP to put together a feasible package to co-own with Housing Vermont and to rehabilitate 22 apartment units in 4 buildings as affordable housing. They become to be known as the WRAP Apartments. The project would not have been possible without their support.

**Appreciation** – We thank the Baldwin Memorial Library and the Wells River Congregational Church and the Wells River Wellness Hall for providing space for WRAP to meet; WYKR, the Journal Opinion, the Bridge Weekly/Sho-Case and Trendy Times for their ongoing coverage of our events, and local businesses for sponsoring the publicity for the Giant Zucchini Contest for the So Long Summer-Hello Fall Festival.

Submitted by  
Kelsey Root-Winchester  
President

<b>Income</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Reconciliation WRAP</b>	
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>		
Dues, Donations, Souvenirs	900	1105.00	950	<b>Checking 12/31/21</b>	9897.79
Welcome Center Donations	50	25.00	50	Deposits - 2022	6944.20
Town of Newbury	400	400.00	400	Total Available	16841.99
Village of Wells River	200	200.00	200	Disbursements 2022	-5238.99
So Long Summer - Donations	100	45.00	50	<b>Balance 12/31/22</b>	<b>11603.00</b>
Playground Equipment Project	0	1000.00	4000		
WRAP/HVT Agreement	2040	2000.00	2040	<b>24-Month CD 12/31/21</b>	23731.75
So Long Summer-Vendors	300	267.00	300	2022 Earnings	142.78
So Long Summer-Bake Sale	300	569.50	400	<b>Balance 12/31/22</b>	<b>23874.53</b>
So Long Summer Ad Donations	900	1250.70	1300		
Community Picnic & WRAP Up	50	25.00	50		
Retained Earnings (in checking)	420	-1805.17	6170	<b>Reconciliation Welcome Center</b>	
Holiday Decorations/Flowers	100	57.00	50		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5760</b>	<b>5139.03</b>	<b>15960</b>	<b>Checking 12/31/21</b>	412.12
				Deposits 2022	1170.95
				Total Available	1583.07
				Disbursements 2022	-656.60
				<b>Balance 12/31/22</b>	<b>926.47</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>		
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>		
Publicity/Annual Meeting	250	241.15	500	<b>Savings 12/31/21</b>	356.55
WRAP Up	350	502.20	500	Deposits 2022	0.12
Welcome Center	300	339.98	1000	Withdrawals 2022	-256.63
Investment in CD	0	0.00	5000	<b>Balance 12/31/22</b>	<b>100.04</b>
Flowers/Trees/Lights/Barrels	1000	844.83	1000		
Cohase Chamber of Commerce	60	55.00	60		
Rowe Community Garden	100	0.00	100	<b>6-Month CD 12/31/21</b>	7927.93
So Long Summer -Hello Fall	1400	1534.91	1500	Earnings 2022	23.82
Community Picnic	300	135.70	300	<b>Balance 12/31/22</b>	<b>7,951.75</b>
Community Ads & Donations	200	35.00	300		
Unanticipated Expenses	300	178.44	200		
Office/Postage/Miscellaneous	150	86.41	200	<b>Reconciliation Fiscal Agent Account</b>	
Consulting/Legal Fees/Insurance	1100	1067.85	1100		
302 Cares	250	-108.99	200	<b>Newbury United 12/31/2</b>	
Playground Equipment Project	0	226.55	4000	Dispersement to nonprofit	-99.96
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5760</b>	<b>5139.03</b>	<b>15960</b>	<b>Balance 12/31/22</b>	<b>0.00</b>



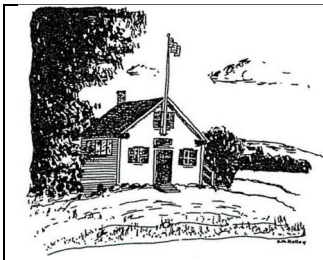
## 302 Cares

Now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, 302 Cares is a sub-committee of the Wells River Action Program (WRAP). Based in Wells River, 302 Cares is a community coalition working to engage, educate, and inspire people to reduce substance misuse and to promote a healthy community. The coalition meets once monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 3:15 – 4:30 p.m. We have been meeting virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some 302 Cares initiatives have included:

- A yearly community forum focused on the substance misuse
- National Drug Take Back Day
- Promotion of Vermont Department of Health, Medication Mail-back Envelopes
- Providing prevention information and education during BMU parent orientation
- Collaboration with the Haverhill and Bradford Area Substance Misuse Prevention Coalition.
- Collaboration with Wells River's Baldwin Library to provide educational materials during the pandemic and collaborating on the VT Reads book.
- Participated in Wells River's So Long Summer Hello Fall Festival September 4<sup>th</sup>

Support for 302 Cares is made possible through a Prevention Center of Excellence Grant that was awarded to Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital by the Vermont Department of Health, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs. Kelsey Root-Winchester is coordinating coalition meetings and activities. Please join us in our efforts to reduce substance misuse! Contact 302-cares at [302cares@gmail.com](mailto:302cares@gmail.com) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/302Cares](https://facebook.com/302Cares).



## **NEWBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Post Office Box 33 – Newbury, Vermont 05051  
Museum at the old West Newbury School House  
155 Tyler Farm Road – West Newbury, Vermont  
[newburyhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:newburyhistorical@gmail.com)**

### **ANNUAL NHS WELLS RIVER VILLAGE REPORT 2022**

A full report of our year's activities is in the Newbury Town Report. This report will deal with the events held in Wells River or had a Wells River Connection.

The first program the Society held was "The American Pump Organ – Little Country Cousin of the Piano", a program of demonstration, music, and a talk by Bruce Stevens, owner of 1001 Keys and Co. and Wells River Congregational Church Organist on July 10, 2022.

In August we collaborated with the Ryegate Historical Society to host "400 Miles of the Connecticut River," a presentation about the Connecticut River presented by Michael Tougias and based on his book River Days. The event was held at the South Ryegate Presbyterian Church.

We participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> 'So Long Summer – Hello Fall' Festival, in September where we presented photographs commemorating the Wells River High School, which tragically burned on July 18th.

We thanked Jean Welch who retired from the board this year for her many years of service, several as Treasurer of the society.

At our Annual Meeting, we honored Hod Symes for his invaluable service to the Newbury Historical Society over many years. Most recently, Hod served as President of the Society from 2015-2202. While the list of his many accomplishments is long, even more significant was his commitment to reviving and sustaining the NHS as a vibrant organization that will continue to be a resource to Newbury and Wells River and a place for our community to connect with our past. In the spring, we will plant a tree in Hod's honor at the schoolhouse.

Richard M Roderick is the lone Wells River member on the board, other members are: Ann Tardiff, Aroline Putnam, Carol Stoll, Cynthia Maltbie, Diann Cottrill, Emmy Hausman, John Marsh, Lenice Cicchini.

We are Wells River's historical society.

Dedicated to Preserving the History of Newbury, South Newbury, Wells River, West Newbury and surrounding areas

# Woodsville Area Fourth of July Committee, Inc.



PO Box 50  
Woodsville, NH 03785  
[www.wvr4th.org](http://www.wvr4th.org)

## ANNUAL REPORT



The Woodsville Wells River 4th of July Committee is happy to report that once again in 2022 we were able to present a fun-filled, family-oriented, free, celebration of the birth of our country. The number of volunteers going into the 2022 celebration was still limited, but has increased since the conclusion of the celebration as we plan for the 2023 event. A big thanks needs to be handed out to all those past and present members of this group.

One of the largest concerns for the 2023 event is the fact that 2022 marked the last year we could use our fireworks display company, due to retirement. We can report that a new company has been found. At the time of this report we are working out the final details, but we do know that the price of fireworks has grown and our cost for the 2023 display is more than 50% higher than in 2021. There are two main reasons for this increase. One is simply the increase in prices for fireworks. The other is the minimum required contract with our new professional fireworks display company.

Due to the increased price of fireworks, as well as the fact that other costs continue to rise, the committee has made the tough decision to raise our donation requests for 2023. The popular souvenir booklet has over 125 local businesses, non-profits and municipalities making donations from \$35 to \$1,000 each to help make up the budget for the event. For 2023 the levels will be increased to \$50 and up for inclusion in the booklet, \$125 & up to be listed as a Red, White and Blue sponsor, and \$600 or more to be listed as an Underwriter. It is through the generosity of all these donors that this event has continued for over forty years.

This report also allows for another opportunity to thank those who step up to volunteer some of their time to assist with the presentation of the 4th of July celebration. Many of these people do this as a family. From helping with minor traffic control before the parade, to running the bingo game on the Community Field, to selling raffle tickets, to whatever other tasks may come up, there are now individuals, couples and families that work together to give back to the community. We invite you and your family, or you as an individual, to step up and do the same. It can be a fun, fulfilling way to give back to your community.

The Woodsville Area Fourth of July Committee is a certified non-profit organization and invites any member of the community to join us. We meet the first Tuesday of each month. Currently the meetings are held at the Baldwin Memorial Library in Wells River at 7:00 pm.

Gary Scruton  
President, Woodsville Wells River Fourth of July Committee





**Village of Wells River**  
**P.O. Box 737**  
**Wells River, Vermont 05081**  
**802-757-3401**

## **2022 Annual Village Meeting Minutes**

Meeting was called to order at 7pm

Brian Emerson Welcomed all and thanked them for attending the meeting. There were approx. 40 people in attendance with 1 nonresident a Reporter from Journal Opinion

He also quoted: It takes a village to run a village "and assured the members that they would be kept posted of all actions done in the village. In addition, he thanked Mary Corey, Russ Robinson, Richard Roderick, Jason Winchester, Chip Conquest and Don Waterman for their assistance with committees and stepping in to fill vacancies within the village.

### **Article 1-**

To elect Village President: Brian Emerson as Chair presided over this vote. Richard Roderick nominated Chip Conquest and Mike Thomas seconded it. Clerk cast 1 Ballot all in favor

Chip Conquest greeted everyone and asked for nonresidents to identify themselves there was 1 person present.

Three Village Auditors for a 1year term -

Beck Cassidy was nominated by Brian Emerson-Seconded by Mike Thomas

Jeff Morin was nominated by Tim Corey Seconded by Glen Godfrey

Lisa Stepanic nominated herself, Tim Corey seconded

Nominations were closed Don Waterman Motioned to accept, Tim Corey Seconded and the clerk cast 1 ballot

1 Blue Mountain Union School Board Director for 3-year term - Kelsey Root Winchester  
Richard Roderick Nominated Lisa Stepanic Seconded Clerk cast 1 Ballot

2 Baldwin Memorial Trustees for a period of 3 years Chip Conquest and Chris Buhner  
were nominated Richard Roderick moved Tim Corey Seconded 1 ballot cast by clerk

All Present voted Aye for Article 1

**Article 2:** To Hear and Dispose of Village Reports, Chip suggested we go over the Village reports and exclude the comparison pages 5,6,&7 to review later with Article 6





**Village of Wells River**  
**P.O. Box 737**  
**Wells River, Vermont 05081**  
**802-757-3401**

In the reviewing of all the reports located in preceding pages starting on Page 8 and going through each page he opened the floor for discussion.

Upon reaching the **water report** a discussion ensued:

Judy Murray wanted to know who and when the meters were read. John Paye replied by him quarterly. Lisa Stepanic brought forward that she had been monitoring her own meter and had sent a bill to the village based on her reading. She had calculated what she felt was owed and had not received a reply. She stated that acceptance of the check meant that it was accepted. I (Mary Schilke) replied saying Partial payments were accepted and not an agreement that her calculations were correct. Mike Thomas asked if this discussion be tabled and presented to the Board at a Trustee Meeting to which Lisa Replied she had brought this to their attention and still wasn't resolved. Kelsey Root Winchester also stated her meter had not been read for years and wanted issues resolved. Brian Emerson replied that it is typical for utility companies to estimate billings, John Paye said winter readings are sometimes estimated due to snow. Trustees will discuss at a future Trustee meeting. Lisa Stepanic asked about the new meters and that too was tabled for the Arpa discussion on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**On the Revolving Loan Fund report** - Richard Roderick Made mention that the report should be noted that this may also be referred as a grant in other areas of the report

**Charter Revision Report** – Mike Thomas asked for a brief synopsis of what the committee is doing. Richard Roderick stated an example of changing the verbiage in the report on 1 item that a resident must live in the village for 1 year before being allowed to vote, this is not legal to do. He expressed that the revisions had been sent to a lawyer for review. After his review info will be placed on the village website and there will be 2 public hearings for the village to vote on changes before sending to state legislation to approve.

After the review of all the reports a motion was made by Richard Roderick and seconded by Don Waterman that the report was missing the election results from 2021 and future reports should contain election information. Kelsey Root Winchester Made a motion to accept, Richard Roderick seconded, and all were in favor.

**Article 3 – Allow trustees To Borrow Money in Anticipation of taxes** Motion made to move by Lisa Stepanic Seconded by Kelsey Root-Winchester Discussion by Mike Thomas wanting to know if we should wait and was told it was a standard operating procedure to allow village trustees to borrow money as needed. All were in Favor except 1 (Lisa Stepanic)



**Village of Wells River**  
**P.O. Box 737**  
**Wells River, Vermont 05081**  
**802-757-3401**

**Article 4** –To see if the Village will authorize the trustees to borrow money in anticipation of taxes as follows:

½ payable by September 20,2022 & half payable by November 20,2022

And to set interest rate 1% per month for first 3 months or fractions thereof after November 20,2022,1 1/2%per month thereafter. Delinquent penalty of 8%after November 2022.;

Motion made by Lisa Stepanic Seconded by Richard Roderick All voted in Favor

**Article 5** – Shall the Voters Authorize VOWR to raise and appropriate the sum of \$440,468 for the operating budget for 2022-2023 fiscal year

**Discussion:**

Richard Roderick made a move that that the trustee Compensation be removed from the budget and be discussed as a separate article, Don Waterman said this could not be done unless more than 10% of the budget was being affected. Richard then wanted to change his amendment to change the Trustee line item to be changed from \$15000 to \$7300 with \$3000 for the trustee stipend and adding \$4300 to the Library Budget so the Librarian could have a raise. During the discussion it was noted that the line item in the Village report was incorrect and that it s/b \$6600. It was also stated that even if Richard wanted to give the librarian a raise that just because more \$ were added to the library Line item it did not mean the library trustees would do that raise and not spend it elsewhere. Lisa Stepanic stated that the Board of Library could move line items around from their budget if they felt the librarian needed a raise. Tim Corey stated we should not even be discussing the 2-line items as 1 item.

In the ensuing conversation Richard Roderick stated he felt that the Trustees should be compensated. Brian stated Tim Corey was correct. Mike Thomas made a motion to consider Richards Second amendment of Increasing the Library budget from \$20,600 to \$24900, A vote was taken, and it was voted by the people to not grant the increase to the library Line item

Jeff Morin made a motion to change the trustee stipend to read \$6600 instead of \$15,000 on page 13 Steve Peck Seconded all voted in favor.

When asked why the budget was not decreased the amount of projected savings by Lisa Stepanic, Brian Emerson stated that should Article 6 pass the implementation of total subcontracted saving might be realized not immediately this first year.



**Village of Wells River**  
**P.O. Box 737**  
**Wells River, Vermont 05081**  
**802-757-3401**

Motion was made to amend the budget amount to read \$432068.00 by Mike Thomas  
Seconded by Richard Roderick , all voted in favor

**Article 6- Shall the voters authorize the Highway Department to go from an in house position to a subcontracted position**

**Discussion :** Some people thought it should be tabled, Mike Thomas thought it should not happen without further research. Brian Emerson stated that the trustees are listening to the Village and their need to lower taxes mean a lower budget, the trustees hired a municipal audit to be done and the results were clear that the size of our village does not warrant a full-time employee and would be better served by a subcontracted position. Cassidy Vanamee stated that she thought John was being defamed, Brian Emerson said that is not the case at all and John might apply to stay on as a subcontracted person. Richard Roderick asked what there is to do in 40 hours a week and could someone answer that, Chip asked John to answer, and he said there is mowing the Berry field, Pump house etc. and plowing. After the discussion a motion was made for a paper Ballot by Richard Roderick and the presiding president Chip Conquest confirmed a paper pallet would be done. Voters were asked to line up to vote, the checklist and ballot box were used. 40 voters cast ballots 26 yes, 13 no and 1 spoiled Article 6 passed

All Articles were voted and approved by the voters

At close of meeting - Don Waterman reminded attendees about Arpa Meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Church, Childcare and free meal.

Tom Kidder spoke of Tucker Mountain trails

Richard Roderick moved to adjourn

Tim Corey Seconded

All in favor

Meeting adjourned 9:40PM

Respectfully submitted

Mary Schilke

Wells River Village Clerk