

Part II

Town Boards, Commissions,
Committees & Departments

Selectboard

During the 2013-14 fiscal year the Selectboard implemented changes to the Investment Policy to insure that Norwich funds are deposited into accounts backed by the full faith and credit of the Federal Government. It also made revisions to the Outside Agencies Appropriation Policy to provide for a clearer application of these agencies' use of tax dollars to benefit and serve Norwich citizens (as required by Vermont statute), but also to make the application process easier for the agencies. This effort included reaching out to all of the involved agencies and personally soliciting their input to the revised policy.

Following a strategic planning process and a dialogue with the Norwich Energy Committee, the Selectboard adopted interim planning guidance to help Norwich to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to reduce fuel and power costs. A solar energy project was completed to provide for renewable energy for municipal use and reduce our carbon footprint; the solar project will cut our electricity costs by 7.1% at no cost to the Town.

In June the Selectboard distributed a Town-wide survey to better understand residents' opinions on a wide range of topics including Town services and taxes, the status of municipal buildings and future construction choices, and the communication of Town information. We appreciate the 308 residents who returned the survey; thank you very much! Results can be found at <http://norwich.vt.us/final-results-selectboard-town-survey/> or you can ask for a copy from the Town Manager's Office.

The most significant topic of the year was the on-going planning process to define the choices and to move closer to a proposal to bring to the voters regarding possible new building construction, renovation, or maintaining the current status of the Fire Police and Public Works facilities. This process continued into 2014-2015.

A second continuing project is the attempt to secure a Vermont permit to rebuild the dam for the Norwich Pool. There are current and on-going discussions between the Town and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources on the requirements to obtain a permit. In general the Agency is opposed to the construction of any dams in Vermont streams, even replacement dams.

As part of a multiyear effort to meet with our Town's various Boards and Committees the Selectboard met with the Energy Committee, the Cemetery Commission, the Recreation Council, and the Watershed Land Management Council which oversees the Norwich Fire District land. The Selectboard truly appreciates the hundreds of volunteers whose service on our Boards and Committees does so much to make Norwich a great place to live. THANK YOU!

In March 2014 the Norwich Town Meeting approved a Town budget of \$4,161,554; this was up 3.29%. And finally, the Norwich Selectboard recognizes and appreciates Ed Childs who completed 9 years of Selectboard service to Norwich last March.

Christopher Ashley, Chair; Linda Cook, Vice-Chair; Stephen Flanders; Dan Goulet; and Keith Moran

Town Manager

The following are some notable events during the period from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

- With the assistance of the Energy Committee we entered into an agreement with Solalect Energy, a local company, to purchase solar energy to offset our electric usage. The system went partially online in December 2013 and essentially 100% of our electricity will be solar by the end of 2014. There is a display in Tracy Hall that shows the production of the solar panels.
- With the help of a great group of volunteers and donations, the Town Green was regraded, a frost-free hydrant for the "Hosers" to use to maintain the rink and a new ice rink installed.

- We are working cooperatively with Hartford, Hanover and Lebanon to improve Household Hazardous Waste collections and composting of organic materials. The Norwich Transfer Facility now accepts water and oil-based paints.
- Major improvements to the fire, police and public works communications systems were completed. These improvements were field tested and met or exceeded the coverage projections and improved the efficiency and safety of the three Departments. In addition, the abilities of the Departments to have interoperational radio communications improved.
- A Selectboard committee recommended in 2000 that expansion of the Public Works facilities start in 2001, an addition to the Fire Station be done in 2002 and that new police and fire facilities start in 2010. In 2013 and 2014 work has continued on studies of the Public Works, Police and Fire Departments facilities. Structural, functional and regulatory deficiencies have been identified, a space program has been developed and conceptual designs and estimated costs are underway. The tentative schedule is to have a bond vote at the March 2015 Town Meeting.
- The Norwich Pool dam received significant damage from Tropical Storm Irene. Tentative designs for its replacement have been developed and public forums held for input into the design of the new dam and recreation area. We have been working with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to receive a permit for a replacement dam.

My thanks to the Selectboard, excellent Town employees and many Norwich residents who have helped me as I serve as Town Manager.

Neil R. Fulton, Town Manager (649-1419, ext. 102)



Collector of Delinquent Taxes

As Town Manager, it is my responsibility to act as the Collector of Delinquent Taxes. Taxes become delinquent if taxes remain unpaid after the second payment is due in February. A Warrant is issued by the Treasurer authorizing the collection of delinquent taxes along with an 8% penalty and 1% interest per month for the first three months and 1.5% interest thereafter. A tax collection policy outlines the collection process, which includes payment applications, payment plans and tax sale procedures, if necessary.

Neil Fulton, Town Manager (649-1419, ext. 102)

Tax Year Summary for 2013 – 2014

Final Taxes Billed:	\$14,896,329
Taxes Collected during FY:	<u>14,824,165</u>
Taxes outstanding at close of FY:	72,164

Delinquent Tax Report

6/30/2013 Delinquent Tax Balance:	\$182,849
FY13/14 Delinquent Taxes:	<u>292,890</u>
Subtotal:	475,739
Less delinquent taxes collected:	<u>339,232</u>
6/30/2014 Balance:	\$136,507

Taxes delinquent for FY13/14	\$72,164
Taxes delinquent previous years:	
09-10	165
10-11	8,661
11-12	13,838
12-13	<u>41,679</u>
.....	<u>64,343</u>
Total	\$136,507

Delinquent taxes as of December 31, 2014	\$74,418
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Town Clerk

This year we have seen a decline in the number of documents recorded in our office. We went from 5,665 pages recorded in the Land Records to 2,860 pages. This amounts to \$25,740 of revenue for the Town.

During this time we have taken the opportunity to scan and index our documents going backwards. To date we have scanned and indexed 6,224 pages or six and a half volumes going back to September of 2012. Also, we have indexed and linked to our system over 400 of our Survey Maps which were previously scanned and they can now be accessed from the terminal in the records room. I hope to start the process of restoring some of our old Grand Lists over the next couple of years.

We processed 65 motor vehicle registration renewals and licensed 626 dogs; we sold 241 Fish and Game Licenses which is down again from last year. I believe that being able to now obtain your license and renew your car registration online is what is causing these decreases. We also collected \$185.00 in land posting fees and issued 36 Marriage Licenses. There were ten deaths and zero home births to report this year.

The Town Clerk's Office is open Monday through 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. During this time you may come in and register to vote, purchase cards and stickers for the Norwich Transfer Station as well as for the Hartford Landfill, renew your motor vehicle registration, obtain a burn permit or research the records in the vault.

Dog licenses will be available to purchase in January of 2015 and remember the April 1st deadline to register your dog. If you do not already have a rabies certificate on file with us, you will need to get a copy from your veterinarian.

If you have any questions or need help, please do not hesitate to stop in or call and we will do our best to help.

Bonnie J. Munday, Town Clerk (649-1419, ext. 103)

Vital Records for 2014

As recorded by the Town Clerk's Office January 1 to December 31, 2014

Marriages

Corrigan, Kelly Jean	Jervah, Todd William
Doyle, Matthew Wesley	Warren, Lindsey Anne
Goldwarg, Eric Kemper	Ridgway, Emily Boye
Munsey-Ballou, Cathy Ann	Munsey-Ballou, Terri Lynn
Clarke, Zachary Mark	Kono, Rachel Nalani
Karp, Rebecca Livia	Côté, Anik L.
Rice, James Goodwin	Lansburgh, Heidi Elizabeth
Beinder, Katherine Ann	Ballantine, Andrew Brewster
Chafin, James Kyle	Price, Katherine Elizabeth
Molna'r, Orsolya Rita	Bajer, Katalin
Cadogan, Laura Susan	Aguiar, Jacob Charles
Fields, Kimberly Dawn	Braden, Marian Diane
Anderson, Cecily Rose	Krathamer, Günter Michael
Stofflet, Suzanne Dorothy	Emerson, Amelia
Langon, Alyson Noel	Melcon, Jordan Adam Bauer
Tatum, James Harvey	Noble, William Frederick Jr.
Johnson, Connie Sue	Geno, Clayton Albert
Miller, Marisa Elizabeth	Donovan, Eamonn Hobbs
Kerr, Rosalie Eugenia	Averitt, Dawn Elizabeth
Fricano, Catherine Jean	Kugler, William John
Evans, Linton Thomas	Habenicht, Rebecca Marie
Baldini, Lindsay Ann	Bhutta, Omar Jamal
Lubin, Emma Alexandra	Tsokos, Christos George
Sprouse, John Jacob II	Edwards, Sarah Ann
Shaevel, Eileen Myrna	Weiner, Donald Alan
Bennitt, Megan Tiffany	Pierce, Kemper Winn
Dobos, Scott Edward	McNamara, Kathryn Margaret
Mitchell, Jessica Ann	Sibley, Laura Grace
Grogan, Danielle Sarah	Moyer, Benjamin James
Simpson, Anthony James	Tatro, Amanda Clarissa
Fink, Sarah Kingsbury	Kokko, Michael Andrew

There were two homebirths and thirteen deaths which occurred in the Town of Norwich.

Boards of Abatement and Civil Authority

The membership of the Board of Abatement and the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) consists of the justices of the peace, the Selectboard, the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer.

The Board of Abatement, which considers appeals from those who feel it inappropriate to pay the property tax as billed, because of damage to the property or personal reasons allowed under the law, heard four such appeals in the year. The BCA, charged with hearing appeals from property owners whose requests for changes in their assessments were denied by the Board of Listers, adjudicated twenty nine such appeals in the year. Those are the major roles of the boards and anyone considering standing for election to a position as justice or selectman should take seriously the time and effort required to attend the initial hearings, perform property inspections, and to take part in the actual adjudication and in the writing of reports.

The BCA also helps with the conduct of elections. The justices are empowered by the State to perform marriages.

Nancy H. Dean, Chairman

Cemetery Commission

The five-member Cemetery Commission is responsible for the care and upkeep, as well as necessary improvements, of all 11 Norwich cemeteries. This includes the Union Village Cemetery.

All stones were washed and lower limbs were pruned on trees in Hillside Cemetery. All seasonal maintenance has been performed in a timely manner and we constantly review all options and try to select the best one.

The financial details of our operations for FY14 are summarized below, based on information provided by the Finance Office and Treasurer:

Revenue:

Appropriation from town of Norwich	\$15,000
Woodworth Unitrust	6,039
Sales of Cemetery Markers960
Perpetual Care Fund - Interest284
Operating Account - Interest2
Donation	<u>0</u>
	\$22,285

Expenses:

Purchased Services:

Mowing/Trimming and Brush Cutting	\$ 7,590
Tree Trimming/Removal Costs	<u>3,800</u>
Purchased Services subtotal	11,390
Employee	3,758
Repairs and Maintenance619
Supplies425
Water179
Postage0
Capital Improvements	<u>800</u>
	\$17,171

Fred Smith Jr., Chairman (649-1094)

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission endeavors to inventory, monitor and conserve the natural heritage assets in Town. These assets include wildlife, wetlands, waterways, natural plant communities and scenic resources. We share our findings with our fellow citizens, Town commissions and governing bodies. The following projects were undertaken for the benefit of all Town residents:

- Planning for invasive plants control
- Hosting an invasive plants workshop with County Forester
- Attending Upper Valley Land Trust meetings
- Receiving a generous private conservation fund bequest
- Continuing documentation of wildlife road-crossing areas
- Maintaining and improving trails via the Trails Committee.

Martha Graber, Chair (649-2678)

Development Review Board

The Development Review Board (DRB) consists of seven members appointed for three-year terms by the Selectboard. There are also three alternate members. There is no better way to help shape the future of the Town than by serving on the DRB.

The DRB meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month, whenever applications are before the Board. Hearings can involve subdivisions, site reviews, conditional uses, variances, appeals and boundary line adjustments. Meetings are always open to the public.

Applications for single-unit subdivisions have increased slowly during the last year, but no multi-unit plans were filed. Clearly the economy has slowed development in Norwich. This has allowed more time to deal with some complex plans that involve wetlands, shoreline developments and flood plain situations. These reviews are subject to State of Vermont regulations and some Federal programs, as well as our local Subdivision and Zoning ordinances. They can be complicated and often require expert information and opinions from State and Federal agencies.

Applications are heard “on the record.” This is important to understand, since any appeal of our decision made to the Environmental Division will be based solely on evidence provided to the DRB at public hearings. Attending DRB meetings and being recorded as an abutter or “interested party” will protect your right to speak at an appeal. Please contact the Zoning Administrator if you have questions.

John E. Lawe, Chair (649-1585)

Emergency Management

Emergency Management’s responsibility is to prepare for disasters and to coordinate responses to situations that may demand extraordinary action. Our approach is to use an “all hazards” management system. These plans are dynamic documents that require annual review and revisions. Floods, storms, fires, and hazardous materials releases have the highest probability of threatening our community.

The VT Department of Homeland Security awarded us a grant to purchase portable and mobile radios to restore communications with the Norwich Police Department.

Hanover Dispatch is now providing CodeRED emergency communication services to Norwich. This is like 9-1-1 in reverse. For example, if there is a missing child in your part of town, or a severe weather warning, or chemical/gas leaks that may require you to evacuate,

your emergency service providers will be able to reach you immediately by telephone (land-line, cell phone and TDD/TTY) with information you need. The CodeRED system provides emergency dispatchers and officials the ability to deliver messages to targeted areas of the community or the entire town. Go to http://hanovernh.org/Pages/HanoverNH_WebDocs/codered/ to register.

The Town Manager is, by statute, the Director of Emergency Management. The Fire Chief is the Deputy Director and Chad Poston is the Emergency Management Coordinator.

Stephen Leinoff, Deputy Emergency Management Director

Finance Office

The Finance Department is responsible for all accounting functions for the Town and all tax collection. Please review the audited financial statements and the proposed budget included in the Town Report for specific information.

The initial billing for school and Town tax for 2013-14 was \$14,842,966 (\$372,055 less than in 2012-13). Revised tax bills for Current Use changes, BCA and State Board changes, and errors and omissions reduced taxes raised by \$1,380. Additions, due to HS-122 changes, increased taxes by \$54,742. These changes resulted in the final tax amount raised of \$14,896,329 or a net increase of \$53,362. There were tax abatements in the amount of \$1,061. State payments (credits) were \$1,292,200 for the education tax and \$60,675 for municipal tax. Of the total taxes raised, \$11,487,805 was in support of education and \$3,365,966 in support of the Town. Windsor County taxes are now assessed by a tax rate separate from the Town and the amount owed was \$42,557.

Please remember to annually file your HS-122 Homestead Declaration. Late filed homesteads will be assessed an 8% penalty on the education tax, as mandated by an adopted Selectboard policy. Please make sure that you file your Homestead Declaration by April 15, 2015 (no extensions allowed). Refer to your tax booklet for the form or go to www.vermont.gov and file online.

Roberta Robinson, Finance Director (649-1419, ext. 105)
Jonathan Bynum, Finance Assistant (649-1419, ext. 106)

Fire Department

The Fire Department responded to 237 incidents in FY14, 4 less than the prior year. Our rating from the Insurance Services Office remains one of the best in the area, resulting in significant savings on fire insurance premiums.

Call Types	2013-2014
Structure Fires	9
Vehicle Fires	0
Wildland Fires	2
Other Fires	2
Medical	93
Vehicle Crashes and Rescues	33
Hazardous Conditions no fire	14
Service Calls	18
Good Intent Calls	29
False Alarms	37
Other	0
Total	237

The NFD Members presented their peers with awards for distinguished service at the Department's annual dinner. Theresa Poston-Moore received the "Jump Start Award" for strong initiative following her appointment to the NFD. Mark Anderson received the "Behind the Scenes Award" for programming our radios. Dan Schneider received the "Response to Alarms Award" for his response to fire and emergency medical incidents. Captain Asaf "AJ" Wyszynski received the "Member of the Year Award" for his efforts at emergency incidents, participation in training and commitment to the NFD.

The Department emphasizes fire prevention, helping to identify and mitigate potentially hazardous conditions. Our formal public education programs reached over 250 adults and 1,000 children.

An early morning fire severely damaged the Norwich Fire District's pump house on Route 5 North. The fire severely damaged the equipment inside the building and rendered the system's water pump inoperable. Hanover, Hartford and Thetford fire departments responded to this incident.

Current Members

Officers: Chief Stephen Leinoff, Deputy Chief Neil Fulton, Captains Matt Swett and Asaf Wyszynski, Lieutenants Pete Schwab and Chad Poston.

Firefighter-Emergency Medical Technicians: Jehshua Barnes, Jake Blum, Susan Blum, Linda Cook, Tim Cronan, Stephen Foltz, Peter Griggs, Matt Herbert, Regina Owens, Dan Schneider, and Jon Wilkinson.

Firefighters: Mark Anderson, Mary Anderson, Matt Cohen-Price, Jaden Gladstone, Aaron Lamperti, Mark Nickels, Jeffrey Pearson, Theresa Poston-Moore, Warren Thayer, and David Yesman.

EMTs: Toni Apgar, Frances Eanet, John Lawe, Kelly Michaelsen, Bonnie Munday, and Rob Snyder.

Support Team (the team provides food and supplies to emergency responders at incident scenes and the Fire Station): Annah Dupuis, Cheri Henry, Theresa Moore, Liz Russell, Sydney Smith, Laurie Welch, and Linda Cook, advisor.

Stephen Leinoff, Fire Chief (649-1133; Fire@norwich.vt.us)

Health Officer

The Town Health Officer and Deputy Health Officer (HOs) are appointed by the Vermont Commissioner of Health on the recommendation of the Selectboard. Their responsibility is to protect public health and to be the local representatives of the State Health Department.

The State of Vermont is responsible for approving septic system design and installations and dealing with failed systems. The Health Officers can visit and advise about the need to involve the State agency. The HOs also administer the Rental Housing Code and conduct site visits when a tenant suspects a health hazard is present. Mold presents a continuing problem. We can work with the tenant and landlord to correct problems.

There is an increasing awareness of various infectious diseases. Health Officers do not treat these conditions, but have an important role in preventing infections. Both West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis are transmitted by mosquitoes. Sensible clothing and the use of repellants such as DEET and Picaridin, particularly at dusk, are protective. Both infections can be serious and can be life-threatening. Then there are the tick-borne diseases: Lyme disease is caused by a bacterium and spread by deer ticks. Other tick-borne conditions can threaten Vermonters, including Babesiosis and Ehrlichiosis which may be spreading

northwards encouraged by climate change. Adequate clothing and visual inspection for ticks will limit transmission.

Lastly there are excellent vaccines available to protect against Influenza, Polio, Measles, Pneumococcal Pneumonia and Whooping Cough. Ensuring both personal protection and population “herd” immunity is easily achieved by keeping your shots up to date.

*John E. Lawe, Norwich Health Officer (649-1585)
Bonnie Munday, Deputy Health Officer (649-1419)*

Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)

In 2010, the Selectboard voted to establish the Norwich Historic Preservation Commission. As one of 14 Certified Local Governments in Vermont, Norwich is eligible to apply for annual grants to promote and advocate for historic preservation in our Town.

This year, working in partnership with the Norwich Historical Society, the NHPC applied and was awarded a grant of \$14,925 to support an exhibit and year-long project of public programs focused on the history of farming in our Town. The project was financed, in part, with federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, through the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. We also received additional funding totaling \$8,600 from generous local individuals, businesses and foundations. Cycles of Change: Farming in Norwich features photographs by Chad Finer, a video by Ben Silberfarb, and panels from oral history interviews by the Vermont Folklife Center. It opened to enthusiastic audiences at the Historical Society in June and will continue through May 2015. A series of public programs, Reading the Agricultural Landscape, will enable Town residents to understand the history of farming in Norwich and how their own properties relate to that.

The Historic Walking brochure, published in 2011, is still being distributed locally and in selected Vermont Welcome Centers and continues to draw visitors to our historic village.

NHPC fulfilled its Town advisory function by submitting comments on proposals for the historic Partridge House and on pavement plans for Main Street.

Work proceeds on the Beaver Meadow Schoolhouse to bring water and sewer to the historic building. Root Schoolhouse received a \$40,000 challenge grant from The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation to restore the foundation of that building and we also worked with Historic New England on a video about the two school houses and the students they served; release is scheduled for early 2015.

Nancy Hoggson, Chair; Peter Brink, Vice-Chair

Land Management Council

The Land Management Council (LMC) manages the Norwich Fire District land, encompassing 917 acres contained in six parcels within the Charles Brown drainage. Our mission is to manage this land for recreation, wildlife habitat and forest resources.

In December 2013 we began a timber stand improvement on Parcel #3, located on the north side of Beaver Meadow Road, concluding in March 2014 with the onset of mud season. We will resume harvesting again in December 2014, continuing work on Parcel #3. In the spring of 2014, the LMC donated 12 cords of log length firewood to the Norwich woodshed, for eventual distribution to people in need in the Upper Valley. By the spring of 2015 a second woodshed will be constructed next to the existing shed, allowing for dry storage of approximately 25 cords.

During the summer of 2014 a trail crew from the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps worked on the lower Ballard Trail, completing a re-route around a steep bank above Charlie

Brown Brook. This involved the construction of a stone staircase descending the steep bank back down to the original trail. The materials for both the trail work and the wood shed were paid for in part by grants from the Norwich Women's Club, and a neighbor kindly provided direct access to the trail job site. In the summer of 2015 we hope to continue making improvements on the Ballard Trail.

David Hubbard, Chair (649-3882)

Listers

Under the office reorganization that resulted from the 2011 Committee to Review Real Property Assessment Functions, the Board of Listers hears and adjudicates grievances, lodges the Grand List, participates in Board of Civil Authority hearings, sits on the Board of Abatement, and meets, usually monthly, to receive correspondence and attend to other matters. The Board of Listers also plays an important role in educating the public about the assessment process.

Everyday assessment functions, including cyclical reinspections, software management, and preparation of the Grand List are performed by the Contract Assessor, New England Municipal Consultants (NEMC). Supervision is managed by the Town Manager. The Listers'/Assessor's Office is also staffed by a part-time Clerk.

The role of NEMC and the Board of Listers is to produce a Grand List that equitably assesses every property in Town as close to fair-market value as possible. Neither NEMC nor the Listers have any control over the taxes. The tax rates are set by the State of Vermont (for education taxes) and the Norwich Selectboard (for municipal taxes), and are largely dependant on the budgets voted on at Town Meeting.

NEMC has been contracted to perform a Town-wide reappraisal in 2016, for which the goal is to inspect every property in Town over the preceding three-year period. This process began immediately after the completion of the 2013 reappraisal. Letters are sent to all property owners requesting that they contact the Assessor's Office to schedule an inspection appointment. To date, approximately 787 of these letters have been sent. The Listers thank Norwich property owners who have cooperated with what may seem like a repetitive inspection process.

For the 2014 Grand List, the Listers heard and adjudicated 31 grievances. The Board of Listers voted to approve the 2014 Grand List 2-1 (yes: Blum & Lindberg; no: Ciccotelli). Of the 31 decisions, two were appealed to the Board of Civil Authority.

At the close of FY14, there remained an additional six appeals of 2013 Grand List values pending before the Hearing Officer appointed by the Vermont Department of Taxes, and one appeal pending before Windsor County Superior Court. At the time of writing, one of these appellants has subsequently withdrawn, one case has been settled, and three Hearing Officer decisions have been received.

The Listers would like to remind everyone that if you own and occupy your Vermont residence as your primary dwelling on April 1, 2015, you **MUST** file your Homestead Declaration, Form HS-122, with the Vermont Department of Taxes on or before April 15, 2015. There are **NO EXTENSIONS** given for this filing, even if you file for an extension on your income taxes. The penalty for late filing is 8% of the education tax.

Liz Blum (Chair), Ernie Ciccotelli and Cheryl A. Lindberg

2014 Grand List as of 11/21/14

Breakdown of Grand List (number in category)

R-1 Residence with under 6A of Land (794)	\$317,259,200
R-2 Residence with 6A of land or more (487)	320,478,600
MH Mobile Home with or without land (15)	2,166,200
S Seasonal (19)	4,034,800
C Commercial Properties (45)	30,947,400
CA Commercial Apartments (7)	6,513,000
UE Utilities Electric (3)	7,667,000
F Farms (10)	9,044,100
Other (25)	7,016,400
M Miscellaneous (147)	25,332,900
Total (1552)	730,459,600
Cable (1) (Education Grand List only)	1,264,600
Total Education Listed Value	731,724,200

Minus

Veterans (5) (\$10,000 per disabled Veteran by Statute)	50,000
Land Use Appraisal Program (146 parcels; 13,400 acres enrolled)	
Exempt Value of Property enrolled	35,343,300
2014 Education Grand List Total Taxable Property	696,330,900

Municipal Grand List

(from above)	696,330,900
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Minus

Real Estate Exemptions by Vote

Norwich Fire District	40,000
Beaver Meadow Chapel Association	69,700
Root District Game Club	191,800
Upper Valley Community Grange # 34	304,100
Veterans (5) (additional \$30,000 per disabled Veteran by vote)	150,000
Charlotte Metcalf (alternate energy installation)	11,300
Timothy Brownell (alternate energy installation)	19,800
Norah Lake (alternate energy installation)	4,800
Total Voted Exemptions (lost education tax to be made up by remainder of town)	791,500

Real Estate Exemptions by Agreement

Norwich Housing Corporation	1,514,800
Cable (Education Grand List only)	1,264,600
2014 Municipal Grand List Total Taxable Property	692,760,000

Real Estate Exemptions by Statute (not included in any calculations above)

Child Care Center, Inc	526,400
Montshire Museum of Science	6,706,500
Norwich Historical Society	446,500
Norwich Nursery School	196,400
The Family Place	736,700
Andrew C. & Margaret R. Sigler Foundation	1,063,500
Norwich Public Library Association	1,563,800
American Legion Post 8	263,700
Religious Organizations (6)	3,608,700
Town, Fire District, School District, Federally Owned Parcels (38)	18,463,900
Total Non-Taxable Parcels	33,576,100

Milton Frye Nature Area Committee (MFNAC)

The Milton Frye Nature Area Committee promotes the use and care of the 35.5-acre Town property commonly known as the Nature. The Committee oversees maintenance of the trails in the area, sponsors educational programs, and is charged with stewardship of the property in accordance with the conservation easement jointly held by the Upper Valley Land Trust and town of Norwich. The MFNAC reports to the Norwich Conservation Commission.

Selected activities in 2012-13 include:

- Work performed by the Highway Department to open up the view into the meadow from the "gateway," remove invasive buckthorn along the lower fence line, and release apple trees in lower portion of the meadow.
- Four new apple trees planted.
- Removal of hazardous old wire.
- UVLT Stewardship Training.
- Two Marion Cross School (MCS) Stewardship Days to spread mulch on the trails and remove invasive plants.
- A bird walk led by George Clark with 12 participants. Birds observed: a barred owl, 9 species of warblers, various other song birds.
- Workshops for MCS teachers to encourage and facilitate use of the Nature Area with their students.

Ongoing projects and further work needed include:

- Placing free and convenient dog waste bags and disposal can at trailhead. Dog walkers, we greatly appreciate your efforts for proper disposal both on and off trail.
- Urgent need for long-term invasive plant management plan developed by a forest professional. Volunteer community assistance for invasive removal will surely be needed in this endeavor.

Special thanks to all volunteers.

Lindsay Putnam (802-649-1668)

Norwich Energy Committee (NEC)

FY14 projects by the NEC targeted home energy efficiency, residential solar, and an energy goal for the Selectboard's Strategic Plan. In the statewide Home Energy Challenge, Norwich's goal was to weatherize 3%, or 44, of its homes by the end of 2013. The final town tally was 17 homes. In 2014 the NEC continued to build on this calendar year 2013 campaign. It held a presentation in late March on weatherization with examples from the Norwich Public Library and three residents who had energy audits and weatherized their homes. NEC volunteers staffed an information table at Tracy Hall in May 2014 and coordinated with NeighborWorks HEAT Squad during the summer to follow up with Norwich residents who had recently had energy audits.

The NEC organized its 2014 Solarize Norwich campaign, working once again with two Norwich-based companies—Norwich Technologies and Solaflect—to offer discounted pricing for residential PV systems. In support of Vermont's goal of having 90% of its energy needs met in 2050 by renewable energy, the NEC set a goal of 36 homes going solar in 2014. As of June 2014, 12 Norwich homeowners had committed to installing solar and the NEC was making plans for an active campaign for August-September 2014. By mid-October 40 homeowners had gone solar!

In June and July, the NEC met with the Selectboard to develop an energy goal for the Board's Strategic Plan. Approved by the Selectboard in September 2014, the goal—for both Town operations and residents—is to reduce, from the 2012 baseline, annual net greenhouse gas emissions from energy consumption by 25% by 2026, 50% by 2038, and 75% by 2050.

In other committee work, NEC member Linda Gray gave a presentation at the VECAN conference about the Committee's 2012 and 2013 Solarize campaigns; the NEC sponsored a composting workshop by the Highfields Center for Composting, yet another way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and in the summer of 2014, the NEC applied to the New England Grassroots Environment Fund for a “Seed” grant to fund its activities.

The NEC meets regularly on the fourth Tuesday of every month, at 7 pm at Tracy Hall. For more information, contact Linda Gray (649-2032, linda.c.gray@gmail.com).

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is responsible for drafting the Town Plan and land use regulations to implement the Plan. The Town Plan contains historical perspective on the Town, a discussion of current conditions, and a vision for the future. In addition to a narrative, data, and maps, the Plan includes goals, objectives, and a proposed course of action. The Planning Commission's role in the implementation of the plan is drafting land use regulations for zoning, subdivision, flood hazard, and development. The Commission also supports non-regulatory implementation initiatives such as affordable housing and natural resource preservation. The current Plan, approved in 2011, can be found on the Planning Commission page of the Town website.

The primary activity of the Commission this past year has been preparing amendments to the Town's Zoning Regulations. Proposed changes include a new table of permitted and conditional uses by district, flood hazard and river/stream corridor review criteria designed to increase resiliency of new development to future weather events, and other changes and additions based on five years' experience administering the current regulations. The Commission also continued looking at allowing higher-density mixed-use zoning districts along Route 5 South and River Road. A series of public workshops and hearings funded by a Vermont Municipal Planning Grant, will explore options for future development in this area. A seven-member Affordable Housing Subcommittee has been actively exploring options to support more affordable and workforce housing for individuals, families and seniors in Norwich.

The Commission is a seven-member board. Its members are appointed by the Selectboard to four-year staggered terms, and its meetings, on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m., are open to the public. Minutes, regulations, the Town Plan, and other documents are available on the Town website.

Thomas Gray, Chair

Planning Department

The Planning Department, staffed by the Director of Planning and the Planning Assistant, is responsible for administration and enforcement of the Zoning and Subdivision Regulations, advising landowners and their representatives on matters relating to town and state development regulations, assisting in the preparation of permit and hearing applications, and providing staff support to the Development Review Board, Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission and Affordable Housing Subcommittee. The department provides research and technical support to the Planning Commission in preparing the Town Plan and land use regulations, to the Historic Preservation Commission

for grant administration, and maintains the Norwich Geographic Information System (GIS), the E911 Locatable Address System, and the Tracy Hall server network.

Permits were issued this year for seven single-family homes, one more than last year. Additions to existing buildings and boundary line adjustments have also risen from the previous year. Zoning Permits remain slightly down from the 5-year average. Approved subdivision application resulted in one new lot.

Specific information on zoning and subdivision requirements is listed on the inside back cover of this report. Regulations and permit applications are available on the Town website.

Phil Dechert, Director of Planning (649-1419 ext. 4)

Pam Mullen, Planning Assistant

FY 2013-14 Zoning Permits

New Homes	7
Building Additions	28
Accessory Dwelling	0
Accessory Structures	12
Home Occupation	0
Replacements Bldg./Home	0
Agricultural Review	2
Apartment	1

Development Review Board

Subdivisions - Final Plan Review	1
Conditional Use Review	3
Boundary Line Adjustment	5
Site Plan Review	1
Development Envelope	1
Variance	0
Appeal	1

Police Department

I am well aware that the town of Norwich fights a constant battle with balancing finances and public safety needs. I am glad, as your Police Chief that we have forged ahead in attempts to maintain a safe working and living environment in Norwich. The Police Department rededicates itself each day to the goal of maintaining a safe and productive Town for our citizens and visitors.

As we move into a new era in policing, we face many difficult challenges that did not concern us a short time ago; it is our wish that we move ahead together. The only way we can be responsive to our community is through your input. We, therefore, urge everyone to be ever vigilant and to call the Police Department when the need arises. If you don't tell us we may never know. Sometimes the smallest piece of information is of crucial importance. So it is our request that we all stay together and connect as we create a professional, progressive, and responsive Police Department.

I am fortunate as a Chief of Police to be surrounded by many dedicated people who keep this Town running smoothly. From the staff at Tracy Hall, Highway Department, Town Manager and Selectboard, we all get the job done. We met the challenges of 2014 head on and look forward to another successful year.

I would like to thank the Officers of this Department for their hard work. The Town should be proud to have such professional officers working for their Police Department.

Douglas A. Robinson, Chief of Police; Judith Powell, Administrative Assistant; Michael Scruggs, Patrol Officer; Charles Rataj, Patrol Officer; Francis Schippert, Patrol Officer; Jody LaFlam, Patrol Officer; Phillip Brunelle, Patrol Officer

Police Department Statistics FY14

911Hang Ups	32	Juvenile Problem/Runaway	13
Abandoned Vehicle	1	Kidnapping	0
Accidents	91	Larceny/Theft	23
Agency Assistance	166	Leaving Scene of Accident	0
Alarm	92	Littering	2
Alcohol Offense/Intoxication	8	Lost/Found/Recovered Property	25
Animal Problem	101	Missing Person	3
Arrest on Warrant	0	Motorist Assist./Complaint	60
Arson	0	Noise Disturbance	14
Assault	3	Parking Problem	22
Attempted Suicide	1	Phone Problem	4
Background Investigation	10	Property Check*	76
Bad Check	9	Public Speaking	6
Burglary	30	Residence/Vehicle Lockout	39
Citizen Assistance	70	Sex Offense	2
Citizen Dispute	21	Stalking	1
Condition of Release Violation	3	Stolen Vehicle/OOC	3
Court Appearance	21	Suspicious	128
Dead Body	3	Threatening	2
Directed Patrol	159	Training	21
Disorderly Conduct	4	Traffic Citations	603
Domestic Abuse Order	5	Traffic Hazard	47
Driving License Suspended	1	Traffic Warnings (written)	478
Drugs	7	Trespassing	12
DUI	7	Unsecure Premises	0
Family Disturbance/Fight	7	Utility Problem	9
Fireworks	4	Vandalism	17
Fish and Game Offense	3	Vehicle Serial # Inspection	66
Foot Patrol/Business Checks	112	Welfare Check	34
Fraud	15	Miscellaneous	7
		TOTAL	159

**An approximate total of 456 property checks were conducted on 76 days.*

Public Works Department

The Norwich Department of Public Works/Highway Division is responsible for the maintenance of our Town highways, bridges, sidewalks, and municipal parking areas. We also provide significant support service to other Town Departments, including the maintenance of all the Town’s vehicles and equipment. We strive to accomplish these duties with the safety and convenience of the traveling public as a top priority while maintaining a good rapport with our fellow citizens.

During the fall of 2013, Public Works, in conjunction with the Norwich Fire Department, installed a dry fire hydrant at the Norwich/Sharon Town line on Beaver Meadow Road. We also completed the installation of fabric and base for the Fire Department's river access on River Road.

The winter of 2013/2014 was long, continuing throughout the entire month of March. The Public Works/Highway crew was called out 42 times, a 24% increase over the previous year. There was no break between winter and mud season. Most of our time during the month of April was spent on mud season road maintenance: gravel resurfacing, grading, and filling in potholes and ruts.

During the summer of 2014, we completed 24 culvert installations. Two of these installations were funded by a Better Back Roads Grant. A complete rehab of Main Street was completed during the 2014 construction season.

The Buildings and Grounds Division of Public Works is responsible for the maintenance of all Town buildings, properties, and recreation areas. During 2013/2014 the Buildings and Grounds Technician, with help from the Buildings and Grounds Custodian, remodeled the restrooms at Tracy Hall. They also painted several areas throughout the building and completed a variety of needed repairs. The Buildings and Grounds Technician worked closely with the Recreation Director throughout the summer and fall to make sure all playing fields were maintained and ready for the many sports events that were scheduled.

I would like to thank the Town Manager, Selectboard, other Town departments, and Norwich residents for their continued support of the Public Works Department. I would also like to commend the Public Works staff for their hard work and dedication.

Andy Hodgdon, Public Works Director (649-2209, ahodgdon@norwich.vt.us)

*Public Works Staff: Neal Rich, Gary Durkee, Albert Lewellyn,
Paul Betters, Michael Koloski, Michael Seaver, and Michael Tebbetts
Buildings and Grounds Staff: Robert Barden and Ben Trussell*

Recreation Department

The Norwich Recreation Department consists of the Recreation Council who advises and guides the Recreation Director, who in turn is supervised by the Norwich Town Manager. The Council consists of eleven residents, serving rotating three-year terms. Our mission is to offer a variety of recreational activities to Norwich area residents of all ages. The majority of our youth programs offered are for kindergarten through sixth grade students. In all of our youth sports we stress fun first and foremost, but also maximum participation and development of skills. The goal of our youth offerings is to inspire a lifetime love of activity. We organize and run a number of seasonal, free community events to help foster and maintain spirit within the town of Norwich. We oversee the recreation facilities in Town including Huntley Meadow, the area at the northeast end of the Ballard Trail and Barrett Meadow/the bread oven. Throughout the year we offer over one hundred varied program sessions. This past summer we added a second two-week session of our ever popular Circus Camp, allowing us to accommodate everyone wanting to participate.

The work of the fifteen dedicated volunteers who set up and maintain the rink on the Green was made a bit easier due to many generous donors. The skating rink money donated allowed us to buy a new liner and mini boards and to install a frost-free hydrant at the bandstand, cutting down on the number of hoses needed to re-surface the rink. Leveling the area made it possible to use much less water, even though the area was larger. We hope that you and/or your family can get out for a skate and enjoy it this winter. Our wonderful Buildings and Grounds crew did an outstanding job caring for and improving all of our

Town recreational areas this year. We would like to thank the Norwich Women's Club for awarding us a grant for two new waste receptacles for Huntley Meadow.

We are incredibly fortunate to have dedicated, community-minded volunteers serving as coaches and as members of the Recreation Council. We thank retiring member, Bill Miles for his involvement, incredible soccer expertise, and help in shaping our programs. We are also appreciative of the many local businesses and organizations willing to help sponsor the events we run. Their contributions make it all possible. I could not manage without their support, time and involvement. The Recreation Department is always in need of more volunteers. Stop by the Recreation Office, upstairs in Tracy Hall or call the number listed below if you would like to get involved. In the midst of this high tech world, remember to get out and enjoy the unlimited benefits of recreation to body, mind and soul.

Please check the Recreation Department portion of our Town website for the latest programs, schedules and events at www.norwich.vt.us Departments / Recreation, or if you would prefer to speak to someone directly, please call Jill at 649-3040 x.5 for more in-depth information. Suggestions for improvement are always appreciated also.

Jill Kearney Niles, Director (649-1419, ext. 109); recreation@norwich.vt.us

Recreation Council: Kris Strohbehn, President; Laura Duncan, Vice-President; Kristin Brown; Chris Clapp; Stuart Close; Jill Collins; Karin Dwyer; Ben Forbush; Everett Logan; Reese Madden; Danielle Taylor.

Senior Action Council

The Senior Action Council is now a group of three people. Our purpose is to answer to the needs of seniors in Norwich. Our main duty is the coordination of the "Meals on Wheels" program for Norwich. The meals are picked up at the Bugbee Center in White River by our volunteers and delivered to recipients in Norwich and also some in Wilder on the way. Currently there are two people in Norwich receiving the meals.

Martha Drake, Chair, Paula Harris Secretary, Dorothy Cloud, representative for Senior Housing.
Martha Drake's telephone number is 802 649 1301.

Transfer Station / Recycling Center

The Transfer Station / Recycling Center is under the direction of the Public Works Director. Dan McShane now serves as Transfer Station Lead Attendant, supervising two part-time employees.

The objectives of the Transfer Station / Recycling Center are to:

- Provide a means of disposing of solid waste, including recycling, in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.
- Encourage recycling of as many materials as possible in order to decrease the percentage of materials being disposed of at the landfill, thus reducing our carbon footprint.
- Dispose of waste at a minimum cost within industry guidelines.
- Ensure waste management practices are in compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.

Since we implemented the Zero-Sort Recycling System and the expanded recycling program, 54% of all waste brought to our facility is being recycled. With the passage of Act 148, the Universal Recycling Law, the State of Vermont is taking further steps toward reducing the amount of material that ends up in the landfill. Our facility is prepared for these efforts and we look forward to working with Norwich residents toward this goal.

We recently started accepting paint for recycling through PaintCare. So far this program has been very well received.

I would like to thank the Transfer Station employees and volunteers who make our facility successful. For more information about our facility, please visit the Town website at www.norwich.vt.us under Public Works.

*Andy Hodgdon, Public Works Director (649-2209, ahodgdon@norwich.vt.us)
Transfer Station Staff: Dan McShane, Lead Attendant (649-1192); Donald Eames, Attendant*

Trustees of Public Funds

According to Vermont Statutes, if a town elects Cemetery Commissioners, then the town also elects Trustees of Public Funds. The Trustees are elected on a rotating basis for a three-year term. The Trustees of Public Funds manage cemetery funds and other monies left to the Town in trust and accepted by the Selectboard.

During the Town's fiscal year, the Trustees invest Cemetery monies not currently in use to maximize earnings for these funds. The Trustees meet regularly to monitor the funds. A decision was made to support area banks with investments in accordance with the Vermont Statutes, typically requesting investment rates at a minimum of six different banks in order to determine the best investment offer. The Cemetery Commissioners apprise us of their plans for working in the various cemeteries. Therefore, we invest to meet their needs. The interest is allocated between sale of lots and perpetual care funds.

Deborah Hall, Cheryl A. Lindberg, Trustees



The gardens of Courtney Dobyns, Norwich Historical Society House and Garden Tour



Meetinghouse Farm, featured in the Norwich Historical Society House and Garden Tour 2014, is celebrating 100 years in the Pierce/Van Arman family.

