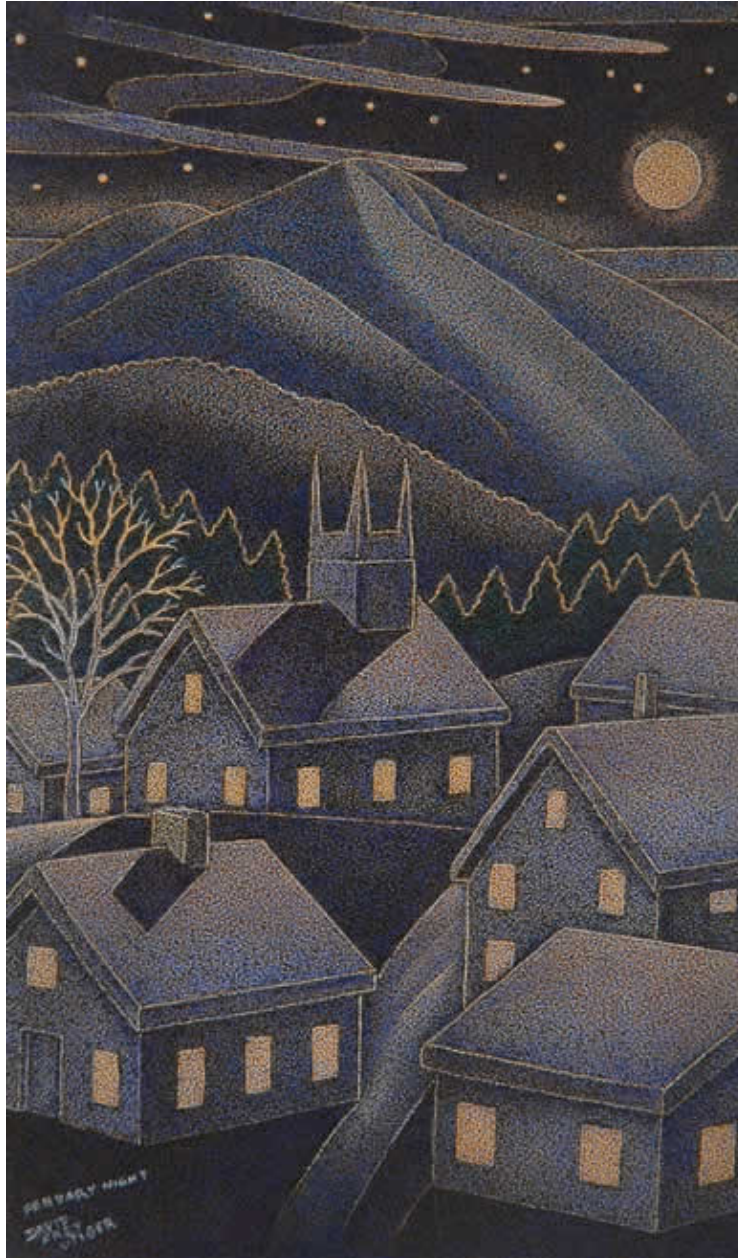


2016 Annual Report

Town of Peru, Vermont
Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016



Town Report also available online at peruvt.org

Please note Town Meeting occurs at 6PM on Tuesday March 7, 2017

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Reflection

In a year rife with political insults, injuries, and upsets, Peru remained above the fray as we carried on as usual. A committee of citizens has been working to update the Village Green, including installing exterior illumination. The State Act 250 regional commission approved Johnny Seesaws and the permitting is completed. Now it is just up to the building process. Opening date is targeted for December of 2017.

Among other real estate transactions, the Bunkers sold their house on Spruce Lane and our new neighbors are Jay Reichman and Jane Worley. The Peru Fair pulled its usual attendance in September, making locals and visitors very happy. We had an extraordinary turn out for the children's Halloween Party. Juliet posted an invitation on Facebook and scores of kids, parents, and grandparents had fire engine rides and cider doughnuts. We tanked on snow last winter, but seem to be catching up on the missing inches even as I type. The Christmas pageant was intergenerational this year, for the first and not last time.

As for our industries, JJ Hapgood is habitually full to the brim. Wild Wings is busier than ever. The Makery is a haven for artists and Bromley Market continues to ply their magic. And the church remains wild and free...just like Peru itself.

Gratefully, Pastor Margaret

Community Information

PERU TOWN OFFICE
P.O. Box 127 Peru, VT 05152

Open: Tues & Thurs 8:30am – 4:00pm
824-3065

perutown@myfairpoint.net

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire	911
Rescue	911
State Police	(802) 875-2112
Mountain Valley Medical Center	824-6901
First Town Constable, Stewart Beattie	824-3494
Animal Control Officer, Pat Salo	(h) 297-1032 (c) 688-4020

SCHOOLS

Flood Brook Union School	824-6811
Burr and Burton Academy	362-1775
Burr and Burton Mountain Campus	824-4846
Green Mountain Union High School	875-2146
PERU POST OFFICE	824-5472

Hours of Operation:

Window Service:	Monday-Friday 9:30-12:30PM & 1:30-4:30PM
	Saturday 8:30AM-11:30AM
Lobby Open:	Access to Boxes 24 hours, 7 days a week

STATE OFFICIALS

Governor's Action Line	(800) 649-6825
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VERMONT STATE LEGISLATURE

Senators:

Brian Champion	e-mail: bcampion@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 753-7705
Richard Sears	e-mail: rsears@leg.state.vt.us	(802) 442-9139

Representative:

Linda Joy Sullivan	e-mail:	(802) 768-8668
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FEDERAL OFFICIALS

Senator Patrick Leahy, Burlington Office	(800) 642-3193
Senator Bernie Sanders, Brattleboro Office	(802) 254-8732
Congressman Peter Welch, Burlington Office	(802) 652-2450

Townscape Preservation Board:

Susan Bradford, Barbara Ardell, Peggy Powell, Sally Ogden, Gail Acosta

Peru Town Meeting 2017 - WARNING

The legal voters of the Town of Peru are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Peru Town Center on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at the hour of 6:00 PM to act on the following articles:

Article 1: To hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers.

Article 2: To elect Town Officers as the law directs.

Article 3:

A) To see if the town will vote a tax to defray the expenses of the town for the fiscal year of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, as set forth in the budgets submitted in the 2017 Town Report, subject to such modifications as this meeting may vote.

B) To authorize the selectmen to set the rate on the 2017 Grand List to meet the budgets voted

C) To establish the date of payment of such taxes. Previous years dates July 1-September 30.

Article 4: To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions made by law for payment of taxes to the Town Treasurer.

Article 5: To see if the community will vote a sum of money to the following organizations which serve the community

Mountain Valley Medical Center	\$3,200.00
Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad	\$1,000.00
Visiting Nurse Assn. of VT/NH	\$2,700.00
South Londonderry Free Library	\$1,000.00
Bennington County Conservation District	\$ 300.00
BROC	\$ 200.00
VT Center for Independent Living	\$ 140.00
SW Vermont Council on Aging	\$ 200.00
Center for Restorative Justice	\$ 300.00

Neighborhood Connections	\$1,000.00
Green Up Vermont	\$ 50.00
The Collaborative	\$ 750.00
Flood Brook Athletic Association	\$1,000.00
Project Against Violent Encounters	\$ 150.00
Peru Cemetery Commission	\$3,700.00
Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless	\$ 500.00
Rural Fire Protection Task Force	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
 TOTAL	 \$16,290.00

Article 6: To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Dated at Peru, Vermont, January 24, 2017

Todd Williams
Gail Acosta
Charles Black
Peru Selectboard



Minutes of Town Meeting, Peru, VT. March 1, 2016

Gary Ameden, Peru's Moderator, welcomed all with a comment on the beautiful day and a good morning greeting. He said Peru has a tradition of asking those attending their first town meeting to stand, introduce themselves and enjoy a congenial acknowledgement. Jay Ouellette and Olivia Rukat graciously complied. Carinthia Grayson, a middle school teacher from Flood Brook Union School, was in attendance with some of her students who were assigned to act as reporters. Jenny Mole and Emma Perry, students from Burr & Burton Mountain Campus were also present.

Gary asked all to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Gary read a insightful and tender excerpt entitled "Try saying Good Morning as Though you Really Mean It" from one of the original Lady's Aid cook books entitled Home Cookin is a Family Affair. Then he read from the warning, "The legal voters of the Town of Peru are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Peru Town Center on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at the hour of 10:00 AM to act on the following articles:

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on the reports of the Town Officers.

Chuck Black made a motion to accept to the reports as written and Gary Sharon seconded. Discussion, Stewart Beattie suggested the annual report would be easier to read if the size of the print was larger. Gary asked if those assembled were ready for the question. All in favor, motion passed.

ARTICLE 2: To elect Town Officers as the law directs.

The meeting was relegated to Charlie Howard, the Selectboard chair. The list of Elected Town Officers is on page 16 of this Town Report. Charlie called for a nomination for Town Moderator. Alex Sheets moved to elect Gary Ameden with John Maher seconding. Proposition B was moved by Gary Sharon, Chuck Black seconded and motion passed unanimously.

* Moderator – 1 year Gary Ameden

Town Clerk: Bob Stelz nominated Margaret Cobb and Lucy Maher seconded. Hearing no other nominations proposition B was moved by Vickie Beattie with Roberta Baker seconding. All in favor, motion passed.

* Town Clerk – 1 year Margaret Cobb

Treasurer: John Maher nominated Donna Williams and Lucy Maher seconded. No other nominations, proposition B moved by Grant Braddish with Roberta Baker seconding. All in favor, motion passed.

* Town Treasurer – 1 year Donna Williams

Selectboard: Gary stated one was seat was available. Peggy Powell nominated Bob Stelz. David Farnum seconded this nomination. John Maher nominated Chuck Black and Sarah Perry seconded. Bob called for a paper ballot. Gary set forth the request by asking at least seven people in favor of a paper ballot to stand and be counted. This quickly occurred with more than seven people standing.

Results of paper ballot: Total of 58 votes cast

* Bob Stelz 21

* Chuck Black 37

Gary declared Chuck Black the elected Selectboard member.

* Selectboard – 3 year Chuck Black

Lister: Jack Pennypacker nominated Rebecca Williams and Lucy Maher seconded. No other nominations, proposition B moved by Vickie Beattie with Jill Braddish seconding. All in favor, motion passed.

* Lister – 3 year Rebecca Williams

Auditor: Chuck Black moved to nominated Melinda Beebe. Alex Sheets seconded. No other nominations, proposition B moved by John Maher and Grant Braddish seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

* Auditor – 3 year Melinda Beebe

Cemetery Commission: David Farnum moved to nominate Stewart Beattie with Gary Sharon seconding. No other nominations, proposition B moved by Gary Sharon and Grant Braddish seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

* Cemetery Commission – 5 years Stewart Beattie

First Constable: Bob Stelz nominated Stewart Beattie with John Maher seconding. No other nominations, proposition B moved by Vickie Beattie, Cindy Mowry seconding. All in favor, motion passed.

* First Constable – 1 year Stewart Beattie

Second Constable: Jack Pennypacker nominated Chris Felion and Bob Stelz seconded. No other nominations, proposition B moved by Grant Braddish and Alex Sheets. All in favor, motion passed.

* Second Constable – 1 year Chris Felion

Delinquent Tax Collector: Deke Jamieson moved to nominate John Maher. Rebecca Williams seconded. Proposition B moved by Cindy Mowry, Ben Freeman seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

* Delinquent Tax Collector – 1 year John Maher

Grand Juror: Margaret Cobb nominated Hope Richardson and John Maher seconded. Proposition B moved by Todd Williams, Gary Sharon seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

* Grand Juror – 1 year Hope Richardson

Town Agent: John Maher nominated Tracy Black with Ben Freeman seconding. Proposition B moved by Vickie Beattie, John Maher seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

* Town Agent – 1 year Tracy Black

Trustee of Public Funds: John Maher moved to nominate Ben Freeman. Jack Pennypacker seconded. Proposition B moved by Cindy Mowry, Jill Braddish seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

* Trustee of Public Funds – 1 year Ben Freeman

ARTICLE 3:

a) To see if the Town will vote a tax to defray the expenses of the Town and the School District for the fiscal year of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, as set forth in the

budgets submitted in the 2016 Town Report, subject to such modifications as this meeting may vote.

Chuck Black moved the motion and Gary Sharon seconded.

Jon Mowry stated the Town is not voting on the School District budget which already passed at the annual Flood Brook Union School meeting in February.

Charlie Howard pointed out that the Selectboard worked extensively on preparing the budget at a number of meetings. He then stated the budget had four misprints in the Town Report that required correction.

Corrections:

- 1) Page 44, line 432 Copier Expense – \$5,400.00

The Town will be purchasing a new copier.

- 2) Page 45, line 626 Landfill - \$30,000.00
- 3) Page 47, line 853 Municipal Planning Grant - \$2,000.00 (insert)
- 4) Page 47. Line 908 Capital Expense - \$10,000.00 (insert)

Total Expense - \$809,075.00 (page 47)

Amount To Be Raised by Taxes - \$524,100.00 (page 43)

Discussion ensued pertaining to, how to avoid these mistakes in the future and Selectboard budget meetings. Both Charlie and Todd encouraged everyone to take notice of the posted agendas that details the subjects to be discussed. They also suggested looking at the Town website, Peruvt.org, and attending Selectboard meetings.

Chuck Black made a motion to increase the amount of surplus to be applied to the tax rate from the budgeted amount of \$150,000 to \$170,000. Morgan Devlin seconded the motion. Discussion followed including - this motion would help to keep the taxes lower, has the Town ever dipped into the surplus and we should save this money for a rainy day.

Gary ruled for a voice vote asking those in favor of the motion to stand and then those opposed. The motion was defeated.

Gary repeated the Article 3A question “Does the Town vote to support the proposed budget of \$524,100?” All in favor, motion moved.

b) To authorize the Selectmen to set the rates on the 2016 grand list to meet the budgets voted. John Mowry moved the motion, with Grant Braddish seconding. All in favor, motion carried.

c) To establish the date of payment of such Taxes. Previous year’s dates: July 1 – September 30. Jay Ouelette moved the motion and Alex Sheets seconded. All in favor motion passed.

Stewart asked to revisit Article 2, specifically the election of a Selectboard member. It is a conflict of interest for a person to be a Selectboard member and Auditor. Gary stated the Selectboard would appoint a new auditor. Stewart also commented on the Community House requiring upgrades to be compliant with fire safety guidelines.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions made by law for payment of taxes to the Town Treasurer. Grant Braddish moved the motion and John Maher seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote a sum of money to the following organizations which serve the community?

Mountain Valley Medical Clinic	\$3,200.00
Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad	\$1,000.00
Visiting Nurse Association of VT/NH	\$2,700.00
South Londonderry Free Library	\$1,000.00
Bennington County Conservation District	\$300.00
BROC	\$200.00
VT Center for Independent Living	\$140.00
SW Vermont Council on Aging	\$200.00
Center for Restorative Justice	\$300.00
Neighborhood Connections	\$1,000.00
Green Up Vermont	\$50.00

The Collaborative	\$750.00
Flood Brook Athletic Association	\$1,000.00
West River Sports Association	\$635.00
Project Against Violent Encounters	\$150.00
Peru Cemetery Commission	\$3,000.00
The Partnership	\$2,000.00
Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless	\$500.00
Rural Fire Protection Task Force	<u>\$100.00</u>
 TOTAL	 \$18,225.00

Alex Sheets made a motion to reduce the amount by \$2,000.00 stating The Partnership did not follow the correct procedures for requesting appropriation moneys. Juliette Britton described The Partnership as a reorganization of The Chamber of Commerce to promote destination marketing and economic development and suggested everyone look at the brochure at hand. Jay Ouelette noted, from his previous experience, that The Chamber is a big asset to small business. Grant discerned that this is a new request and the Town has not given to the Chamber in the past. Discussion continued.

Stewart Beattie asked to increase the Peru Cemetery Commission request by \$500.00 stating \$3,500.00 had been the amount in the solicitation letter. Discussion followed concerning the procedures to adhere to when submitting an appropriation request.

After considerable discussion Gary asked the question “Will the Town vote to approve \$18,725.00 for appropriations?” All in favor, motion passed.

ARTICLE 6: To transact other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Jon Mowry, the Town’s RED School Board Representative, said the school budget can be found in the Flood Brook Union School Annual report. This budget passed at the February 23rd annual meeting. The budget is lower because special education spending decreased and the number of students has increased. He also discussed per pupil

spending, property yield and the tax rate being based on the total State wide education spending. He also informed those present about Act 46. A major implication is the requirement to consolidate school districts that have less than 900 students. So, an Act 46 study committee is forming and will involve representatives from Danby, Dorset, Manchester, Mt Tabor, Sunderland, and the Mountain Towns RED. This committee will figure out various details, benefits, obstacles and implications involved in this possible merger. If we don't do anything the State gets to make the decision for us.

Everyone thanked Jon for his hard work and dedication.

Ben Freeman, the Headmaster at Burr & Burton's Mountain Campus, representing Burr & Burton, mentioned the letter from Mark Tashjian in the Town report and suggested important information is noted within. He indicated the increase in the budget this year as compared to last year was only 1.88%. He also thanked the Town for supporting Burr & Burton.

David Francomb and Stacy Stratton, from the Green Mountain National Forest, presented an update of projects and timber, recreation, wildlife, and fisheries management, in the Town of Peru. They are working on a number of timber management projects including the Pumphouse, Mad Tom and Cook Brook Stewardship sales. Stacy provided a detailed map of the harvest activities that is available for viewing in the Town Office. Two sections of the Hapgood Nature Trail have been relocated with a new bridge built and plans to repair the dam. Both David and Stacy are new to the Manchester office and welcome visits and or phone calls.

Grant thanked Charlie for his service, dedication, hard work, and conscientious and judicious behavior as a Selectboard member.

Jack thanked Peggy Powell for her many years of thoughtful devotion, commitment to integrity, and ability to pitch in as a team member as a Peru Lister.

Dr Roger Fox, in his 40th year serving the mountain community as the first doctor at Mountain Valley Health Council MVHC, thanked the Town for supporting the clinic. MVHC, one of the last free standing clinics, joined Springfield Medical Care Systems in December of 2015 in order to provide broader access to high quality services and improve financial security.

Charlie discussed the Red Cross Center project Kevin Beattie, as Londonderry's Emergency Management Director, is recommending. FEMA has contributed monies in

the form of a grant to launch the project which would house an emergency shelter at Flood Brook Union School. Kevin is asking Peru to contribute \$3,700.00 towards the purchase of a generator and the Peru Selectboard supports the idea.

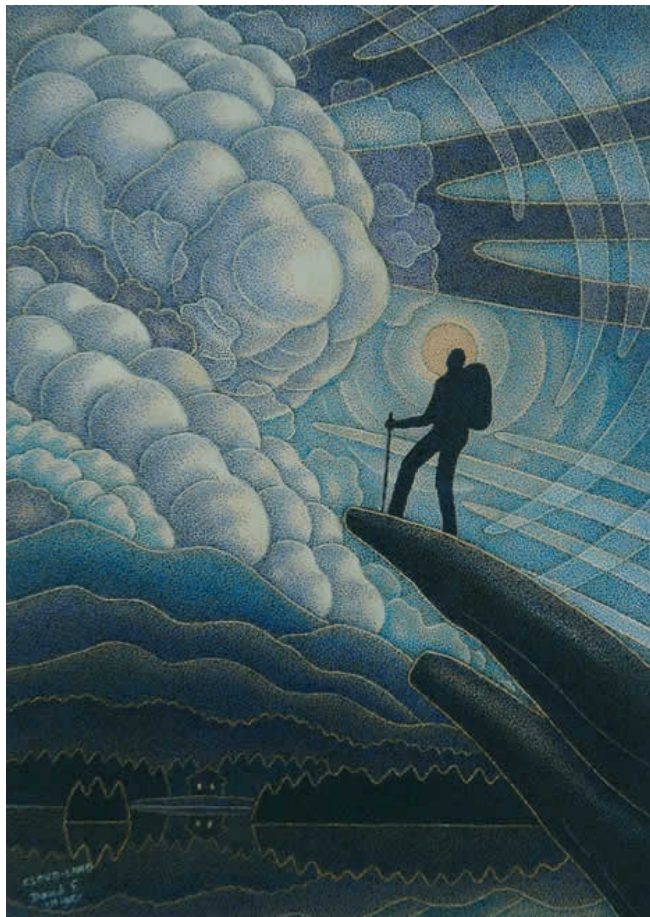
An update on Johnny Seesaws was presented by Margaret Cobb with information obtained from Ryan Prins, the current owner. His plan is to open December of 2017 with a new facility that would house a restaurant and a distillery. Plus, the out buildings will be renovated and available for reservations. Two renditions of the land and facility will be at the Town office for viewing.

Alex Sheets made a motion to adjourn at 12:06PM. All in favor, Gary Ameden concluded the Town meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Cobb, Peru Town Clerk

Dated March 20, 2016



Elected Town Officers

Moderator:	<u>Term Expires</u>	Cemetery Commission:	<u>Term Expires</u>
Gary Ameden	2017	Carl Holcomb	2017
Town Clerk:		Robert Stelz	2018
Margaret Cobb	2017	William Crandall	2019
Treasurer:		David Farnum	2020
Donna Williams	2017	Stewart Beattie, Chair	2021
Select Board:		First Constable:	
Todd Williams, Chair	2017	Stewart Beattie	2017
Gail Acosta	2018	Second Constable:	
Chuck Black	2019	Christopher Felion	2017
Lister:		Delinquent Tax Collector:	
Jack Pennypacker, Chair	2017	John Maher	2017
Janice Georgett	2018	Grand Juror:	
Rebecca Williams	2019	Hope Richardson	2017
Auditors:		Town Agent:	
Alex Sheets	2017	Tracy Black	2017
Karen Utiger (appointee)	2018	Trustee of Public Funds:	
Melinda Beebe	2019	Ben Freeman	2017
RED Representative:			
Jon Mowry	2018		
Justices of the Peace*:	Gary Ameden, Vickie Beattie, Will Crandall Karen Utiger, Olivia Rukat		
	* Terms: February 1, 2015 thru January 31, 2017		

Select Board Appointed Town Officers

Planning Commission:		<i><u>Term Expires</u></i>
	Stewart Beattie, Chair	2017
	Robert Stelz	2017
	Paul Myers	2017
	David Farnum	2018
	Peter Berman	2018
	Peter Robertson	2019
	Lucas Hughes	2019
Zoning Board:		
	John Acosta	2017
	James Daley	2017
	Peter Bradford, Chair	2018
	David Utiger	2019
	Charles Howard	2019
Zoning Administrator:	John LaVecchia	
Fence Viewer:	David Farnum	
	James Daley	
Sexton:	Carl Holcomb	
Town Service Officer:	Margaret Dawedeit	
Health Officer:	Dr. Roger Fox	
Deputy Health Officer:	John LaVecchia	
Assistant Clerk/Treasurer:	Barbara Petra	
Road Foreman:	Wayne Blanchard	
Road Crew:	Brian Bills	
Emergency Manager:	Chuck Black	
	Todd Williams	

Select Board Report

During the Fiscal Year of 2016-2017, The Town's people approved the usage of \$20,000 from the surplus to the Town Green. This money will be used to install underground power to three points on the Green. After the power is installed, the eastern section of the Green will be graded with a smoother transition. This will make the area more useful and allow for better drainage.

The Town also agreed to start upgrades to the Community House as directed by the State Fire Inspector. Some of these improvements include, fire rated doors, fireproof sheetrock, as well as removing the door which used to lead to a faulty fire escape. The door will be replaced with a window. Other improvements include foam insulation between floor joists in the basement and repairing rotted sills. We look forward to keeping up with maintenance to the Community House in the years to come to help preserve the historic building.

The remaining gravel section of South Road was paved this year. We hope this helps keep maintenance costs down as well as keeping the road passable during mud season.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd Williams

Gail Acosta

Chuck Black



Clerk's Report

Vital Statistics: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Marriages: 6
Births: 4
Deaths: 1
Burials: 4

Liquor Licenses: May 1, 2015 – April 30, 2016

First Class Restaurant/ Bar:	3@	115	=	345
First Class Hotel:	1@	115	=	115
First Class Commercial Caterer:	0@	100	=	0
Second Class:	2@	70	=	140
Outside Consumption:	3@	20	=	60
Tobacco:	1@	0	=	0
Total:				660

Audit Report

The town auditors conducted our audit of fiscal year 7/1/15 – 6/30/16 using the audit checklist provided by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. This checklist provides a thorough approach to examining the internal controls and the accounts of all town officers and all other persons authorized by law to draw orders on the town treasurer.

In our opinion, the financial statements presented in the Town Report present fairly the financial position of the Town of Peru as of June 30, 2016.

Karen Utiger, Melinda Beebe, Alex Sheets

Board of Listers Report

There are 734 parcels in Peru, including 402 (including commercial properties) houses with land, 267 condominiums and 65 parcels with open land. During the previous year, three new houses were added and two houses torn down. From April 2015 to March 2016, there were 71 property transfers in the town, an increase from the previous year by 19 sales. Three parcel owners grieved their assessments this year. One grievance resulted in an adjustment to the appraised value, while the other two grievances were denied by the Listers. Those two owners appealed to the Board of Civil Authority

(BCA). In one case the BCA denied the appeal and in the other, a small adjustment was made. As of the writing of this report, one parcel owner is appealing to the State.

We currently have 30 parcels enrolled in Current Use. The Current Use program is a forestry management program that gives those enrolled a reduced assessment of their forest and agricultural lands. There are two new applications for the 2017 year. If you have questions about the Current Use Program, contact one of the listers.

The Board of Listers meets on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30. If you have any questions or concerns about the appraisal of your property, feel free to call or stop in. Most issues are handled by a Pre-Grievance process in April and May. If you wish to formally grieve the assessed value of your property, please submit a letter in May describing the basis for your Grievance. The formal Grievance Day will be held the first week of June.

Board of Listers
Jack Pennypacker, Chair
Janice Georgett
Rebecca Williams

Planning Commission Report

This year plans for the new Seesaws restaurant and distillery and rehabilitation of the small out buildings behind the former Inn have been permitted by the town. Traffic circulation and parking in the village is still a problem. Some additional off street parking areas have been implemented to help the situation, however more study is needed.

If you have a project in the Town of Peru, stop in to the Town Office on a Tuesday and check with the Zoning Administrator to see if it needs a permit. Some of the projects that require a permit are any new construction, as well as changes to existing buildings, changes of use, subdivision of property and customary home industry. Copies of the Peru Town Plan and Bylaws are available at the town office.

Respectfully submitted, Peru Planning Commission

Stewart Beattie, Chairman , David Farnum, Peter Robertson, Paul Myers, Bob Stelz & Lucas Hughes

Zoning Board of Adjustment Report

2169 - Troy Marshall - Application for variance at Bromley Sun Lodge - Granted

2175 - Johnny Seesaws - Application for alterations to a nonconforming use - Granted

Zoning Administrative Officer's Report

During the year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 there were 19 applications for zoning permits. One was referred to both the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment, one was referred to the Planning Commission and one was referred to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

The issued permits were as follows:

New Residence	2
Replacement restaurant and cottages	1
Additions	7
Accessory buildings	6
Demolition	1
Change of use	1
Sign	1

In addition Certificates of Zoning Compliance were issued and the Administrator assisted the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Respectfully Submitted,
John B. LaVecchia, Zoning Administrator

Road Commissioner's Report

Culverts were replaced on Hapgood Pond, Lovers Lane, North and Moffitt Roads. Gravel resurfacing was completed on Stone Place, Moffitt, Catlin and Doc Farnum roads as well as Priest Lane. South Road was resurfaced as well in preparation for Pavement. Trees and brush were cut back on Old Manchester, Stone Place, Walt's Camp, Savage and Moss Brook Roads.

Ditching was completed on Moss Brook, Old Manchester, Stone Place and North Roads as well as Priest Lane. Pavement Resurfacing was completed on both North and Hapgood Pond Roads. New pavement was applied to the remainder of the gravel portion of South Road to the Winhall Town line.

The Town took delivery of its 2017 International 7600 Dump Truck. The Road Crew seems very happy with its performance.

Respectfully Submitted,
Todd Williams
Road Commissioner

Cemetery Commissioner's Report

Maintenance of Peru's three cemeteries, Village Cemetery, North Cemetery and Stone Cemetery, has been on going through the year consisting of mowing and trimming grass, removal of leaves, cleaning and adjusting stones. This year we will be putting line on the cemeteries. This will be an added expense to the normal maintenance.

As with last year the drop of interest rates has reduced the income from accounts that we can only use the interest from for perpetual care. Therefore, the Cemetery Commission is requesting that the appropriation from the Town to be increased to \$3,700.00, so we can continue to adequately maintain the cemeteries and complete repairs as they become necessary.

The price of graves is \$100.00 per gravesite, and a mandatory nonrefundable fee of \$300.00 for perpetual care.

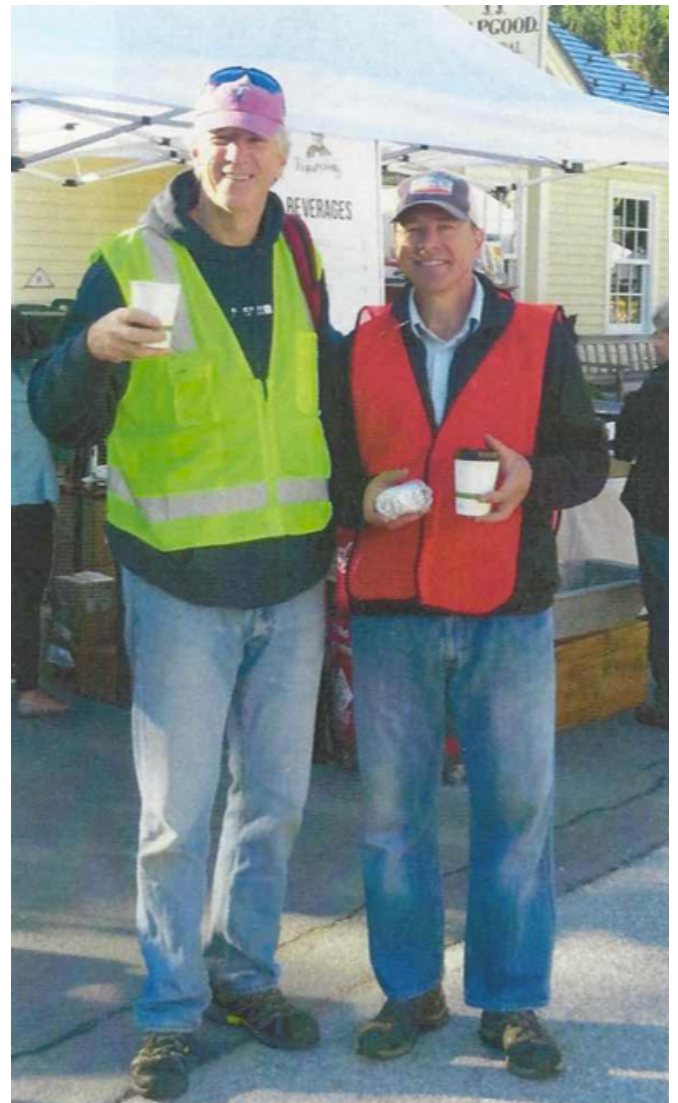
To purchase a plot or for other Cemetery information, the Cemetery Commission meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 pm from May thru November at the Town Office.

Anyone wishing to make burial arrangements or installation of stones and markers please contact Carl Holcomb at 802-824-3932.

This year our long time member David Farnum is moving out of Peru. Your knowledge of the town and its history will be missed. Thank you David for your long service to the Town of Peru.

Respectfully submitted, Peru Cemetery Commission

Stewart Beattie, Chairman , William Crandall, Secretary, Carl Holcomb, Sexton,
David Farnum & Bob Stelz



Peru Cemetery Commission Balance Sheet

Checkbook Balance, 6/30/15	\$ <u>1,675.96</u>
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RECEIPTS:

Interest	\$ 19.54
Dividends	\$ 1,307.69
Other - plot purchases, misc	\$ 100.00
Town Appropriation	\$ <u>3,000.00</u>

Total Receipts	\$ <u>4,427.23</u>
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DISBURSEMENTS:

Maintenance	\$ 5,226.09
Other	\$ <u>-</u>

Total Disbursements:	\$ <u>5,226.09</u>
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Checkbook Balance, 6/30/16	\$ <u><u>877.10</u></u>
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Assets Owned:

Berkshire Bank Municipal NOW	\$ 38,407.08
Mutual Funds and Stock (at Market Value)	\$ <u>75,328.17</u>

Total Assets	\$ <u><u>113,735.25</u></u>
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Note: With the exception of the balance of \$ 877.10 in the checking account all monies and investments of the Cemetery are dedicated to its perpetual care.

First Constable's Report

This year I received calls of building alarms, vehicle accidents, cars off the road. I have responded to wires and trees in the roadway, traffic control in the village for Church Services and events at the J.J. Hapgood Store as well as patrolling the Peru village and roadways for speeding and stop sign violations and assist people with disabled vehicles.

I also responded as Fire Police with the Peru Fire Department, assisted the Londonderry Rescue Squad on calls in the local area, and the State Police with traffic control at accidents on Route 11.

Due to the increased attendance to Church and events at the J.J. Hapgood store, parking is still a problem. Expansion of parking in the village area has helped to keep roadways open for emergency vehicles. Additional attention is still needed to improve traffic circulation and safety in the village area especially at high traffic events.

If you see something suspicious around you, be sure to note license plate numbers and time of day and location, or if you need assistance please call me at 824-3494 and the State Police in Westminster at 722-4600, we will be happy to assist you.

Respectfully submitted, Stewart N. Beattie, First Constable

Fire Department Report

The Peru Fire Dept. responded to 30 calls last year. Call breakdown is as follows: 9 motor vehicle accidents, 6 still alarms, 1 DHART assist, 1 structure fire, 6 calls for mutual aid, 1 wilderness extrication, 2 calls for wires down, 3 CO alarms and 1 false alarm.

In the past year, through fundraising, donations and grant writing, the members of the department purchased (\$661 worth of equipment and donated it to the Town. Thanks go to Bromley Village Association, Vermont Country Store, and the Thrifty Attic for their continued support.

Chuck Black, Chief, Peru Fire Dept.

Fire Warden Report

In 2016, 34 burning permits were issued. I would like to take this opportunity to remind residents that untreated wood is the *only* material that can be burned as per Vermont State law. Trash burning barrels are NOT allowed.

Chuck Black, Forest Fire Warden

Peru Fair Report

Close to 5000 people attended this year's Peru Fair held on September 24. As a result, we are pleased to report that a contribution of \$12,000 was made to the Peru Scholarship Fund, enabling each full-time Peru student pursuing a higher education beyond high school to receive a scholarship of \$1,000 per year. In addition, this year the Peru Fair Committee voted to donate \$3500 to the town for improvements to be made to the town green.

It was a perfect fall day and a big success for attendees and vendors alike. None of this would have been possible without the volunteer efforts of over 70 area residents and the support of numerous local businesses.

We always welcome new volunteers and committee members. In addition to raising funds for the educational advancement of our young people, the Fair is a wonderful catalyst for bringing the Town together in a common pursuit. We will be working toward another successful fair in 2017.

Fran Tobia - Peru Fair President

Peru Fair Scholarship Report

The Peru Fair Scholarship Fund is fortunate to have received continued funding from the success of the Peru Fair. In 2016 the Peru Fair contributed \$12,000.00 to the Scholarship Fund. The current balance on 1/17/2017 as reported by Berkshire Bank is \$ 34,612.78.

In 2016 the Peru Fair Scholarship was pleased to award \$1000 to each of the 15 recipients, which represented 7 high school graduates and 8 upperclassmen. The high

school graduate awards were mailed to their respective schools in August 2016 and the upperclassmen awards were mailed in December 2016.

While it is hard to know the exact number of participants on a year-by-year basis, it appears as though the amount of recipients is expected to decrease slightly for the 2017 school year. The Peru Fair Committee continues to evaluate potentially raising the amount of the scholarship amount taking into consideration the balance in the bank coupled with the number of students expected to graduate over the course of the next 3-5 years. Reported by: Laurie Gayda

Regional Education District Report

It has been another active year in VT Education politics and somewhat of an initial transition year for the Mountain Towns Regional Education District (RED). While some of our Board members and several other community members worked hard alongside community members from Manchester, Dorset, Danby, Sunderland and Mt. Tabor to consider what a larger, merged district would look like and how it would affect our schools and region, our local Board focused on starting to think about implications of the merger for Flood Brook School in particular and the students of the mountain towns of Londonderry, Weston, Landgrove and Peru. At the same time, Flood Brook's enrollment continues to grow, a testament to the outstanding job our teachers and staff have done to refine curriculum, expand offerings, and create a school community that students and families want to be a part of. This continued growth at Flood Brook has the additional benefit of helping the District keep its per-pupil spending down while at the same time offering more opportunities for kids.

Act 46 and its Potential Implications

Act 46, passed by the legislature in 2015, requires that most school districts in VT, depending on current enrollment, consider merging with similar districts in the same region with the primary goal of simplifying governance structures and potentially creating financial savings. As a result, the Mountain Town's RED Board voted in the Fall of 2015 to enter into a study with the towns of Manchester, Dorset, Danby, Sunderland and Mt. Tabor to consider merging all of our districts and the five elementary schools they operate into one, larger school district with one school board that operates it. Several members of our community put countless hours in on that study committee over the course of last year, and as a result, the committee unanimously voted to recommend a

merger to the State Board of Education. In December, the State Board approved the proposal, paving the way for a vote on Town Meeting Day in March in all of our towns on whether or not to approve the merger.

On Town Meeting Day, the voters in each of our towns will vote by Australian Ballot on whether or not to form a new, nine-town school district, in addition to electing representatives from each of our towns to serve on the new, merged school board if the merger passes. The new district would be called the Taconic and Green Unified School District and be run by one new board with representatives of all of the towns. The new district would operate the five elementary schools currently run by the individual boards, and would be responsible for providing education to our pre-K students and paying tuition for our high school students who would continue to have school choice.

The Study Committee spent a significant amount of time gathering public input, discussing, and modeling, to envision what this new, expanded district would look like and what the potential effects of a merger include. Some are straightforward and concrete, such as helping to buffer fluctuations in secondary students for whom we pay tuition, by spreading changes over a larger number of students and a greater geographic area. This should result in a more stable tax rate over time. The larger district should lead to more opportunities for collaboration and sharing of resources between the schools in the district. While Act 46 encourages local districts to voluntarily enter into merger agreements, it also empowers the State Board of Education to require mergers of districts that do not merge voluntarily. If our districts do not approve the Taconic and Green merger, we will be left with a somewhat uncertain future.

In addition to the long term effects, approving the merger this year will allow the new district to take advantage of tax incentives offered by the state for the formation of new Regional Education Districts. These incentives would bring reductions in annual tax rates for the next five years and limit increases in tax rates for individual towns to 5% per year for the next five years.

Our Board encourages voters to learn more about the Taconic and Green Merger by attending voter information meetings, and to reach out to members of our Board or the Merger Study Committee with questions or concerns.

Budget Discussion

The Mountain Town's RED Board expects a decline in per-pupil spending of around 8% in the upcoming year. This decline is caused for the most part by four factors:

- continued increasing enrollment at Flood Brook School,
- a decline in secondary students for whom we pay tuition,
- application of the "Tax Stabilization Fund" to offset costs for next year,
- and the application of an expected surplus from the current year to offset costs for next year.

The latter two effects are the result of decisions our Board made in light of the potential for the upcoming merger. It is important that our community understand that much of this decrease in spending is a one-time effect, and while the District's enrollment and financial picture are very good, school spending and therefore tax rates will likely begin to rise after next year to levels they were at previously. If the vote on the Taconic and Green merger fails, it is the intent of the Mountain Town's RED board not to apply the expected surplus to next year's budget, but to instead use that surplus to replenish the District's reserve funds.

Most exciting to our Board is that we continue to attract children and families to Flood Brook School. Our Board, faculty, staff and administration continue to work tirelessly to make sure that Flood Brook is a place where families want to enroll their children and these new families continue to make our communities more vibrant. To that effect, there are some areas in which the Board has approved increases in spending for next year at Flood Brook. One of the Board goals for this year was to examine areas of the school where changes might be considered in light of the potential merger. One of the obvious areas was the role of ancillary organizations at Flood Brook such as Flood Brook Student Activities Committee (FBSAC) and Flood Brook Athletic Association (FBAA). Each of these organization operates with its own board independent of Flood Brook but provides invaluable services to the School. While these organization have served the School well, they have struggled to find volunteers and have seen declining donor bases to provide funding. At the same time, they have drawn a significant amount of parent and staff energy to fundraising and away from the work of directly providing activities and education for our students. This year's budget includes additional funds that will relieve

some of the burden of funding “extracurricular” activities such as field trips and visiting artists from FBSAC and will allow Flood Brook to take over the operation of middle school soccer from West River Sports Association and middle school basketball from FBAA. It also includes additional funding for a drama program within Flood Brook. We believe that these changes will help to ensure that these programs continue to exist and thrive at the school and will have the additional effect of allowing our parents to devote their volunteer time to working more directly with teachers and students and to ultimately have more involvement with their children’s education.

While we expect to see a decline in secondary students this year, our board does not see that as a reason for concern and does not believe it is representative of a long term trend. This decline in secondary students has largely been offset by increases in enrollment at Flood Brook, meaning we are educating a similar number of students, but save significantly on secondary tuition costs.

The last two areas of savings in the proposed budget stem from the Board’s decision to return money in the District’s Reserve Funds to the voters before they are transferred to the new, larger district if the Taconic and Green merger passes. These include the application of the “Tax Stabilization Fund” and the surplus anticipated for the current year to reduce the costs passed on to the taxpayers for next year. The Tax Stabilization Fund was formed several years ago from budget surpluses to help protect taxpayers from sharp increases that can happen due to unexpected events such as an influx of secondary students. Since this money has not been needed for this purpose and would otherwise be transferred to a newly formed district, the Board is applying it this year to reduce the tax rate of those taxpayers who actually funded it. In addition, the Board expects a surplus at the end of the current year, and for the same reasons intends to use this surplus to reduce net education spending and reduce tax rates for one year. The Board wants to be clear that these one-time decreases in the tax rate are not due to savings brought about by the merger, but by a returning of money to the taxpayers in anticipation of the merger.

It is the intention of the Board to revise its plan for reserve funds if the Taconic and Green merger does not pass. Returning the funds to the taxpayers as explained would leave the school with little or no money in its Buildings and Grounds Reserve Fund, Bus Purchase Reserve Fund, and Technology Reserve Fund. While our Board is comfortable with this going into the proposed merger, it will leave the District in an uncomfortable financial position if the merger does not pass. Therefore, if the Taconic and Green merger does not pass in the necessary towns and does not occur, the Board will not apply the current surplus to the budget for

next year, but will use that surplus to replenish the reserve funds. While this change would not affect total the budget which is voted at the annual meeting, it would likely result in a tax rate approximately \$.06 higher than that anticipated by the published budget.

In a state that continues to see declining student populations and increasing costs of education, our region continues to be an example of what happens when excellent schools combine with vibrant communities. While offering secondary school choice helps to draw families to our towns, it is important to remember that what really draws most families is not just that there are choices, but that all of the choices, both public and independent, offer excellent opportunities and are constantly striving to be better. While Act 46 may have an effect of further centralizing governance and some are concerned about loss of local control, it is important to remember that we are still small communities where everyone's voice matters and is readily heard. The impact that we have on shaping the future of our schools and communities will only be as great as the efforts of those who step up and volunteer to make a difference. We would like to thank all of those volunteers who have worked hard in the last year to help ensure we are making the right choices for our schools and families and that our schools continue to be the thriving and vibrant communities that they are.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our students and our school. We welcome you to attend our monthly Mt Town RED board meetings.

Respectfully Submitted, Jon Mowry, Peru, Board Chair on behalf of the Mountain Town's RED Board

Mountain Towns RED Board

Jeff Cleary, Landgrove

Melissa Brown, Londonderry

Charlie Cave, Londonderry

Rosalind Klezos, Londonderry

Jeanne Zammataro, Londonderry

Jon Mowry, Peru

Carrie Chalmers, Weston

Deb Lyneis, Weston

**MTR Representatives to the Northshire
Merger Study Committee (Act 46)**

Jeff Cleary

Richard Dale

Deb Lyneis

Jay Ouellette

Notice to Voters

Danby, Dorset, Manchester, Mt. Tabor and Sunderland School Districts and
Towns of Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru and Weston

In accordance with the Report and Articles of Agreement prepared by the Danby, Dorset, Manchester, Mt. Tabor, Mountain Towns Red and Sunderland Act 46 Study Committee, an election will be held on March 7, 2017 to elect an initial board of school directors for the Taconic and Green Regional School District, if its formation is approved by the voters.

The following 13 directors will be elected from the identified school districts/towns:

Danby	1 Director	Three year term expiring in March of 2021
Dorset	1 Director	Two year term expiring in March of 2020 **
Landgrove	1 Director	Two year term expiring in March of 2020 **
Londonderry	1 Director	Three year term expiring in March of 2021
Manchester	1 Director	Three year term expiring in March of 2021
Mt. Tabor	1 Director	Two year term expiring in March of 2020 **
Peru	1 Director	Two year term expiring in March of 2020 **
Sunderland	1 Director	Two year term expiring in March of 2020 **
Weston	1 Director	Three year term expiring in March of 2021
Danby, Dorset	4 Directors *	One year term expiring in March 2019

Londonderry, Manchester

** At-Large Directors - Four (4) directors are to be elected from the four (4) largest districts/towns (Danby, Dorset, Londonderry, Manchester). All nominees from the four districts/towns will be listed on the ballot that is submitted to voters in all districts/towns. The four (4) nominees receiving the most votes will be elected. The seats will be 3 year terms in March 2019.*

**** All seats expiring in 2020 will become 3 year terms in 2020.**

If you are interested in running for one of the non-“at large” director positions, you must file a nomination petition signed by at least 30 voters in that district or one percent of the legal voters in the town, whichever is less, with the respective town clerk on or before 5:00 PM on February 6, 2017.

If you are registered voter in Danby, Dorset, Londonderry or Manchester, and are interested in running for one of the “at large” director positions, you must file a nomination petition signed by at least 60 voters in the districts of Danby, Dorset, Londonderry or Manchester with a town clerk of one of these four districts on or before 5:00 PM on February 6, 2017. Petitions may be obtained from your town clerk. If you have any questions, please contact the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union at 802-362-2452.

Taconic and Green School District

New Board Nomination and Election Process

- The electorate will vote on the proposed merger on March 7, 2017. Also with that vote, they will be electing the board members for the proposed district should the merger be approved.
- The board election is an at large Australian Ballot format, where the electorate of the entire proposed district will vote for each board member. This means that the ballot in every town in the proposed new district will have thirteen seats for each legal voter to vote on. Terms will be staggered after this initial election.
- Each of the nine towns in the district - Danby, Dorset, Landgrove, Londonderry, Mt. Tabor, Manchester, Peru, Sunderland and Weston - will have one "Town Seat" on the new board.
- The four largest towns in the proposed district - Danby, Dorset, Londonderry and Manchester - will have the opportunity to nominate residents from their towns to four "At Large Seats" to complete the board total of 13 seats.
- In the towns nominating candidates for both Town Seats and At Large Seats, the candidates must designate which seat they are running for.
- The terms of office for the School Directors shall be one, two or three years respectively plus the additional months between the date of the Organizational Meeting of the Union School District, when the initial school directors will begin their terms of office, and the date of the Union School District's annual meeting in the spring of 2018. The seats designated for one, two or three year terms are explained under Article 8 of the Articles of Agreement being proposed by the Northshire Merger Study Committee.
- Should towns that are designated "Advisable", under the Articles of Agreement being proposed by the Northshire Merger Study Committee, vote not to approve the merger those/that towns' votes will not count towards the at large voting for candidates of the new board. Also, should advisable towns vote not to approve the merger, the board structure will vary (all towns in the new district will have one Town Seat no matter the outcome of the advisable towns' vote on the merger). These variations are described under Article 8 of the proposed Articles of Agreement.
- Nominations for a Town seat are to be made by filing with the clerk of that town, a statement of nomination signed by 30 voters in that town or one percent of the voters in that town, whichever is less and accepted in writing by the nominee. A statement shall be filed not less than 30 nor more than 40 days prior to the date of the vote. For the purposes of this vote, a statement must be filed between January 26, 2017 and February 6, 2017.
- Nominations for any of the At Large Seats may come from a resident of the four largest towns in the proposed new district, Danby, Dorset, Londonderry and Manchester. Candidates must file a statement of nomination signed by at least 60 voters in the districts of Danby, Dorset, Londonderry or Manchester with a town clerk of one of such districts on or before 5:00 PM on February 6, 2017. For the purposes of this vote, a statement must be filed between January 26, 2017 and February 6, 2017.
- The vote shall be warned in each proposed member school district by the school board of that district, and the vote shall be by Australian ballot.
- The vote shall be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 from 7:00 AM until 7:00 PM.

OFFICIAL BALLOT
TOWN OF _____
MARCH 7, 2017

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER

To vote, fill in the oval to the left of your choice(s), like this: ☐ Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval. If you wrongly mark, tear or deface the ballot, return it and obtain another. You can vote for candidates from all towns in Article ____.

Article__: Shall the voters of the _____ Town School District vote to form the Taconic and Green Regional School District ("Union School District") on the following terms:

1. The districts listed below shall all be identified as "necessary" for the formation of the Union School District:

The Dorset Town School District
The Manchester Town School District
The Mountain Towns Regional Education District

The districts listed below shall be identified as "advisable" for the formation of the Union School District.

The Danby Town School District
The Mt. Tabor Town School District
The Sunderland Town School District
Union School District #23 (Currier Memorial School)

2. The Union School District will operate schools in Grades Kindergarten through Eight (K-8) and tuition students in Grades Nine through Twelve (9-12) to provide education for all students in the Union School District.
3. The Union School District Board of Directors shall be composed of thirteen (13) directors if all advisable districts vote in favor of the merger. Directors shall be nominated from the legal voters of each forming town and shall be elected on an at-large basis by Australian Ballot vote by the voters of the Union School District. Directors shall have equal votes and shall be allocated as based on the following merger scenarios:

- a. All advisable districts vote in favor of the merger

TOWN	NUMBER OF DIRECTORS
DANBY	1
DORSET	1
LANDGROVE	1
LONDONDERRY	1
MANCHESTER	1
MT. TABOR	1
PERU	1
SUNDERLAND	1
WESTON	1
DANBY, DORSET, LONDONDERRY OR MANCHESTER	4
TOTAL	13

- b. All advisable districts except Danby and Mt. Tabor vote in favor of the merger

TOWN	NUMBER OF DIRECTORS
DORSET	1
LANDGROVE	1
LONDONDERRY	1
MANCHESTER	1
PERU	1
SUNDERLAND	1
WESTON	1
DORSET, LONDONDERRY OR MANCHESTER	3
TOTAL	10

- c. All advisable districts except Sunderland vote in favor of the merger

TOWN	NUMBER OF DIRECTORS
DANBY	1
DORSET	1
LANDGROVE	1
LONDONDERRY	1
MANCHESTER	1
MT. TABOR	1
PERU	1
WESTON	1
DANBY, DORSET, LONDONDERRY OR MANCHESTER	4
TOTAL	12

- d. None of the advisable districts vote in favor of the merger

TOWN	NUMBER OF DIRECTORS
DORSET	1
LANDGROVE	1
LONDONDERRY	1
MANCHESTER	1
PERU	1
WESTON	1
DORSET, LONDONDERRY OR MANCHESTER	3
TOTAL	9

4. Real Estate and Personal Property

- A. No later than June 30, 2018, the forming districts will convey to the Union School District, for the sum of One Dollar, and subject to all encumbrances of record, all school-related real estate and personal property owned by them, including all school-related land, buildings, and contents.
- B. Disposal of Real Estate. In the event that, and at such subsequent time as, the Union School District Board of School Directors determines, in its discretion, that any of the real property, including land and buildings, conveyed to it by one or more of the forming districts is or are unnecessary to the continued operation of the Union School District and its educational programs, the Union School District shall convey such real property, for the sum of One Dollar, and subject to all encumbrances of record, the assumption or payment of all outstanding bonds and notes and the repayment of any school construction aid or grants as required by Vermont law, to the town in which it is located, except as provided below for any properties conveyed to the Union School District by either the Mountain Towns Regional School District or Union School District #23.

In the event that, and at such subsequent time as, the Union School District Board of School Directors determines, in its discretion, that any of the real property, including land and buildings, conveyed to it by the Mountain Town Regional School District is or are unnecessary to the continued operation of the Union School District and its educational programs, the Union School District shall sell such real property, subject to all encumbrances of record, the assumption or payment of all outstanding bonds and notes and the repayment of any school construction aid or grants as required by Vermont law, upon such terms and conditions as established by the Union School District Board of School Directors, and return the proceeds of any such sale to the towns of Landgrove, Londonderry, Peru, and Weston in amounts equal to the relative proportion of the population of these towns.

In the event that, and at such subsequent time as, the Union School District Board of School Directors determines, in its discretion, that any of the real property, including land and buildings, conveyed to it by Union School District #23 is or are unnecessary to the continued operation of the Union School District and its educational programs, the Union School District shall first offer to sell such real property, for the sum of One Dollar, subject to all encumbrances of record, the assumption or payment of all outstanding bonds and notes and the repayment of any school construction aid or grants as required by Vermont law, to the Town of Danby. If the Town of Danby does not desire to purchase said property, the Union School District shall then offer to sell the property to the Town of Mt. Tabor under the same terms and conditions. If the Town of Mt. Tabor does not desire to purchase said property, the Union School District may sell the property upon such terms and conditions as established by the Union School District Board of School Directors.

The conveyance of any school properties to a town shall be conditioned upon the town owning and utilizing the real property for community and public purposes for a minimum of five years. In the event a town elects to sell the real property prior to five years of ownership, the town shall compensate the Union School District for all capital improvements and renovations completed after the formation of the Union School District and prior to the sale to the town. In the event a town elects not to acquire ownership of such real property, the Union School District shall, pursuant to Vermont statutes, sell the property upon such terms and conditions as established by the Union School District Board of School Directors.

5. Transfer of Funds

- a. Capital Debt. The Union School District shall assume all capital debt of forming districts, including both principal and interest, as may exist at the close of business on June 30, 2018.
- b. Operating Fund Surpluses and Deficits. The Union School District shall assume any and all general operating surpluses and deficits of the forming districts that may exist at the close of business on June 30, 2018. In addition, reserve funds identified for specific purposes will be transferred to the Union School District and will be applied for said purpose unless otherwise determined through appropriate legal procedures.
- c. Specified Funds. The forming districts will transfer to the Union School District any preexisting school district specific endowments or other restricted accounts that may exist on June 30, 2018. Scholarship funds or like accounts held by school districts prior to June 30, 2018, that have specified conditions of use will be used in accordance with said provisions.

6. Australian Ballot. The Union School District voters shall vote on the budget and other public questions by Australian ballot with polling places provided in each member town. Ballots will be delivered to the Union District Clerk and commingled for counting.
7. The provisions of the Merger Study Report and Articles of Agreement approved by the State Board of Education on December 20, 2016, which is on file at the offices of the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union, shall govern the Union School District.

☐ YES

☐ NO

Article __: To elect the following directors to the initial board of directors of the Taconic and Green Regional School District:

A. Danby – 1 Director for a three (3) year term expiring in March 2021

(vote for not more than ONE)

☐ _____ ☐ _____ (WRITE-IN)

B. Dorset – 1 Director for a two (2) year term expiring in March 2020

(vote for not more than ONE)

☐ _____ ☐ _____ (WRITE-IN)

C. Landgrove – 1 Director for a two (2) year term expiring in March 2020

(vote for not more than ONE)

☐ _____ ☐ _____ (WRITE-IN)

D. Londonderry – 1 Director for a three (3) year term expiring in March 2021

(vote for not more than ONE)

☐ _____ ☐ _____ (WRITE-IN)

E. Manchester – 1 Director for a three (3) year term expiring in March 2021

(vote for not more than ONE)

☐ _____ ☐ _____ (WRITE-IN)

F. Mt. Tabor – 1 Director for a two (2) year term expiring in March 2020

(vote for not more than ONE)

☐ _____ ☐ _____ (WRITE-IN)

G. Peru – 1 Director for a two (2) year term expiring in March 2020

(vote for not more than ONE)

☐ _____ ☐ _____ (WRITE-IN)

H. Sunderland – 1 Director for a two (2) year term expiring in March 2020

(vote for not more than ONE)

☐ _____ ☐ _____ (WRITE-IN)

I. Weston – 1 Director for a three (3) year term expiring in March 2021

(vote for not more than ONE)

☐ _____ ☐ _____ (WRITE-IN)

J. AT-LARGE DIRECTORS – 4 Directors for a one (1) year term

(vote for not more than FOUR)

☐ _____ ☐ _____ (WRITE-IN)

☐ _____ ☐ _____ (WRITE-IN)

☐ _____ ☐ _____ (WRITE-IN)

☐ _____ ☐ _____ (WRITE-IN)

NORTHSHIRE MERGER STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT

Dear Voters,

On March 7th, you will be presented with a ballot question asking whether or not your school district should merge into the *Taconic and Green Regional School District* with five other neighboring districts. At first glance this question may seem like a simple and one-dimensional one, but there are many merger-related issues I encourage you to become informed with before you head to the polls. The Northshire Merger Study Committee, which I am honored to chair, has worked diligently since last May to create a thoughtful merger report and now it is working to inform the public of what the proposal entails. While I do not have the space in this letter to give you a detailed summary of the proposed merger, I do want to take this opportunity to answer some basic questions and to explain how you can become more informed before Town Meeting time.

Why are we looking at merging school districts to begin with?

The primary reason we are exploring a merger is Act 46. This is not to say that a merger would be unwise without the existence of this school governance reform legislation. Before Act 46, in 2012, the Landgrove, Peru, Weston, and Londonderry school districts voluntarily merged into the Mountain Towns RED (Regional Education District).

What is Act 46?

Act 46 is an education law passed by the state legislature in 2015 that uses tax incentives to encourage “school districts to merge into larger units...in an effort to better serve students and better manage costs” (Tiffany Danitz Pache from VT Digger). As Act 46 is currently written, it is very likely that a school district will be forced to merge if it does not do so on its own volition.

What is a merger study committee and why do we have one?

Under Vermont law, districts are required to form a study committee with representatives from the member districts. The committee is required to study the benefits and implications of merging. After studying the possible merger, the committee writes a report that recommends if merger is advisable or not. Our committee unanimously agreed merger is advisable.

Which school districts are involved in the proposed merger?

The districts of Danby, Dorset, Manchester, Mountain Towns RED (Londonderry, Landgrove, Peru, and Weston comprise this unified district), Mt. Tabor and Sunderland.

What will be the status of school choice in the proposed district?

If the merger is approved, all 9-12 grade students will have school choice.

What would happen to our existing school boards if the merger was approved?

If this merger is approved in all the voting electorates, then your current school board would be dissolved, effective July 1, 2018 and replaced by the new 13-member school board representing the Taconic and Green Regional School District.

How do I learn more about the implications and benefits of merging?

To get the detailed run-down of the proposed merger, I recommend reading our merger report which was approved by the State Board of Education. You can read this document, along with many more, at our website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/northshiremergerstudy/> . I also recommend you follow us Facebook (@northshiremergerstudy) and that you attend one of the following forums:

Date	Location	Time	Intended Audience Forum is Designed For
January 31	Currier School in Danby	6:30pm	Danby and Mt. Tabor residents
February 4	Currier School in Danby	3:00pm	Danby and Mt. Tabor residents
February 9 (snow date March 3)	Flood Brook School	6:30pm	Intended for all districts
February 28 (snow date March 1)	Sunderland Elementary	6:30pm	Sunderland Residents
March 2 (snow date March 3)	Manchester Community Library	6:30pm	Intended for all districts

The following document is a sample ballot that voters in the towns of Danby, Dorset, Landgrove, Londonderry, Manchester, Mt. Tabor, Peru, Sunderland, and Weston will vote on by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 7, 2017. Polls are open in all towns from

7am to 7pm. We are required by law to include all the language that you see on the ballot.

Following the ballot is a Notice to Voters information sheet as well as information on the New Board Nomination and Election Process for the board members for the proposed Taconic and Green Regional Education District.

Please feel free to contact me if you have more questions.

Sincerely,

Jon Wilson

Chair of the Northshire Merger Study Committee

jon.wilson@brsu.org

802-379-8472



Green Mountain National Forest Report

There will be 3 active Timber sales in the Town of Peru over the winter season. Please pass on to others that heavy traffic can be expected in the following areas:

Pumphouse Stewardship Sale- Forest Road 21 (Mad Tom Notch Road). This activity will use the Forest Road for a distance of approximately 1 mile past the snowmobile parking area. The Purchaser has made arrangements to access part of the sale from private land on the Moss Brook road also so there will be some logging traffic expected. Hauling will not be allowed on weekends and Federal Holidays on Federal land to minimize impact to snowmobile trails.

Mad Tom Stewardship Sale- Forest Road 21 (Mad Tom Notch Road). This activity will use the Forest Road for a distance of approximately 4 miles. Hauling will not be allowed on weekends and Federal Holidays on Federal land to minimize impact to snowmobile trails.

Cook Brook Sale- this sale is accessed from the Pierce road.

Forest Road 21 (Mad Tom Notch road) past the snowmobile parking is closed for vehicle traffic starting December 15th. The only vehicles authorized to operate on this road are snowmobile and logging traffic.

If there are any questions, please contact me at [802-362-2307 ext. 7224](tel:802-362-2307) or stacystratton@fs.fed.us.

Stacy Stratton

**Timber Management Assistant
Forest Service**

Vermont Department of Health

Your local health district office is in Bennington at the address and phone number above. Come visit or give us a call! At the Vermont Department of Health, we are working every day for your health. With twelve district offices around the state, and state office and laboratory in Chittenden County, we deliver a wide range of public health services and support to your community. For example, in 2015 and 2016 the Health Department:

Supported healthy communities: Bennington County Regional Commission was awarded \$42,500 in order to engage in tobacco prevention activities in Shaftsbury, Bennington, Woodford and Pownal. In 2016, the Regional Prevention Partnerships (RPP) Project was expanded to include Bennington County. The goal of the Vermont RPP is to apply the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) model to reduce underage drinking, prescription drug misuse and abuse, and marijuana use among 12-25 year olds across the state of Vermont. The purpose of the grant is to strengthen the prevention infrastructure at the state, regional and community levels using Vermont Department of Health's existing health district structure as the primary mechanism to implement the RPP. The Collaborative is the Lead Agency in our area.

Provided WIC nutrition services and healthy foods to families: We served about half of all Vermont families with pregnant women and children to age five with WIC (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children). WIC provides individualized nutrition counseling and breastfeeding support. We partner with grocery stores across the state to enable participants to use a debit-like card to access nutritious foods. The average value of foods provided is \$50 per person per month.

Worked to prevent and control the spread of disease: In 2015 we responded to 193 cases of infectious disease in Bennington County. In 2015, \$13,916,297 of vaccine for vaccine-preventable diseases was distributed to healthcare providers statewide.

Aided communities in emergency preparedness: In July of 2016 we participated in a large-scale exercise in Rutland in order to practice our procedures for distributing medicine, to keep people from getting sick in case of a public health emergency. For 2016/17, \$10,000 will fund training for Bennington County's Emergency Medical Services and Medical Reserve Corps. In addition, \$83,695 will support emergency preparedness capabilities at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center.

In 2016, with support from Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, we conducted PFOA blood draw clinics as part of the State of Vermont's response to PFOA contamination of private drinking water wells in the North Bennington and Bennington area where detections of PFOA ranged from non-detect to nearly 3,000 parts per trillion. Vermont's advisory level is 20 parts per trillion.

Londonderry Solid Waste Group

The Londonderry Solid Waste Group (LSWG) is committed to developing programs and policies that reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills, increase recycling and maximize hazardous waste collections. In 2015 LSWG completed and adopted a solid waste implementation plan (SWIP) which can be read at londonderryvt.org/recycletransfer/solid-waste-plan/

In 2016 LSWG held an electronics collection in May and two hazardous waste collections the first Saturday in June and the first Saturday in October. You can find information about these collections for 2017 at www.londonderryvt.org. To find year-round electronics collection sites see <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/EWaste/facilitylist.aspx> You don't have to wait for a hazardous waste collection event to dispose of latex and oil based paints. Visit www.paintcare.com to find locations that will accept used paint for free.

Many retail stores accept fluorescent bulbs, both tubes and CFLs and alkaline and rechargeable batteries. Londonderry Hardware accepts both. Sigda's Servistar will accept your batteries as will the Londonderry Transfer Station and Londonderry Town Office. To find other battery collection sites visit www.call2recycle.org.

Did you know that textiles like clothing, linens, etc. can be bagged and brought to the Larry Daley shed at the transfer station? All items must be clean and dry, no must, no mildew and in plastic bags

As of July 1, 2016, the following items have been banned from the landfill (trash):

- Aluminum and steel cans
- Aluminum foil and aluminum pie pans – clean please
- Glass bottles and jars from foods and beverages
- Plastics #1 and #2 (PET and HDPE resin types)
- Corrugated cardboard
- White and mixed paper
- Newspaper, magazines, catalogues, paper mail, and envelopes *Box board – Cereal boxes and such but not the inserts
- Leaf and yard debris and clean wood

- These materials can be recycled at the transfer station plus food scraps and many other materials.

A complete list of all materials banned from the landfill and all materials that you can recycle at the transfer station as well as an A-Z list of how and where to dispose of just about everything can be found at

<http://londonderryvt.org/LondonderryRecycle/RecycleMain.html>.

As always your comments and questions are welcome. You can contact your recycling coordinator, Esther Fishman, at londonrecycle@vermontel.net.

Animal Control

DOG LICENSES: January 1 – December 31, 2016

The State of Vermont requires that all dog/wolf-hybrid owners license their pets. Current rabies vaccination certificates are required at the time of licensing.

Total licenses sold 2016: 105

Revenue to Peru: \$ 915.00*

Revenue to State VT: \$ 525.00

Total Revenue 2016: \$1,440.00

2016 Fees:	<u>Before April 1st:</u>	<u>After April 1st:</u>
Neutered/Spayed	\$ 12.00	\$ 17.00
Unaltered Male/Female	\$ 20.00	\$ 29.00

*Including late fees

Puppies must be registered by six months of age. New dogs to households may be registered any time without a late fee assessed. Please be advised that Peru has an Animal Control Ordinance. Section #3 prohibits animals from roaming and Section #4 prohibits animals against creating a nuisance. Our Animal Warden, Patrick Salo (802-

688-4020), should be contacted to handle any complaint regarding problem animals, if your dog has gone missing or if a stray has been seen.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara A. Petra, Assistant Town Clerk

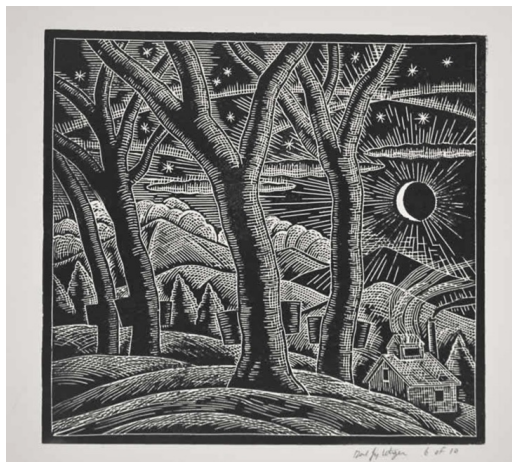
ANIMAL CONTROL

The Animal Control Officer is responsible for the enforcement of the Vermont State Laws pertaining to animals. The officer responds to complaints of violations of Animal Control laws by telephone and police dispatch. The officer also investigates complaints of vicious, diseased, neglected or abused animals. Impounded animals are cared for at the officers' kennel. Unclaimed animals are carefully evaluated before being placed for adoption.

The Animal Control Department makes every effort to insure that all functions of the department are carried out in the most economical manner with cost savings in mind, while providing the highest degree of professional service to the townspeople and provides assistance to the community so that animals and people can co-exist safely and peacefully.

Unlicensed dogs: The Animal Control Officer is responsible for the enforcement of the dog licensing laws. A dog without tags will considered unlicensed and unvaccinated and fines may be issued.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Salo



Town of Peru, Budget

	<u>Actual 2015/16</u>	<u>Authorized 2016/17</u>	<u>Proposed 2017/18</u>
3000 · REVENUE			
316 · State of VT- Current Use	31,220.00	20,000.00	17,500.00
318 · Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	9,113.27	12,000.00	9,000.00
322 · Beverage License	610.00	500.00	550.00
324 · Dog & Marriage Licenses	825.00	850.00	850.00
326 · Zoning Permits	2,858.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
328 · Hunting/Fishing Licenses	20.50	25.00	25.00
332 · Town Clerk Fees	9,734.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
334 · Rental of Equipment	33.00	50.00	75.00
336 · Rental of Facilities	25.00	50.00	75.00
338 · Highway- State of VT	49,887.51	40,000.00	40,000.00
340 · Interest Earned	4,296.83	9,000.00	4,300.00
344 · Misc Income	781.00	1,000.00	750.00
346 · Green Mountain Forest	53,982.98	40,000.00	40,000.00
Total 3000 · REVENUE	163,387.09	134,975.00	124,625.00
Surplus to be applied to tax rate	150,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00
(To Be) Raised by taxes	387,184.85	524,100.00	556,500.00
	700,571.94	809,075.00	\$ 831,125.00
4000 · ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			
400 · Town Clerk	14,707.48	17,000.00	17,000.00
401 · Treasurer	11,659.55	15,000.00	15,000.00
402 · Asst Town Clerk	7,420.86	9,000.00	9,000.00
403 · Asst Treasurer	4,519.49	3,000.00	3,000.00
404 · Select Board	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
405 · Auditors	368.50	1,500.00	1,500.00
406 · Listers	2,817.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
407 · Planning Commission	1,204.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
408 · Memberships / Training	3,653.00	3,000.00	3,800.00
408.5 · Consulting	229.00	400.00	400.00
409 · Legal Services	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
410 · Town Report & Delivery	906.52	1,500.00	1,500.00
411 · Town Meetings	182.09	250.00	250.00
412 · Election Expense	38.15	200.00	200.00
413 · Comp & Liability Insurance	24,209.24	32,000.00	32,000.00
414 · Admin Misc/Travel	708.39	1,500.00	1,500.00
415 · Zoning Board of Adjustment	177.00	500.00	500.00
416 · Zoning Administrator	4,156.93	5,000.00	5,000.00
417 · Zoning Board/Administrator Misc	0.00	100.00	100.00
418 · Delinquent Tax Collector	8,629.57	12,000.00	12,000.00
Total 4000 · ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	90,586.77	117,950.00	118,750.00

	<u>Actual 2015/16</u>	<u>Authorized 2016/17</u>	<u>Proposed 2017/18</u>
4200 · OFFICE EXPENSE			
420 · Tax Bills	392.00	400.00	450.00
421 · Land Record Book	211.87	1,000.00	7,400.00
422 · Dog Tags & Registration	104.49	125.00	125.00
423 · Paper, Envelopes & Supplies	500.42	1,000.00	1,000.00
424 · Postage	901.32	1,000.00	1,000.00
425 · Office Misc/Supplies	903.67	600.00	600.00
426 · Bank Fees	54.37	100.00	100.00
428 · Media/Advertising	1,103.25	750.00	1,200.00
Total 4200 · OFFICE EXPENSE	4,171.39	4,975.00	11,875.00
4300 · OFFICE EQUIPMENT EXPENSE			
432 · Copier Expense	2,008.36	5,400.00	1,000.00
434 · Computer Supplies/Expenses	5,338.32	5,000.00	4,000.00
436 · Equip., furniture & fixtures	836.28	3,700.00	4,200.00
438 · Miscellaneous	162.98	250.00	250.00
Total 4300 · OFFICE EQUIPMENT EXPENSE	8,345.94	14,350.00	9,450.00
4400 · TOWN CENTER UTILITIES			
440 · Electricity	1,326.29	2,000.00	2,000.00
442 · Telephone	1,766.59	1,500.00	1,500.00
444 · Heating Fuel	2,056.06	5,000.00	4,000.00
446 · Furnace Maintenance	0.00	500.00	500.00
448 · Propane	261.34	300.00	300.00
Total 4400 · TOWN CENTER UTILITIES	5,410.28	9,300.00	8,300.00
4500 · TOWN CENTER JANITORIAL			
450 · Janitor Services	1,975.00	2,000.00	2,300.00
453 · Supplies	79.15	300.00	200.00
Total 4500 · TOWN CENTER JANITORIAL	2,054.15	2,300.00	2,500.00
4600 · TOWN CENTER MAINT.			
460 · Labor	1,694.00	2,500.00	0.00
463 · Supplies	168.16	500.00	500.00
464 · Maintenance	0.00	2,500.00	10,000.00
Total 4600 · TOWN CENTER MAINT.	1,862.16	5,500.00	10,500.00
4700 · COMMUNITY HOUSE MAINT.			
470 · Maintenance	380.25	1,000.00	5,000.00
473 · Supplies	0.00	150.00	150.00
474 · Electricity	269.48	500.00	500.00
475 · Capital Improvement	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
476 · Propane	143.07	500.00	250.00
Total 4700 · COMMUNITY HOUSE MAINT.	792.80	12,150.00	15,900.00

	<u>Actual 2015/16</u>	<u>Authorized 2016/17</u>	<u>Proposed 2017/18</u>
4800 · TOWN GARAGE			
480 · Electricity	1,819.33	2,000.00	2,000.00
481 · Heating Fuel/Propane	3,524.29	5,000.00	5,000.00
482 · Maintenance/Supplies	4,275.19	4,000.00	4,000.00
483 · Labor	2,301.75	1,000.00	0.00
484 · Uniform(contract services)	1,944.67	1,800.00	2,100.00
485 · Capital Improvement	10,561.14	13,000.00	10,000.00
486 · Telephone	1,054.81	1,200.00	450.00
487 · Toilet Rental	425.00	0.00	0.00
Total 4800 · TOWN GARAGE	25,906.18	28,000.00	23,550.00
5100 · PAYROLL TAXES/BENEFITS			
512 · Soc Sec/Medicare Tax	5,849.74	6,500.00	7,000.00
517 · VT Dept of Employ. & Train.	0.00	250.00	250.00
518 · County Tax	15,001.72	20,000.00	20,000.00
Total 5100 · PAYROLL TAXES/BENEFITS	20,851.46	26,750.00	27,250.00
6200 · GENERAL SERVICES			
626 · Landfill	26,016.20	30,000.00	30,000.00
628 · Street Lighting	2,765.42	4,000.00	3,500.00
630 · Village Green	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
632 · Village Green Labor	1,926.00	3,000.00	0.00
634 · Constable Expense	694.46	1,200.00	1,200.00
636 · Animal Warden	3,410.00	3,000.00	3,500.00
Total 6200 · GENERAL SERVICES	34,812.08	43,700.00	40,700.00
6400-Gross Wages All	-98.00	0.00	0.00
7000 · HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT			
700 · Gasoline	66.43	200.00	200.00
701 · Oil	2,315.70	1,500.00	2,000.00
702 · Diesel	11,960.67	27,500.00	20,000.00
703 · Small Tools	1,811.60	2,500.00	2,500.00
704 · Radio Repairs	0.00	500.00	500.00
705 · Street Signs	1,764.42	1,500.00	2,000.00
706 · Truck #1-Maint/Repairs	4,641.33	3,000.00	4,500.00
707 · Truck #1-Labor	1,925.25	1,500.00	0.00
708 · Truck #2-Maint/Repairs	5,488.27	3,000.00	4,500.00
709 · Truck#2-Labor	1,095.25	1,500.00	0.00
710 · Chipper Maint/Repairs	236.75	500.00	500.00
710.5 · Truck #3 Maint/Rep. supplies	1,612.69	2,500.00	3,500.00
711 · Truck #3 - Labor	435.00	1,500.00	0.00
712 · Grader-Maint/Repairs	1,686.93	3,000.00	5,800.00
713 · Grader-Labor	128.25	500.00	0.00
714 · Sander-Maint/Repairs	0.00	500.00	1,000.00

	<u>Actual 2015/16</u>	<u>Authorized 2016/17</u>	<u>Proposed 2017/18</u>
(7000 continued)			
715 · Sander-Labor	0.00	500.00	0.00
716 · Small Equip-Maint/Repairs	881.62	500.00	500.00
717 · Small Equip-Labor	144.50	250.00	0.00
718 · Backhoe-Maint/Repairs	4,514.41	5,000.00	5,000.00
719 · Backhoe-Labor	1,066.32	1,500.00	0.00
Total 7000 · HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT	41,775.39	58,950.00	52,500.00
7200 · SUMMER ROADS (CLASS 2&3)			
720 · Grader Edge	1,450.00	2,800.00	0.00
721 · Culverts	2,849.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
722 · Cal Chloride	4,420.00	5,000.00	7,000.00
724 · Resurfacing Crushed Gravel	16,500.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
725 · Contract Services	14,299.84	15,000.00	15,000.00
726 · General Maintenance	4,190.35	2,000.00	2,000.00
727 · Labor -1st Employee	22,904.00	19,000.00	30,900.00
727.5 · OT Labor-1st Employee	147.00	600.00	600.00
728 · Labor -2nd Employee	17,341.75	16,000.00	21,900.00
729-Equipment Rental	360.18	0.00	500.00
728.5 OT Labor 2nd Employee	0.00	500.00	500.00
Total 7200 · SUMMER ROADS (2&3)	84,462.12	83,900.00	101,400.00
7400 · WINTER ROADS (CLASS 2&3)			
741 · Plow and Chains	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
743 · Contract Services	1,250.00	1,250.00	1,250.00
744 · Sand	33,108.00	30,000.00	28,000.00
745 · Salt	20,000.00	30,000.00	32,000.00
746 · Labor -1st Employee	15,508.75	17,500.00	22,700.00
747 · Labor-2nd Employee	11,759.38	16,000.00	16,100.00
748 · Overtime -1st Employee	4,672.13	7,500.00	8,000.00
749 · Overtime-2nd Employee	2,769.54	6,000.00	6,000.00
750 · General Maintenance	203.89	500.00	500.00
Total 7400 · WINTER ROADS (2&3)	93,271.69	112,750.00	118,550.00
7700 · BRIDGES			
775 · Materials	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
776 · Construction	1,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
777 · Labor -1st Employee	0.00	250.00	0.00
778 · Labor -2nd Employee	0.00	250.00	0.00
Total 7700 · BRIDGES	1,500.00	4,000.00	3,500.00
7900 · HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION			
790 · Fica/Medicare	7,307.80	8,000.00	8,000.00
792 · Health Insurance	37,998.08	35,000.00	35,000.00
793 · Retirement	6,869.34	6,000.00	6,000.00
794 · Vacation Days	12,010.10	5,000.00	5,000.00
794.5 · Holidays Paid	3,392.00	4,000.00	4,000.00

	<u>Actual 2015/16</u>	<u>Authorized 2016/17</u>	<u>Proposed 2017/18</u>
(7900 continued)			
794.8 · Sick Days	1,566.13	2,000.00	2,000.00
795 · Highway Administration	1,982.00	2,000.00	0.00
795.5 · OT Highway Administration	294.00	0.00	0.00
Total 7900 · HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION	71,419.45	62,000.00	60,000.00
8000 · MISCELLANEOUS			
800 · Approp -Comm Agencies	15,228.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
803 · Select Board Discretionary	656.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
805 · Reappraisal	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
806 · New Pavement Reserve	22,500.00	22,500.00	22,500.00
807 · Pavement Resurface Reserve	26,000.00	26,000.00	26,000.00
808 · Fire Engine Fund	17,500.00	17,500.00	20,000.00
810 · Highway Equip Fund	75,000.00	75,000.00	75,000.00
817 · Digitize Maps	2,300.00	2,000.00	2,400.00
852 · Town Tree Maintenance	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
853 · Municipal Planning Grant Exp.	520.00	2,000.00	0.00
Total 8000 · MISCELLANEOUS	164,704.00	173,500.00	174,400.00
9000 · FIRE DEPT			
901 · Fire Dept. Insurance	9,654.75	8,500.00	10,000.00
902 · Radios and Dispatch	15,738.00	13,000.00	16,500.00
903 · Assoc. Dues and School Fees	150.00	4,000.00	2,500.00
904 · Engine and Equipment Maint.	2,332.89	3,000.00	3,500.00
905 · Gas and Oil	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
906 · Propane	2,595.66	3,000.00	3,000.00
907 · Misc. and Supplies	0.00	500.00	500.00
908 · Capital Improvement	13,789.33	10,000.00	10,000.00
909 · Payroll	4,058.45	6,000.00	6,000.00
910 · Toilet Rental	425.00	0.00	0.00
Total 9000 · FIRE DEPT	48,744.08	49,000.00	52,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	700,571.94	809,075.00	\$ 831,125.00

Town of Peru General Fund - Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, Appropriations and Changes in Fund Balance

TOWN OF PERU, GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES, APPROPRIATIONS & CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
Year Ended June 30, 2016

		AUTHORIZED	ACTUAL
REVENUE		15-16	15-16
300	Taxes	\$ 524,650.00	\$ 521,628.00
	Surplus applied to Tax Rate	150,000.00	-
316	State of VT Current Use	17,500.00	31,220.00
318	Penalties Delinquent Taxes	12,000.00	9,113.27
322,324	License/ Dog, Beverage	1,500.00	1,435.00
326	Zoning Permits	1,500.00	2,858.00
328	Hunting/Fishing Licenses	25.00	20.50
332	Town Clerk Fees	10,000.00	9,734.00
334	Rental of TC Equipment	50.00	33.00
336	Rental of Facilities	50.00	25.00
338	State Aid Highways	40,000.00	49,887.51
340	Interest Income	9,000.00	4,296.83
344	Misc. Income	1,000.00	781.00
346	Green Mountain National Forest	40,000.00	53,982.98
Total Revenue		<u>\$ 807,275.00</u>	<u>\$ 685,015.09</u>
EXPENDITURES (See itemized accounts)			
400-418	Administration	114,900.00	90,586.77
420-438	Office/Equipment	13,025.00	12,517.33
440-487	Total Buildings	58,650.00	36,025.57
512-518	Taxes and Assessments	28,500.00	20,851.46
626-638	General Services	46,500.00	34,714.08
700-796	Highway & Roads	316,700.00	293,606.15
901-910	Fire Department	59,500.00	48,744.08
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		<u>\$ 637,775.00</u>	<u>\$ 537,045.44</u>
APPROPRIATIONS			
803	Discretionary Fund	2,500.00	656.00
805	Reappraisal	5,000.00	5,000.00
806	New Pavement Reserve	22,500.00	22,500.00
807	Highway Resurface Fund	26,000.00	26,000.00
808	Fire Engine Fund	17,500.00	17,500.00
810	Highway Equipment Fund	75,000.00	75,000.00
817	Digitize Maps	0.00	2,300.00
852	Town Tree Maintenance	1,000.00	\$ -
853	Municipal Planning Grant Expense	0.00	520.00
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		<u>\$ 149,500.00</u>	<u>\$ 149,476.00</u>
WARNING ARTICLES			
800	Appropriations Community Services	20,000.00	15,228.00
GRAND TOTAL		<u>807,275.00</u>	<u>701,749.44</u>
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (16,734.35)</u>
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE			
Opening Fund Balance July 1, 2015			<u>\$ 469,952.41</u>
Ending Fund Balance June 30, 2016			<u><u>\$ 453,218.06</u></u>

Balance Sheets

Town of Peru Balance Sheets June 30, 2016

	General Fund	Special Funds	Trust & Agency	Total
Assets				
Municipal NOW	\$445,471.73	\$ 603,362.27	\$ 38,407.08	\$1,087,241.08
Petty Cash	100.00			100.00
Stock/Mutual Funds			75,328.17	75,328.17
Due From Reappraisal Fund	-			-
Delinquent Taxes Receivable	11,859.70			11,859.70
Misc. Receivable				
Total Assets	\$457,431.43	603,362.27	113,735.25	\$1,174,528.95
Liabilities				
Accrued Payroll & Payrol Taxes	4,213.37			4,213.37
Accounts payable				-
Total Liabilities	\$ 4,213.37	\$ -		\$ 4,213.37
Fund Balance				
Appropriated		\$ 603,362.27	\$ 112,858.15	\$ 716,220.42
Unappropriated	\$ 453,218.06		877.10	454,095.16
Total Fund Balance	453,218.06	603,362.27	113,735.25	\$1,170,315.58
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$ 457,431.43	\$603,362.27	\$113,735.25	\$1,174,528.95

Special Funds, Statement of Revenues, Expenditures & Changes in Fund Balance

Town of Peru Special Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances June 30, 2016										
REVENUE	Equipment	Highway Resurface/Bridges	Fire Engine	Sewer Land Town Green	Re-Appraisal	New Pavement	TOTAL			
From General Fund	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 17,500.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 146,000.00			
From State of VT.					6,451.50		6,451.50			
Interest Income	68.26	35.47	66.96	9.61	25.70	129.85	335.85			
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 75,068.26	\$ 26,035.47	\$ 17,566.96	\$ 9.61	\$ 11,477.20	\$ 22,629.85	\$ 152,787.35			
EXPENDITURES										
Paving South Road										
Reappraisal Expense										
New Truck Purchase										
	\$ 144,725.00									
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$144,725.00	\$ -							\$ 21,836.00	\$ 166,561.00
Revenues in Excess of Expenditures (Deficit)	(69,656.74)	26,035.47	17,566.96	9.61	11,477.20	793.85	(13,773.65)			
Fund Balance July 1, 2015	100,051.62	68,782.76	132,328.17	19,182.86	36,711.89	260,078.60	617,135.92			
Fund Balance June 30, 2016	\$ 30,394.88	\$ 94,818.23	\$ 149,895.13	\$ 19,192.49	\$ 48,189.09	\$ 260,872.45	\$ 603,362.27			

1/26/17

Statement of Taxes Raised & Distributed

TOWN OF PERU STATEMENT OF TAXES RAISED AND DISTRIBUTED Year ended June 30, 2016

Grand Lists:

Municipal Grand List		\$2,235,356.30	
Billed at	x	<u>0.2364</u>	
		\$528,438.23	
Less Credit		<u>\$4,266.04</u>	524,172.19

		Resident	
Education Grand List		430,689.00	
Billed at	x	<u>1.5828</u>	
		\$681,694.55	
Less Credit		<u>172,218.95</u>	509,475.60

		Non-Resident	
Education Grand List		1,711,142.46	
Billed at	x	<u>1.4852</u>	
		\$2,541,388.78	<u>2,541,388.78</u>
			3,575,036.57

State Adjustment based on final education Grand I	-18,132.60
Post Grand List Adjustments (late-filed HS122, errors & omissions, etc)	<u>-1,449.04</u>

Total Tax Raised \$3,555,454.93

Distribution of Taxes:

State Education Fund-Peru School District-FBUS	\$3,033,826.93
General Fund	\$521,628.00

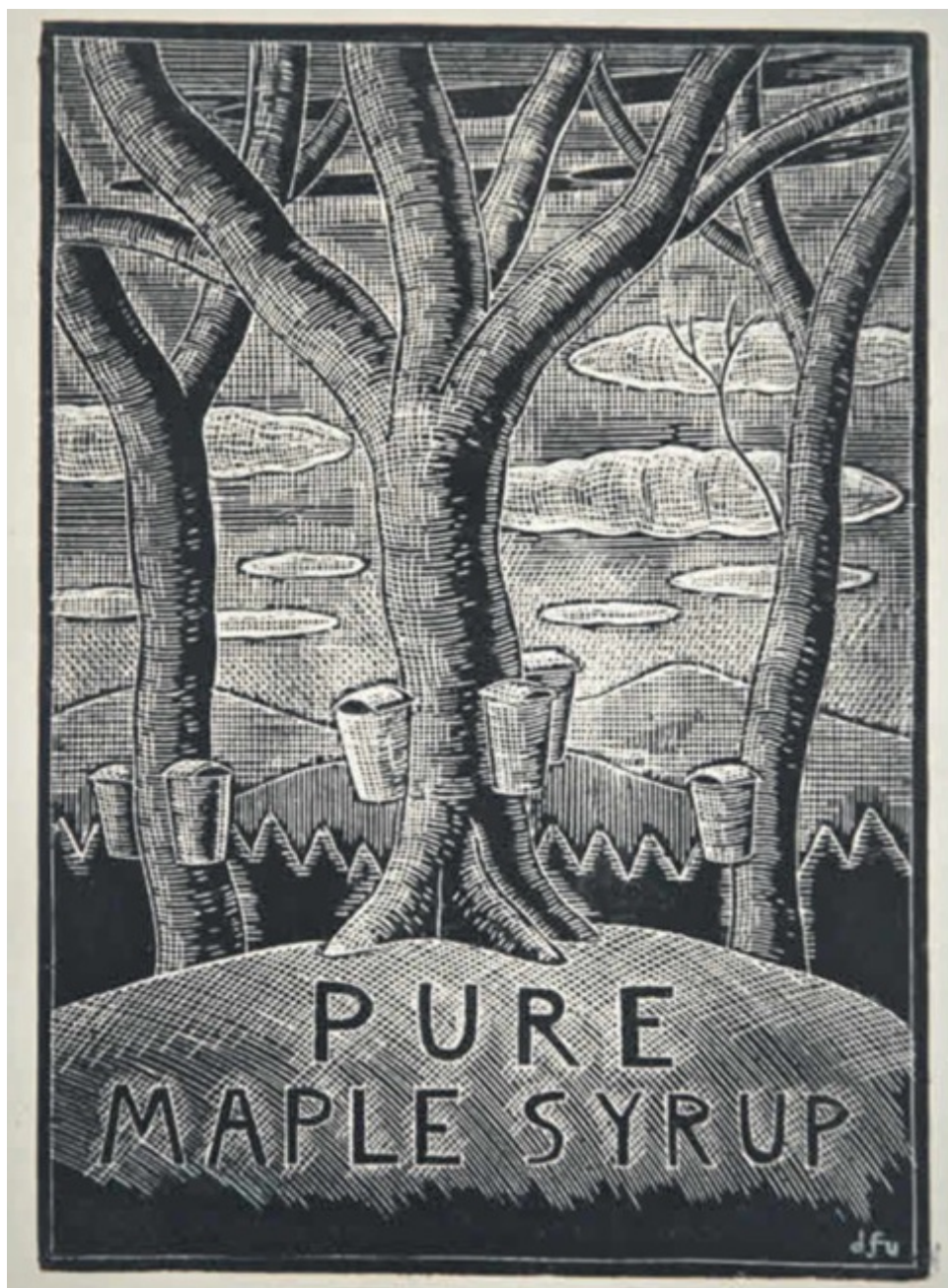
Total \$3,555,454.93

Statement of Delinquent Taxes

STATEMENT OF DELINQUENT TAXES

Year ended June 30, 2016

Balance, 6/30/15	\$ 17,742.22
Collected	<u>\$ 17,489.36</u>
Sub Total:	\$ 252.86
Delinquent,	<u>\$ 11,606.84</u>
Balance, 6/30/16	<u>\$ 11,859.70</u>



Funding Requests to the Town of Peru

Bennington County Conservation District

Dear Select Board members:

Thank you very much for your support for the Bennington County Conservation District (BCCD) in 2016. I write to request that the Town again appropriate the sum of \$300 to support the conservation district's programs in the new year.

I enclose our annual report for the calendar year to date and our financial report for FY 2016. You will see that in the last year we've focused on education and projects related to forests, invasive plant species, and river-related projects.

Thank you again for helping make these activities possible through your citizens' support for BCCD. We look forward to working with you and for you in 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shelly Stiles', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shelly Stiles, district manager

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless (BCCH) gratefully acknowledges the Town of Peru's support for Bennington County families and individuals experiencing homelessness. BCCH strives to prevent and end homelessness by providing emergency overnight shelter, short term emergency housing, and transitional housing. BCCH is committed to providing more than just a bed. Our recently expanded programming provides the building blocks necessary for people to become self-sufficient so that they may sustain permanent housing and remain independent. Because we strive for sustainable solutions, clients are required to participate in coordinated case management with our staff and partner agencies. We have also expanded the gamut of supportive services for program participant and their families. New offerings include life skills classes, employment readiness coaching, cooking "outside the box" workshops, budgeting and credit repair programming, as well as peer to peer counseling lead by individuals who have overcome homelessness.

In September of 2016, BCCH purchased a building located at 966 Main Street in Bennington. After five months of permitting and construction we are so happy to share that on Monday January 15th the old 6-bed shelter was officially closed and the name Good Shepherd retired. On the same day, the new 16-bed facility known as 966 Main opened. The increased capacity will allow us to serve many more homeless individuals each year! We will no longer need to turn away 5-8 people each night during the winter months.

BCCH is the only homeless shelter in Bennington County and currently houses 67 people each night in our three shelter facilities: 966 Main Emergency Shelter, Thatcher House Family Shelter, and the new Unlocking Recovery long term shelter. 966 Main also operates as a drop-in center where those in need gain access to clothing, bedding, and personal care products. They are also able to utilize the kitchen and bathroom facilities, meet with a case manager, and use the computers to search and apply for employment opportunities.

A portion of the BCCH annual budget is made up of state and federal aid. The remainder of the budget is made up of town funding appropriations, foundation grants, and donations from our community. On behalf of BCCH, thank you for your support as we continue to facilitate new beginnings for those in need throughout Bennington County.

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless respectfully asks the voters of the Town of Peru \$500.00 to support our shelters. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

Christopher Oldham, Executive Director

Bennington Coalition for the Homeless

Bennington Rutland Opportunity Center

To the Citizens of the Town of Peru,

BROC – Community Action in Southwestern Vermont would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the needs of low-income families and our agency through the balloting process over the years. BROC continues to experience a large number of people seeking our programs and services each day.

Over the past year, BROC has demonstrated strong community impact in the Town of Peru.

6 individuals had their basic needs met including food, housing, heating and utility assistance through our Community Services department

5 homes/units consisting of 6 individuals were weatherized reducing energy costs through our Energy Conservation & Weatherization program

Despite the significant outcomes BROC has achieved for the residents of the Town of Peru over the past year, there is still more work to do. Your town appropriation can provide for families who are suffering and help ease the struggle of living in poverty.

Respectfully, our appropriation request for the upcoming year is \$200.00.

We value our partnership with Peru to assist those most in need.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Donahue, CEO

Cemetery Commission

As with last year the drop of interest rates has reduced the income from accounts that we can only use the interest from for perpetual care therefore, the Cemetery Commission is requesting that the appropriation from the Town to be increased to \$3,700.00, so we can continue to adequately maintain the cemeteries and complete repairs as they become necessary.

Respectfully submitted, Peru Cemetery Commission
Stewart Beattie, Chairman

The Collaborative

Dear Peru Residents,

The Collaborative thanks you for your vote of confidence in passing our request for local taxpayer dollars at the 2016 Town Meeting. In 2017, The Collaborative marks nineteen years of providing quality afterschool care for families with children attending Flood Brook School. Since 1998, we have grown to provide a wide range of individual, youth, and family programs focused on supporting families and preventing youth substance use. In the town budget we are requesting funds to support The Collaborative Extended Day Program, Collaborative Camp and the Refuse to Use program. Over half of FBS students are enrolled in the Extended Day Program. Each day students utilize the high-quality state licensed after school care, where they enjoy an engaging activity, snack, and homework help. Over one hundred campers this year at our Flood Brook School based summer camp participated in interactive activities while enjoying our local outdoor environment. Swim lessons are available for each camper for no additional charge at Collaborative Camp. We work hard to make these services available to all families regardless of ability to pay the tuition. During the 2014-2015 school year and summer camp, we provided over \$7,000 in scholarships. Over 300 students participated in The Refuse to Use Program which included over eight hours of hands-on education about refusal skills, activity alternatives, and the risk and harms of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use for each student.

We are requesting your approval of \$750 in your town's budget to assist The Collaborative with providing these services. We appreciate your involvement

Sincerely,



Maryann Morris
Executive Director

Center for Restorative Justice

Dear Selectboard,

On behalf of The Center of Restorative Justice (CRJ), I am writing to request funding for our agency in the amount of **\$300** for the upcoming year. CRJ is very grateful for the support it receives from the town and looks forward to continuing to serve the residents of Peru in the year ahead.

I have also enclosed an annual report and a year-end financial statement. If you have any questions or need any additional information, I can be reached at 447-1595 or email leitha@bcj.org. CRJ is very grateful for your continued support.

Thank you very much.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leitha Cipriano", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Leitha Cipriano
Executive Director

Flood Brook Athletic Association

Residents, Taxpayers and Peru Town Select Board:

The Flood Brook Athletic Association (FBAA) would like to thank all of the residents, taxpayers and the Town's select boards for all their support over the years.

FBAA is a non-profit, community organization, which strives to provide a positive, rewarding and safe atmosphere in basketball and baseball programs for our area's youth. We are comprised of volunteers who dedicate a tremendous amount of time and energy in scheduling, coordinating and raising funds to provide limited scholarships, uniforms and equipment. In the past year, we have joined forces with Flood Brook School in installing a Gymnasium curtain divider, which will help better utilize the gymnasium during the winter months. We also offered a 5th thru 8th grade Summer Basketball Program that was offered to all surrounding communities. Our fundraising activities along with our registration fees are often not enough to cover the expenses our organization incurs. Many area residence and businesses have supported our efforts through volunteer services and donations; however we still fall short of our financial expectations.

Therefore we would like to humbly request the resident, taxpayers and Peru Town Select Board to consider appropriating \$1000.00 to assist us in providing these valuable athletic programs to our area's youth.

In closing, we would like to thank the residents of Peru, parents, coaches, managers and local businesses as well as past and present members of the board, for all their many contributions to the youth of our community. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and needed.

Respectfully, FBAA Board

Please remember if you are passionate about a sport and looking for a way to become involved in the community, we are always looking for new ideas and new individuals to help; whether that is being a board member, coaching or in some other facet.

Green Up Vermont

Dear Select Board/Town Clerk:

October 2016

Please consider Green Up Vermont's request for your community's financial support. We respectfully ask you to include the appropriate amount from the guide below in your budget for next year. This guide remains the same as in previous years:

For towns under 1,000 population \$ 50
For towns over 1,000 and under 2000 . . . \$100
For towns over 2,000 and under 3000 . . . \$150
For towns over 3,000 and under 4000 . . . \$200
For towns over 4,000 population \$300

Sincerely,
Melinda Vieux
President, Green Up Vermont

PLEASE NOTIFY US IF YOU REQUIRE A SECOND REQUEST LETTER FOR FUNDS DISTRIBUTION.

Town report information for Green Up Day, May 7, 2016

(This is available for download at www.greenupvermont.org under "About Us.")

Green Up Day marked its 46th Anniversary, with over 22,000 volunteers participating! Green Up Vermont, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, continues to proudly carry on this tradition of Green Up Day. **Green Up Vermont is not a State Agency.** Seventy-five percent of Green Up Vermont's budget comes from corporate and individual donations. People can now choose to donate to Green Up Vermont by entering a gift amount on Line 29 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form. As a result, Green Up Vermont has been able to significantly increase the percentage of individual giving, thus making Green Up Day more stable for the long-term.

With your town's help, we can continue Vermont's unique annual tradition of taking care of our state's lovely landscape and promoting civic pride with our children growing up with Green Up. Green Up Day is a day each year when people come together in their communities to give Vermont a spring cleaning! Green Up Vermont also focuses on education for grades K-2 by providing two free activity booklets to schools and hosts its annual student poster design and writing contests for grades K-12. To learn more please visit www.greenupvermont.org.

Support from cities and towns continues to be an essential part of our operating budget. It enables us to cover seventeen percent the budget. All town residents benefit from clean roadsides! Funds help pay for supplies, including over 50,000 Green Up trash bags, promotion, education, and the services of two part-time employees. Sixth grader Blake Clark says "I think we should keep this tradition going forever and ever!" Please help make sure Green Up Day never goes away.

Mark your calendar: May 6, 2017 Green Up Day, 47 years of tradition!

**Join with people in your community to clean up for Green Up Day,
Always the first Saturday in May.**

Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad

The Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad responded to 513 calls in 2016. This is a record high for our squad which responded to 443 calls last year. The location of these calls are as follows: 2 in Andover, 18 in Jamaica, 7 in Landgrove, 122 in Londonderry, 85 in South Londonderry, 37 in Peru, 27 in Stratton, 80 in Weston, 19 in Windham, 73 in Winhall, 1 in Ludlow, 1 in Manchester and 2 in Chester. There were 39 calls at the following ski areas: 22 at Bromley, 16 at Stratton, and 1 at Magic Mountain.

Of these calls: 273 were illnesses, 112 injuries, 66 motor vehicle accidents, 17 stand-by calls, and 45 public assists. We responded to 18 mutual aid calls, while 36 calls resulted in other services coming to our aid. Our members initiated Advanced Life Support measures and interventions on over 200 calls. These interventions includes: starting 141 pre-hospital IV's, cardiac defibrillations, and administration of albuterol, epinephrine, narcan, aspirin, nitroglycerin, morphine, fentanyl, and dextrose (D50). We used a Paramedic Intercept service 3 times and called in the DHART helicopter 7 times. Sixty-four percent of our calls were daytime calls between the hours of 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Of the patients we transported, 33 were younger than 18 years of age while 219 patients were over 65.

Our Squad membership grew by an amazing twelve members this past year, while losing only three members. Much of the credit for this goes to our Training Officer (Marge Fish) and members of our squad that helped conduct an EMR course this past year. This brings our total membership to forty-seven members. Nine of these members are ambulance drivers with CPR training, ten Emergency Medical Responders, eleven Emergency Medical Technicians, twelve Advance Emergency Medical Technicians, and five Paramedics. We also just completed an AEMT course in which two of our EMTs are waiting to be tested. We have just started an EMT course in which three members (one ambulance driver and two EMRs) will be advancing their certifications. We also have an EMR taking an EMT course in Rutland.

Within our squad we have our Londonderry Technical Rescue which does all of the vehicle extrications, back country rescues, cold water rescues, low angle rescues, etc. in our coverage area. This department is also growing with over thirty members.

Please go to our completely new and updated website at (londonderryrescuevt.org) to check us out. You can find our contact information, a list of officers and members, history of LVRS, down load our joining applications and even give donations online.

LVRs is now getting individual text messages (in addition to our tones) of our calls from our dispatch service in Keene, NH. This has made finding the right locations much quicker and easier with our cell phones and GPS's.

Since we have such long transports to the area hospitals, we try not to be on scene any longer than ten minutes. You can help us keep this time to a minimum by just being prepared for when the ambulance arrives at your residence. Often patients (or family's) in distress can't remember what medications they are on, or what they are being treated for. Each of you can help us out by just creating a simple list that includes such things as your name, mailing address, date of birth, past and current medical treatments and/or conditions, and a list of your current medications. Please have this list available so that it's handy when we arrive on scene. It's your life that we can save with this knowledge and time saved.

The Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad is a licensed Paramedic Service. We are a highly trained, professional Squad that is run and staffed completely by volunteers. I want to thank our members and their families for the time, commitment, and sacrifices that they have made in taking our Squad to the level that it has achieved. LVRs is the only transporting ambulance service in the State of Vermont that does not bill for any of our transports or services. This is only made possible by the continued generosity and support of the communities and the residents that we serve.

Thank You,

William "Pete" Cobb Jr.
President, LVRs

LVRs TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year 2016, the Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad had expenses totaling \$157,674.08. There were 513 calls at an average expense of \$307.36 per call.

Wilma Tremarco
Treasurer, LVRs

Mountain Valley Medical Center

Town of Peru
Peru Select Board
PO Box 127
Peru, VT 05152

Dear Select Board:

In 2016, Mountain Valley Medical Clinic joined Springfield Medical Care Systems and became a Federally Qualified Health Center. This collaboration has made it possible for the clinic to offer a wide range of services and continue to provide high-quality medical care to the residents of and visitors to our communities without regard to their ability to pay.

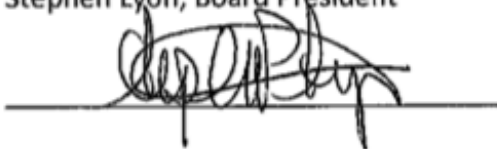
With the rising cost of health care and high deductibles, we are seeing more and more people struggling to pay for their medical care. It is now even more important to be able to provide financial assistance to patients who live in our catchment area. We expect that in 2017 the clinic will write off \$45,500 in costs related to unpaid services. It is because of the town appropriations as well as private supporters that Mountain Valley Medical Clinic is able to provide financial assistance. The funds which we are requesting will be used directly for Peru residents who are uninsured, struggling with the high cost of health insurance or just struggling to keep up with their every-day financial demands.

A system has been set up with SMCS to assure that money appropriated by your town only be used for patients who seek care at Mountain Valley Medical Clinic and live in our catchment area. This money will not be used for any care sought outside of MVMC or for any non-MVMC patients.

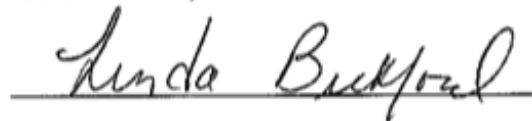
We are again requesting that Peru appropriate a portion of these unrecovered expenses in the amount of \$3,200.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stephen Lyon, Board President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Lyon", written over a horizontal line.

Linda Bickford, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Bickford", written over a horizontal line.

Neighborhood Connections

Dear Selectboard:

Neighborhood Connections is a community based nonprofit serving nine of our local mountain towns, including Peru. We are requesting \$1,000.00 to use for our general operations budget. During this past year Peru residents accounted for 45 visits to our center where they received 55 services.

Some of the services we provide are listed below. This is not an exhaustive list.

- **Advocacy**
- **Health Education**
- **Crisis intervention Services**
- **Financial Assistance in Emergencies**
- **Application Assistance**
- **Heating Crisis and Repair**
- **Safety and Wellness Monitoring**
- **Transitional Housing**
- **Assistance in tax return preparation**
- **Childcare**
- **Crisis Intervention**
- **Employment Counseling**
- **Food/Nutrition**
- **Access to Healthcare**
- **Legal Referrals**
- **Supportive Counseling**
- **Access to mental health services**
- **Assistance with Medicare enrollment**

In addition to the services above, this past year we continued to expand the programming offered in our Meeting Place, where 51 programs were offered covering a range of topics including health, diet and nutrition and arts and culture. These programs were supplemented by weekly meetings of Families Anonymous and Clean and Sober groups and meetings of community organizations such as the Rotary. Our Mental Health Cooperative increased the availability of affordable mental health services in the area, and we also convened the Community Partners Group where 35 area volunteer and community based organizations meet on a monthly basis to share information and strategize on the most efficient and effective ways to address community needs. We were also very pleased to add a community nurse to our team to assist families and adults with health education, home-visits and linkage to health care services. All of these activities have served to further cement Neighborhood Connections as an important community resource for a very diverse population of our residents including youth, adults, families and seniors. Your support for our organization is essential to our success – thank you!

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Tom Dougherty
Executive Director

Neighborworks of Western Vermont

The mission of NeighborWorks of Western Vermont is to strengthen the development of a regional economy by promoting safe, efficient and stable housing, and community projects through education, technical assistance, and financial services. NWWVT strengthens our communities, one home at a time.

We work to help Vermonters become educated about finances and the homebuying process, find homes to purchase, get the loans they need to buy homes, and renovate their existing homes to make them more livable and cost-efficient. We offer financial coaching; homebuyer education; home repair services to address health and safety issues; HEAT Squad energy efficiency services; and affordable loans for mortgages, home repair, energy upgrades, and down payment assistance. We believe that homeownership supports people and families in living healthy and stable lives.

2016 has been quite a productive year for NeighborWorks of Western Vermont.

- 416 low-cost, comprehensive Energy Audits were completed on buildings, showing home and business owners potential ways to save money on their utility bills; 69 Energy loans were issued to help homeowners upgrade their homes to be more energy efficient
- 30 Down Payment Assistance Loans were made to help homebuyers make it over the 20% down payment barrier without costly Private Mortgage Insurance
- 41 Rehab Loans were made to homeowners to make health and safety upgrades to their homes
- 195 homebuyers attended a nationally-certified Homebuyer Education Course
- Assisted 15 households in finding their dream home with our RealtyWorks service
- Helped 39 homeowners with Foreclosure Prevention counseling
- Offered financial coaching services to 229 Vermonters to help them achieve their financial goals
- Loaned over \$1.9 million to Vermonters in the form of Down Payment Assistance, Energy loans, and Rehab loans

There is always a need and we hope we are always here to help. We welcome the involvement of residents on committees or volunteering time for special projects. Call us at (802) 438-2303 or stop by the office located at 110 Marble Street, West Rutland.

Respectfully, Ludy Biddle, Executive Director

Protect Against Violent Encounters

Dear Peru Selectboard:

Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE), an agency serving the needs of victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence, is requesting \$150 from the Town of Peru for the FY 2017.

2016 marked PAVE's 35th anniversary of providing compassionate support, practical services and the pathway to healing and safety for countless victims of domestic violence and sexual assault throughout our communities. Over these 35 years, our organization has grown from a domestic violence hotline to the multiple and comprehensive support services we now provide. These services include 24 hour hotline, court and social service advocacy, case management, emergency financial assistance, access to legal services, access to emergency housing, supervised visitation, parenting classes, community awareness, school –based prevention education and more.

We continue to offer our education and empowerment programs - Pre-kindergarten to college anti-violence workshops and classes; Nurturing Parenting classes; Women's Support Groups; Healthy Mind, Body and Family workshops and PAVE's Financial Literacy Program. This past year we reached over 4,500 children, teachers and other adults through these programs. We have expanded our outreach efforts to include cable access television, our website (pavebennington.org) and social media including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Tumblr.

In the past year, we provided five Peru residents with multiple services, including crisis support through our hotline, court and social service advocacy and safety planning. We hope the town of Peru will once again be able to support the work of PAVE with a donation of \$150. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Campbell, Executive Director

Rural Fire Protection Task Force

Dear Board of Selectpersons, Town Clerks and Auditors:

On behalf of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force, I am writing to request your support of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection (RFP) Program, formerly called the Dry Hydrant Program. The RFP program helps Vermont communities protect lives, property and natural resources by enhancing fire suppression resources. Program Manager and Engineering Technician Troy Dare helps local fire departments identify appropriate sites for dry hydrants and other rural water supply systems, design installations, and find financial support to support the costs of construction. During the **18 years** of the program, **1015 grants** totaling **\$2.2 million** have been provided to Vermont towns for installation of new rural fire protection systems, as well as for replacements and repairs.

Over the past three years, the Rural Fire Protection Program has made a successful transition from the Northern Vermont and George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils to the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD). VACD is the membership association of Vermont's fourteen Natural Resources Conservations Districts, whose mission is to work with landowners and communities to protect natural resources and support the working landscape throughout the state. We have made several adjustments to the Rural Fire Protection Grant Program in recent years, including changing the name from Dry Hydrant Grant Program to Rural Fire Protection Program to better reflect the diverse range of projects we support. In 2014 we increased the maximum grant award amount from \$2,500 to \$4,000 per project, and made repair, replacement, relocation, and upgrades of existing rural water supply systems eligible for grant funding on an ongoing basis. In 2015 we began considering applications from Vermont towns and fire departments on a revolving basis throughout the year rather than just once a year.

The annual budget of the Rural Fire Protection Program is \$190,000 per year, \$110,000 of which is awarded in grants to Vermont communities for construction costs. The remaining budget covers site assessments, project design and program oversight. Most of our funding comes from the Vermont Department of Public Safety through annual appropriations by the Vermont Legislature. In addition, the program receives support from the US Forest Service through the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Unfortunately, these grants do not completely cover the costs of the program. Therefore, we are respectfully requesting that you include a \$100 appropriation in your 2018 town budget to support the Rural Fire Protection Program. Since last year's appropriation request, we have received over **\$9,000** in town appropriations from almost **100** towns, with contributions still coming in. We are deeply grateful for this ongoing support.

213 Vermont communities have benefitted from the Rural Fire Protection program. Our goal is to extend this support to all Vermont towns and continue to assist local fire

departments in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life, and damage to property and natural resources, thereby improving the safety and welfare of Vermont communities. Enclosed please find a summary report of the Rural Water Supply Grant Program, as well as an invoice and W-9 from VACD in case it is required. Please feel free to contact me, Troy Dare, or Jill Arace, Executive Director of VACD, with any questions you may have. Our contact information is provided below. If you would like to receive this appropriation request by mail instead of by email, please contact Troy Dare.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Tom Maclay, Chair Rural Fire Protection Task Force

Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging

Dear Selectmen,

This is a request from the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging for \$200.00 in funding in your FY '18 budget. This is the same level of funding we requested and received last year. If approved, this funding will be used to help support the work we do on behalf of Peru elders.

The enclosed document provides a brief description of the services the Council on Aging provided to elders in your community over the last year, and is designed for use in the Peru, town report. Please contact me if you have any questions about any of this information.

I would be glad to arrange for a representative from our agency to appear at any meeting set to discuss this request.

We sincerely appreciate the past support that we have received from the town of Peru, and we hope that we can, once again, count on support from your community.

Thank you for your consideration of this new request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandy Conrad", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sandy Conrad
Executive Director

South Londonderry Free Library



SOUTH LONDONDERRY FREE LIBRARY

P.O. BOX 95, SOUTH LONDONDERRY, VT 05155
802/824 - 3371

Dear Peru Residents:

Once again we are asking for your Town's appropriation of \$1,000 for the on-going support of Your neighborhood library.

Many of you already frequent the library and we welcome your family, friends and visitors!

The South Londonderry Free Library is just that - FREE. There are no over-due fees, free children's programs, free access to computers & wi-fi, free Inter-library loan service and of course, free checkouts for books, audios, videos and magazines.

We hope that you will consider this request to help this exceptional community facility to thrive.

Sincerely,
Mary K. Butera
& the Library Board of Trustees

Vermont Center of Independent Living

Dear Ms. Cobb and voters:

The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL), a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, respectfully requests funding from the Town of Peru for our fiscal year 2017.

Annual support from over 140 cities and towns across the State helps VCIL assist Vermonters with disabilities achieve dignified and self-determined lives. VCIL works to serve individuals who can benefit from our direct services as well as to educate and inform members of the community about disability related issues and independent living. Direct services are available to residents of Peru in a number of ways. Peer counselors work with residents in their homes; small grants for adaptive equipment; Meals on Wheels for people under the age of 60; Home Access modifications; individual and systems advocacy and programs for youth. Information, Referral and Assistance is available to all residents by calling VCIL's I-Line, at 1-800-639-1522 (Voice and TTY).

We are requesting \$140.00 from the Town of Peru to help more people with disabilities in the coming year. Enclosed you will find a summary of VCIL's programs and services for the town and a copy of our FY'17 budget.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Launderville".

Sarah Launderville
Executive Director

Visiting Nurse and Hospice

Dear Selectboard and Citizens of Peru:

Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) would like to express our gratitude to the Town of Peru for its longstanding support. Understanding the significant pressures on the town budget, we respectfully ask for your consideration of our request for funding in the amount of \$2,700.

VNH is an integral part of the community healthcare system in Peru. Without the services that we provide, there would be a significant gap in the community's continuum of care. Last year, VNH provided 70 visits to Peru residents of all ages and at all stages of life regardless of ability to pay. As the foremost team of hospice and home health experts for over 160 communities in Vermont and New Hampshire, VNH delivers nursing, hospice and rehabilitation services at home with proven effectiveness, integrity and compassion. Just as local families have counted on us since 1907, you can count on us today.

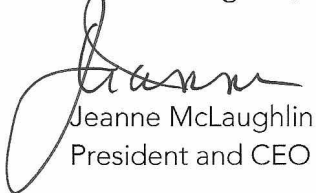
Our nurses, therapists, and social workers provide assessments, medical care, and education to assist people in maintaining their independence. In addition, we offer regular, free and low-cost blood pressure screenings, foot care clinics and flu vaccinations. It is well documented that in areas without healthcare services the demand for emergency services increases, as residents don't receive the in home support to maintain their health and prevent medical emergencies.

Patients, particularly our frail elderly and disabled, people with terminal illness, those recovering from major surgery or illness, and children with chronic medical needs, benefit through being able to receive the care they need in the familiarity and comfort of home. We urge you to consider the importance and cost-effectiveness of the work that VNH does to ensure the health and well-being of the community. Home healthcare is significantly less expensive than care provided in institutional settings. Please refer to the data presented in the attached infographic.

Town funding and other contributions help close the gap between reimbursement for services provided and costs of those services. With adequate town funding, an affordable option for home healthcare is available to all Peru families in need. In order to continue meeting these needs, we urge the Town of Peru to budget continued financial support of Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire.

On behalf of the people we serve, we thank you for your consideration of this request.

With kind regards,



Jeanne McLaughlin
President and CEO



November 29, 2016

To the Select Boards of Londonderry, Landgrove, Peru and Weston:

The Flood Brook School has agreed to resume control over the middle school (Grades 7 and 8) soccer program. Therefore, West River Sports will have no expenses associated with this program in the coming school year and correspondingly, we will have no assessment to pass on to the four towns – Londonderry, Landgrove, Weston and Peru. The assessment was determined by the middle school soccer program expense divided by the number of children participating per town. That number varied slightly from year to year as participation levels changed.

We greatly appreciate the cooperation of the towns during this period when West River Sports managed the Flood Brook Soccer program.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Ogden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrea" and the last name "Ogden" clearly distinguishable.

Andrea Ogden
Treasurer
West River Sports Association

Burr & Burton Letter from Headmaster

Dear Sending Town Communities:

We are pleased to submit our tuition for the 2017-2018 school year. We have set our tuition at \$16,700, an increase of 2.8%. This increase is in line with contracted faculty salary increases and our general rate of inflation in other expenses.

This has been an unusually busy time politically, with consolidation proposals under Act 46 coupled with proposed rules by the State Board of Education. We are deeply appreciative of the tremendous support Burr and Burton has received so that our sending communities will continue to have BBA available to all.

Your support increases our sense of responsibility to serve students, families and communities. We continue to strive to provide the highest quality educational experiences, a place where students are known and cared for, and a place where each student is able to build a meaningful future in a complex and rapidly changing world. To that end:

- We are most proud of the quality of our faculty and their dedication to students. Meaningful teacher-student relationships are one of the hallmarks of this school, and we are able to attract and retain unusually skilled teachers in no small part thanks to the support of our sending communities.
- We remain fully committed to superb programming in academics, athletics and the creative arts, ensuring that BBA students benefit from tremendous learning experiences and opportunities inside and outside the classroom.
- We continue to raise significant capital dollars to support infrastructure growth. In the past five years, thanks to private donations, we have installed a world-class turf field, launched the Mountain Campus program in environmental studies, launched the Student Success Program to support the aspirations of first-generation college bound students, and put iPads in the hands of every student and teacher. We upgraded our investment in the Target program, created a STEAM lab maker space, and, in partnership with Hildene, have launched a program in food systems and agricultural studies housed in a state-of-the-art greenhouse.
- We augment our tuition with \$700,000 in endowment draw, over \$2 million in international student revenue, and \$1 million in annual fundraising. These added sources of revenue ensure that we are able to provide programs and services that far exceed what would be possible on tuition dollars alone.

BBA cherishes its relationship with our sending communities. We seek to be an important resource, a reason that people want to live in our communities, and a source of strength and pride for all. Thank you very much for your support.

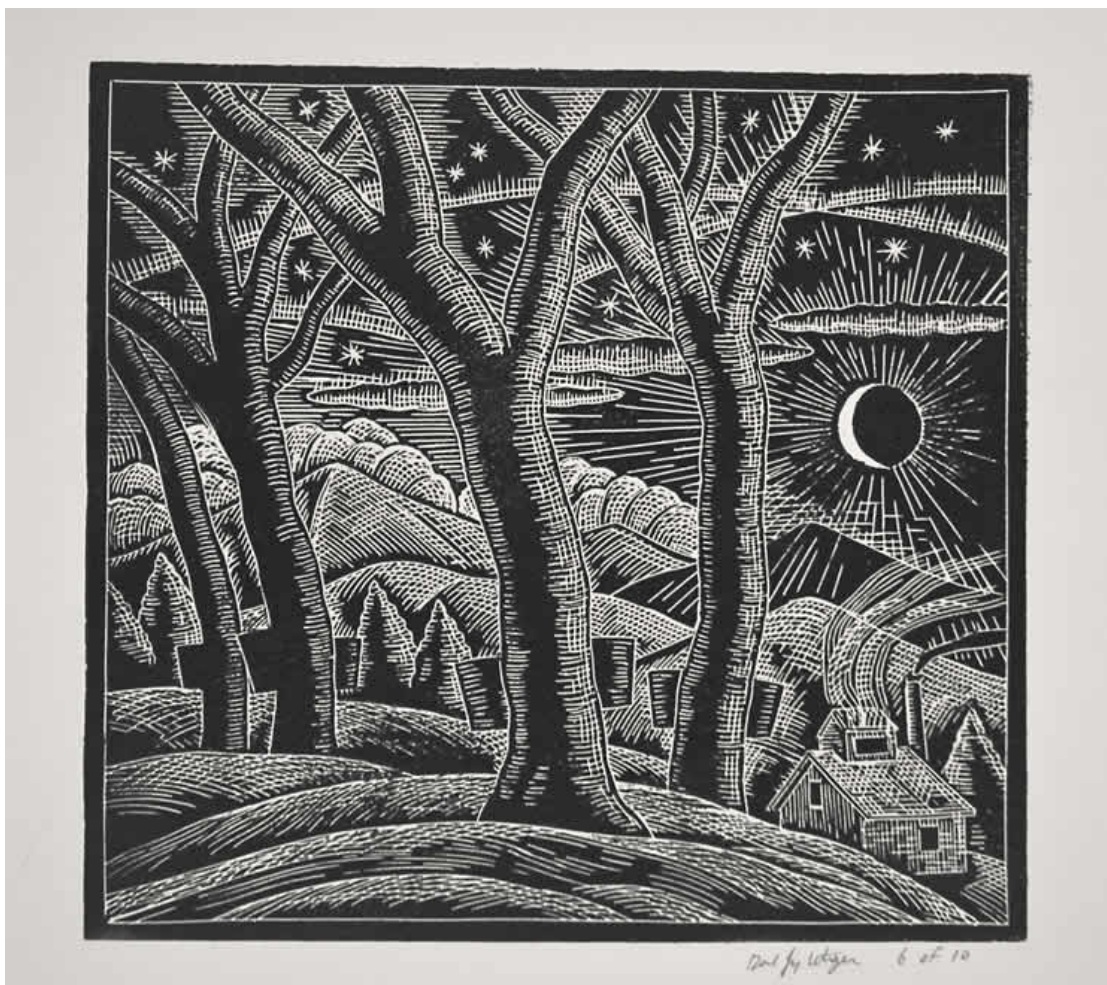
Respectfully submitted,

Mark H. Tashjian

Seth B. Bongartz

Mark H. Tashjian

Seth Bongartz



An Early History of Peru

by Jonathan W. Stevens

The town of Peru is located on the spine of the Green Mountains in the northeast corner of Bennington County and bounded on the north by Mount Tabor in Rutland Co. and a small piece of Weston in Windsor Co., on the east by Landgrove, on the south by Winhall, and on the west by Dorset. The town was chartered on 13 October 1761, to William Sumner and sixty-five associates containing 23,040 acres, as Bromley or rather Brumley, to reflect the English pronunciation, and subsequently both spellings appear in the records. A reminder of the town's original name is the ski resort Bromley Mountain located in the western part of town. In 1769, "Capt. William Utley came from Connecticut with his family," and settled in the area now known as Utley Flats in Landgrove, thinking he was in the limits of Bromley. Measuring from the west line six miles without allowance for the mountain brought the east line about a half of mile west of Utley's house placing him in a gore between Andover and Bromley. The boundary was in contention until settlement was reached in 1835. Bromley was enumerated alongside Andover and Kent, with a total of five households in the three towns for the Cumberland Co., N.Y. Census in 1771. In 1773, William Barlow came from Connecticut, and built a house on [*what was later known as*] Mark B. Lyon's farm. On 6 August 1777, Major General John Stark's army encamped in Bromley en route to the Battle of Bennington. The first recorded meeting of the proprietors was held on 13 February 1787 and meetings were held until "the last Tuesday of June 1789." The first road in town was located west of the mountain [*now in Dorset*] and was "laid out and surveyed from the east line of Dorset to Harwich [*now Mount Tabor*]" on 22 June 1787. On 14 October 1796, the inhabitants and land owners petitioned for confirmation of proprietary land divisions. On 14 December 1796, a meeting was called by the request of the proprietors by Moses Warner, Justice of the Peace of Andover. The proprietors met on 2 March 1797, at the dwelling house of Jonathan Butterfield inn-holder in said Bromley and voted "to Survey and Lay out said township into Hundred acre Lots." The first road laid out and surveyed on the east side of the mountain was on 6 June 1797, by a committee appointed by the legislature at their October session in 1788, consisting of George Sexton and Asa Utley. On 28 June 1797, it was voted "to lay out three lots to each proprietor's right containing one hundred acres each in s^d township of Brumley and that they be numbered first, second and third division of said rights and to be drawn separately. On 28 October 1797, the first, second, and third divisions were made. Lots were drawn to the rights of the names of the original proprietors, plus the lease land of society for the propagation of the Gospel, glebe, ministerial and school. The town was surveyed on lot and range system. The lots or tiers run east to west and the ranges run south to north creating a grid pattern. "The west line of Bromley was about 200 rods east of the depot in East Dorset. The west part of Bromley was settled earlier then the east side of the mountain." On 30 January 1802, Joseph Curtis, Justice of the Peace in Dorset in the County of Bennington,

“received a petition signed by four of the respectable inhabitants of the town of Bromley and County aforesaid, praying that I warn a meeting s^d town for the purpose of organizing s^d town, and to appoint officers to govern s^d town as the law directs to be held on 2 March 1802, at which the town was organized and officers were elected. The name was changed to Peru on 3 February 1804. On 25 October 1805, “a tract of land two hundred rods wide (*consisting of tiers 19 through 21*) and six miles long was set to Mount Tabor, and received the cognomen of Mount Tabor Leg.” This tract was part of Mount Tabor until 7 November 1825, when “all that part of Mount Tabor,” which “was formerly a part of Peru,” and “excepting 100 acres, on the north end of said piece, owned and occupied by Caleb Buffam, was annexed to Dorset.” On 11 September 1822, a committee consisting of Peter Dudley and Josiah Barnard laid out and surveyed a fourth division of lots containing 15 acres to each proprietor’s right. On 23 October 1835, the jurisdictional line between Peru and Landgrove was established on the west line of the first tier of lots as had been originally surveyed by Benjamin Willard, to settle the “continual dispute” between the two towns. On 10 November 1853, a committee consisting of Johnson Marsh laid out and surveyed a fifth and final division of lots containing 32 acres to each proprietors right of “land in original Bromley alias Peru a part of which is now set to the Township of Dorset.”

The first school in town was taught by Reuben Bigelow in 1803, and was kept in Dea. Seth Lyon’s log house. James Grant taught several terms in the Frederick Holton house. The first school house building was built in 1807, and was located at the corner of Hapgood Pond Road and Adams Lane. In 1805, a militia company, was formed, of which Peter Dudley, was the first captain, and John Batchelder, first ensign. “In the years 1809-10, and 1813-14, the inhabitants of this township suffered much from sickness. The prevailing disorders were the measles, canker and fevers, and they were, in many cases, mortal.” The first mill in town, the Federal Mill, was built in 1803 by the efforts of fourteen men, on Chandler Brook [*now Farnum Brook*], 150 rods below the bridge. The mill and the dam washed away one night in 1816. In 1820, the three brothers: Samuel Stone, Josiah Stone and Joseph Stone, built a mill where the Haynes Mill stood.” This mill spot was later the Hapgood mill at what is now known as Hapgood Pond.

“The first hotel in town was built by Jonathan Butterfield on the summit of the mountain, and on the old road to Manchester.” When the “turnpike road was completed and the old road abandoned, which made this hotel of no use.” On 9 November 1814, the legislature granted a charter “establishing a corporation by the name of the Peru Turnpike Company.” The turnpike commenced near “the Lovell farm, so called, in Peru running a distance of five miles in the most convenient way to the Manchester Court House.” Construction commenced in 1815, and was finished in 1816. Three-fourths of the road were in Winhall and it was built to the east line of Manchester. Gen. Peter Dudley built the road, and worked on repairing it for more than twenty years, keeping it excellent condition. On 4 September 1819, a committee was appointed by the legislature to lay out and alter the mail road from the lower village in Grafton to the east end of the Peru Turnpike. On 8 December 1819, a another committee laid out a road from the Chester

south village to the east end of the Peru Turnpike, altering but also incorporating much of the previous survey. The new highway was built in 1820, and in 1822, Daniel Tuthill and his son Russell Tuthill, moved from Landgrove, and built the brick tavern stand [*later known as the Bromley House*]. According to Zadock Thompson's Gazetteer in 1824, there were three school districts with a school-house in each, one saw-mill, two taverns, one tannery, one blacksmith's shop and one chair factory. Miss Nancy M. Haynes writing Peru's history in 1861, noted that "in 1816, Warren Wyman "set up" the first store, and carried on business for a few months. In the late 1820s, "J.J. Hapgood commenced business, and still continues [*as*] the merchant of the place." The J.J. Hapgood Store, though no longer the original structure, is still in operation on the same site. In 1856, William E. Polley built a store "opposite the hotel" and "it proved unsuccessful, and the store was closed."

John Brock was elected town clerk in 1802 and served until town meeting in 1803. William Pollard was elected in 1803 and served through town meeting in 1807. Joseph Fairbank was elected in 1807 and served through town meeting in 1812. Reuben Bigelow was elected in 1812 and served until his death on 13 December 1834. Bigelow's son-in-law Russell Tuthill was elected at special town meeting on 5 January 1835, that was held "to choose a town clerk to supply the vacancy occasioned by [*the*] death of Reuben Bigelow Esq^r." Tuthill was elected at the annual town meetings in 1835 and 1836. On 6 September 1836, Nathan Whitney was elected at special meeting that was held "to choose [*a*] town clerk in Place of Russell Tuthill [*who*] Resigned." Whitney served until the town meeting in 1837. Israel Batchelder was elected at town meeting in 1837 and served through town meeting in 1839. Rev. Thomas Baldwin Jr. was elected in at town meeting in 1839 through town meeting in 1845. Ira K. Batchelder, was elected at town meeting in 1845 and served through town meeting in 1852. Oliver P. Simonds was elected at town meeting in 1852 and served through town meeting in 1869. Charles W. Whitney was elected at town meeting in 1869 and served through town meeting in 1873. O.P. Simonds returned to the office, and was elected at town meeting in 1873 served through town meeting in 1898, when Robert I. Batchelder was elected.

According to Ira K. Batchelder's history of Peru "the first cemetery in town was "located in the south-west corner of the [*Frederick*] Holton Lot. There were several plain headstones, in this place, but it has now been all ploughed over." The North Cemetery, located between North Road and Hapgood Pond Road, consists of one acre was sold to the town by David Stratton and Richard Stratton, on 13 April 1803. The original section of the Village Cemetery, located behind the Peru Town Center, was deeded to the town by the heirs of Joel Adams Jr., on 14 June 1864.

The Congregational Society was organized in 1807, and "in 1815, Gen. Peter Dudley and Capt. John Batchelder were chosen a committee to superintend the building of a church." On 15 April 1816, Ebenezer Odell Jr. of Mont Vernon, N.H., deeded 1½

acres for a common, on which the church was built. Settlement in town eventually shifted south, and in the winter of 1845, the society agreed to build a new church in the village. On 23 June 1845, Charles Lyon deeded to the Congregational Society a parcel “for the purpose of erecting a meeting house on it.” Work commenced on the foundation on 4 July 1845. J.J. Hapgood was the contractor for the new church for \$1,000, and “George Batchelder was master mechanic, and with the aid of his brother John, did all the work on the building, completing it in the spring of 1846.”

