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## Main Street Trail Proposal

We are proposing a trail that begins at the Milton Frye Nature Area and ends at the King Arthur/Dresden Athletic Field trails, with trailheads at the Marion Cross School, on Main Street, at King Arthur, Route 5 and the Dresden Athletic Fields. It will cross Blood Brook at the banks of the Pepper property and Singh property, with stepping stones initially, and a proposed community-built bridge permanently. This trail will be maintained by the Norwich Trails Committee and the private landowners. The trail, and most properties involved, are protected under the Upper Valley Land Trust and Upper Valley Trails Association. All landowners involved in the trail thus far have given their consent and been actively involved in directing the project. The project has been additionally reviewed and approved by Scott Jensen (VT River Management Engineer) and Phil Dechert (Norwich Planning & Zoning).

The demographic we are focusing on is the children of Marion Cross School, in their stream and stewardship elective classes. Other users would potentially be school commuters and birders, as the large parcel of land across the brook is primarily open meadow with grass mown trails.

We are working with Jeff Goodrich (Pathways Consulting) on the road crossings for Main Street and Route 5. On Route 5, we propose a push button lighted crossing from the King Arthur bus shelter, directly across the road to the trailhead on the Holland family property (Tomahawk Village).

The Main Street crossing is also being proposed as a push button lighted crossing, and we are requesting to move the current crosswalk down towards the entrances of 91S and Route 5, about 3' into the existing median. This would provide easier access to the trailhead across the road, and would lessen the impact of higher foot traffic to the landowners (Trajman and Gateway).

The Main Street trailhead is the at the back edge of the Gateway property. We are requesting permission to cross this property along the existing ridge, with a trail that is 6'-8' wide. We are offering to provide a screen of evergreen plantings along this trail as it crosses the lawn so that the owners of the Gateway Townhouses should not notice a change in their forested view.

Graham Webster (Webster & Donovan Excavating) has agreed to build the entrance descending from the Gateway lawn down onto the Singh family property, where the Upper Valley Land Trust plans to mentor the Marion Cross Trail Stewardship elective class in how to build a sustainable trail. The trail then crosses Blood Brook and enters the Pepper family property, where the Pepper and Adams families have already installed a network of publicly open trails. From there, it crosses the Holland family's property and ends across from the King Arthur Café. It is picked up again along the King Arthur driveway in the form of a bike lane, and enters the King Arthur/Dresden Athletic Field trails. The conclusion of the trail is the Athletic Fields parking area and walking loop. This trail provides opportunities for both recreational use and point-to-point travel. We hope that it will be a great asset to the town of Norwich.



**Miranda Bergmeier**

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**Subject:** FW: TRORC - November 2017 News & Notes

**From:** Nancy Dean [<mailto:nhdean@comcast.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 08, 2017 12:23 AM  
**To:** Miranda Bergmeier  
**Subject:** RE: TRORC - November 2017 News & Notes

Dear Miranda,

Yes, my reference was to the first item, "Is TRORC becoming more valuable...", for it seems to me, upon first reading, that it is a way of acquiring more money from each town, by way of an additional "contract", without raising a town's annual RPC dues, a budget item. You may quote me.

Thanks!

Nancy

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**From:** Miranda Bergmeier [<mailto:MBergmeier@norwich.vt.us>]  
**Sent:** 07 November, 2017 11:34 AM  
**To:** Nancy Dean  
**Subject:** RE: TRORC - November 2017 News & Notes

Hi, Nancy,

Thanks for your email. I was hoping that you could clarify something. You referred to – and attached - the latest TRORC newsletter in your email and referenced a proposal. Are you referring to the first newsletter article, entitled "Is TRORC Becoming More Valuable to Member Towns?" If so, I think it would help the Selectboard understand your request if I forward to them your email and include only the specific TRORC newsletter item you refer to.

If you are amenable to the above, just let me know. I will proceed however your prefer.

Thanks,  
Miranda

Miranda Bergmeier  
Assistant to the Town Manager  
Town of Norwich  
P.O. Box 376  
Norwich, VT 05055  
802-649-1419 x101

Please note that any response or reply to this electronic message may be subject to disclosure as a public record under the Vermont Public Records Act.

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**From:** Nancy Dean [<mailto:nhdean@comcast.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 07, 2017 10:42 AM  
**To:** Miranda Bergmeier  
**Subject:** FW: TRORC - November 2017 News & Notes

Dear Selectboard members,

I have read this proposal and wonder whether it is of real benefit to a town or whether it is mainly a means of increased funding for the Commission. Your reply will be appreciated.

Nancy Dean

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**From:** Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission [<mailto:news@trorc.org>]

**Sent:** 07 November, 2017 10:25 AM

**To:** Nancy Dean

**Subject:** TRORC - November 2017 News & Notes

## IS TRORC BECOMING MORE VALUABLE TO MEMBER TOWNS?

The TRORC Board hopes so. On October 25th, the TRORC Board voted to set in motion changes to the TRORC Bylaws which will enable TRORC to assist interested towns in a whole new way.

As the costs and quality of municipal services continue to be strained, regional planning commissions approached the Legislature in 2015 to obtain enabling language to coordinate shared services and shared purchases among willing communities. The Legislature heard from towns, RPCs, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, state agencies and the Vermont State Treasurer and all participants concluded that this could be a valuable role for Vermont's RPCs.

H. 249 was passed in 2016 and articulates the steps needed to be able to provide this service to municipalities. Following those steps, please stay tuned for a couple of public hearings in the region to review the bylaw language needed to satisfy the law. Once comments and edits are made to the draft bylaw language, TRORC can adopt them at a regular TRORC Board meeting.

**To view this legislation, go to:**

<http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2016/Docs/ACTS/ACT089/ACT089%20As%20Enacted.pdf>.

**If you have any questions about H. 249, or the process, please contact Peter Gregory at**

[pgregory@trorc.org](mailto:pgregory@trorc.org).

Answer 11/8/17  
BY WILL SMITH

wsmith4203@gmail.com

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**From:** Mary Layton <marydlayton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 06, 2017 3:31 PM  
**To:** Herb Durfee  
**Cc:** Andy Hodgdon; wsmith4203@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Re: New Boston Rd Line Stripping

8c

Ok

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 6, 2017, at 9:33 AM, Herb Durfee <[HDurfee@norwich.vt.us](mailto:HDurfee@norwich.vt.us)> wrote:

Hi, Mary. FYI, according to Andy, we couldn't get another firm to do the striping since it was so late in the year. Andy and I agree it's, obviously, not the best. However, we do agree that, safety-wise, it was more important to have the roadway stripped than not. Once I can get past drafting the budget for the Board, I'll discuss this further with Andy.

Herb

Herbert A. Durfee, III  
Town Manager  
Town of Norwich  
PO Box 376  
Norwich, VT 05055  
802-649-1419 ext. 102  
802-649-0123 (fax)

**From:** [wsmith4203@gmail.com](mailto:wsmith4203@gmail.com) [<mailto:wsmith4203@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 03, 2017 8:12 PM  
**To:** [marydlayton@gmail.com](mailto:marydlayton@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** Herb Durfee; Andy Hodgdon  
**Subject:** New Boston Rd Line Stripping

Mary,

Please add to the upcoming Selectboard meeting agenda, a discussion of the abysmal line stripping on New Boston Road. I want to know the cost of that substandard work and what the other bids were for that project. As stated in email exchanges with Herb Durfee and Andy Hodgdon, I think the said stripping is both unsafe and visually insulting. The stripping needs to be redone by someone equipped to do the work properly – and the town needs to be made whole in terms of the costs incurred for the redo. As a tax payer, I have a right to see good results for money spent. Typically, our town Highway department and crew does an excellent job on all things done, the poor New Boston Road line stripping is unusual in that regard – and unexpected.

Respectfully yours,

Wilfred Smith  
1445 New Boston Road

**wsmith4203@gmail.com**

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**From:** wsmith4203@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 02, 2017 7:33 PM  
**To:** 'Andy Hodgdon'  
**Cc:** 'Herb Durfee'  
**Subject:** RE: Stripping on New Boston Road

Thanks Andy. Please let me know when you receive the bill.

Will

**From:** Andy Hodgdon [mailto:AHodgdon@norwich.vt.us]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 02, 2017 6:58 PM  
**To:** wsmith4203@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: Stripping on New Boston Road

Will,  
I don't have the bill yet, so I can't answer this question.  
Andy

**From:** [wsmith4203@gmail.com](mailto:wsmith4203@gmail.com) [mailto:wsmith4203@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 02, 2017 12:52 PM  
**To:** Andy Hodgdon  
**Cc:** Herb Durfee  
**Subject:** RE: Stripping on New Boston Road

Andy,

Our household was without power for almost 40 hours, so I am just now getting back to you on the topic we discussed a few days ago.

I do not buy into the stripping contractor's wind theory that he says caused his sloppy work. Wind might blow some paint around, but I see no evidence of this on New Boston Rd. And I doubt wind caused the wavy uneven stripping.

I want either you or Herb tell me how much the tax payers paid for this substandard work.

Thanks in advance,

Will

**From:** Will Smith [mailto:wsmith4203@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 7:44 PM  
**To:** Andy Hodgdon <AHodgdon@norwich.vt.us>  
**Cc:** Herb Durfee <HDurfee@norwich.vt.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Stripping on New Boston Road

I think the guy who did this is not equipped to do anything beyond crosswalks and turning arrows. He should stick with the small projects.

Will

On Oct 30, 2017 7:29 PM, "Andy Hodgdon" <[AHodgdon@norwich.vt.us](mailto:AHodgdon@norwich.vt.us)> wrote:

Herb,

Typically when new paving is done, you should wait a month to 6 weeks before you line strip it to get some of the petroleum product out of it. Because of the July 1<sup>st</sup> storm, we were very late putting the top on the section that we did before the storm. Because it was done so late we had to move forward quicker than we should have to get it striped. People were asking for it to be done. In talking to the person who did this, the problem that they had was the wind. I have seen this before. He did the best he could under the circumstances that I mentioned above.

Andy

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**From:** Herb Durfee  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2017 10:49 AM  
**To:** Andy Hodgdon  
**Cc:** 'Robinson, Doug'; [marydlayton@gmail.com](mailto:marydlayton@gmail.com); [wsmith4203@gmail.com](mailto:wsmith4203@gmail.com); Miranda Bergmeier  
**Subject:** RE: Stripping on New Boston Road

Hi, Andy. Would you please check on Wilfred's issue. Obviously, if warranted, please make corrections (if possible) and report back to me. Thanks in advance.

Herb

Herbert A. Durfee, III

Town Manager

Town of Norwich

PO Box 376

Norwich, VT 05055

[802-649-1419](tel:802-649-1419) ext. 102

[802-649-0123](tel:802-649-0123) (fax)

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**From:** [wsmith4203@gmail.com](mailto:wsmith4203@gmail.com) [<mailto:wsmith4203@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 29, 2017 9:35 PM  
**To:** Herb Durfee  
**Cc:** 'Robinson, Doug'; [marydlayton@gmail.com](mailto:marydlayton@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Stripping on New Boston Road

Herb,

I am writing to complain about the recent road stripping on New Boston Road. This stripping is one of the sloppiest jobs I have ever seen! As a tax payer, I consider it a visual insult and a waste of money – and a safety issue. Not only are the lines uneven, the centerline stripping paint along Crooked Half Mile and beyond is so thin that on a recent rainy night, the line mostly disappeared when covered with rainwater, defeating the purpose of stripping as a visual aid for drivers. I think whoever did this work should reimburse the town, and the stripping should be painted over and redone. As noted, the visual insult is one thing, the more important issue is safety. When the lines fade when overrun with rainwater due to thin paint, they need to be redone.

Respectfully yours,

Wilfred Smith

1445 New Boston Road

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## Miranda Bergmeier

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**From:** claudette brochu <cbrochu30@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 12, 2017 1:29 AM  
**To:** Miranda Bergmeier; norwich@lists.vitalcommunities.org  
**Subject:** preliminary budget discussions

I was extremely disappointed when I attended the Nov 8 selectboard (SB) meeting and heard the TM's presentation on the budget. Why? Because the proposed budget does nothing to reign in expenses.

During an earlier SB meeting, the TM was asked to present to the board a budget with a proposed 10% reduction. The TM appears to have taken this instruction to then ask the department heads to reduce their individual budgets by 10% VERSUS a 10% reduction in the OVERALL budget.

While I await the specific information needed to present a more detailed assessment of the proposed budget, I will point out a few things:

1. Pay increases continue to the tune of 2-4% of base pay WITHOUT benefits for non-contract employees in the highest pay ranges. We already pay some of our town employees the highest wages in the state for a town of own size.
2. Health care costs covered by the town continue at the levels currently in place which means that we are covering a majority of employees AND FAMILIES at 100% as well as generously funding their FSA .

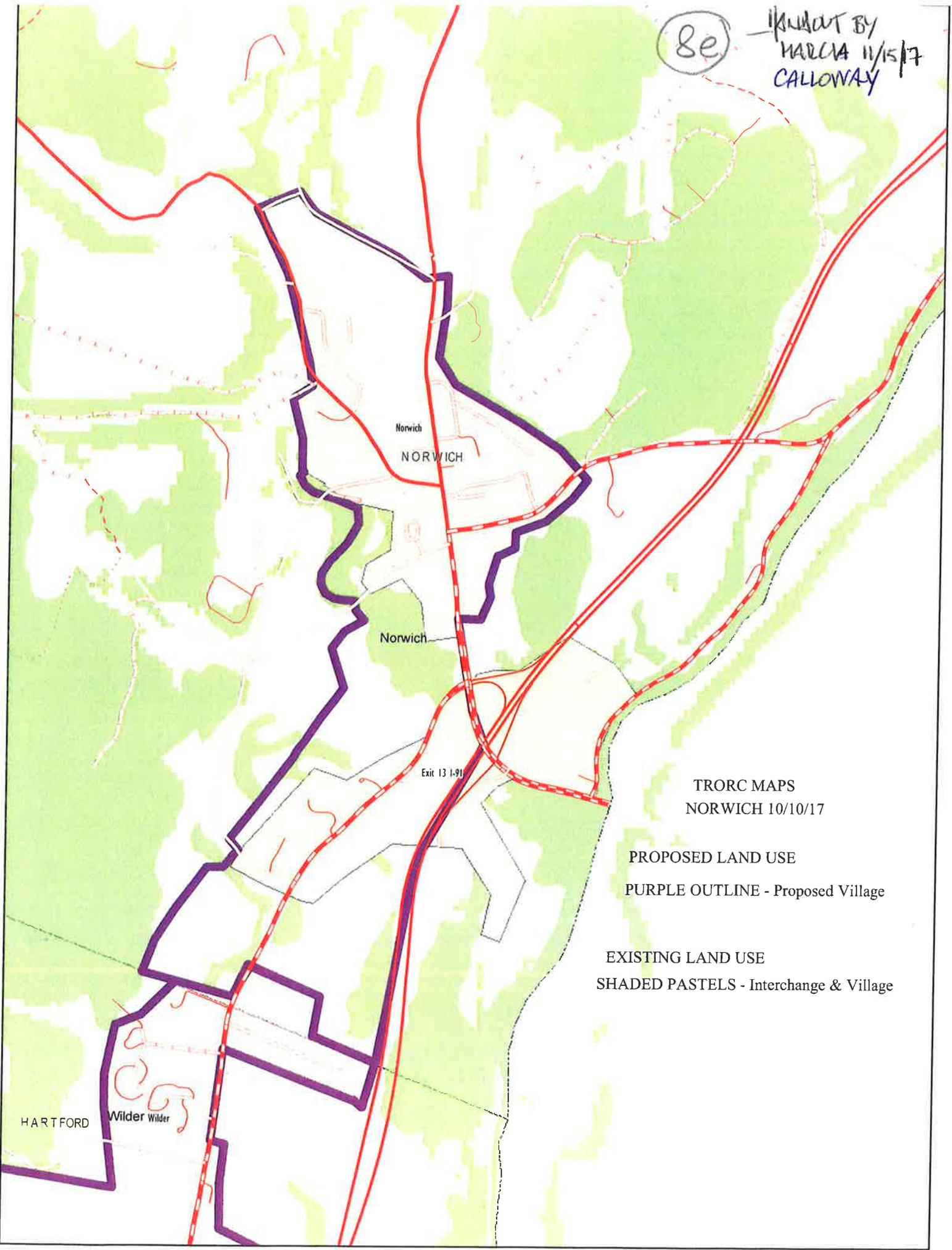
I am waiting for the background information to be posted on the town website or to obtain the info from the TM. Until then, I would ask you to think about our town budget in light of the national debate on wealth and inequality.

A 10% reduction can most certainly be accomplished without impacting services or a reduction in personnel. Please contact members of the SB if you agree or have any questions.

Claudette Brochu

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KNOWNT BY  
MARCIA 11/15/17  
CALLOWAY



Norwich  
NORWICH

Norwich

Exit 13 I-91

HARTFORD

Wilder Wilder

TRORC MAPS  
NORWICH 10/10/17

PROPOSED LAND USE  
PURPLE OUTLINE - Proposed Village

EXISTING LAND USE  
SHADED PASTELS - Interchange & Village

TOWN OF NORWICH  
QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT  
9/30/2017

**Ledyard National Bank:**

	<u>Rate/APY</u>	<u>09/30/17 Balances</u>	<u>Quarterly Interest</u>
Business Checking (3 accounts) - FDIC Insured up to \$250,000		\$ 138,943.19	
Bond Sinking Fund - Savings account - FDIC Insured	0.10%	\$ 31,489.83	\$ 7.93
ICS: General Fund - FDIC Insured		3,956,619.33	
Designated Funds - FDIC Insured		1,612,731.99	
Total ICS Balance ~ 9/30/2017	0.25%	<u>\$ 5,569,351.32</u>	<u>\$ 3,271.09</u>
Total Bank Cash on Deposit ~ 9/30/2017		<u>\$ 5,739,784.34</u>	<u>\$ 3,279.02</u>
Less: Outstanding Checks		(64,534.21)	
ACH Batch-in-transit		(39,160.87)	
Plus: Deposit-in-transit		7,876.38	
Anticipated Balance Sheet ~ 9/30/2017		<u>\$ 5,643,965.64</u>	
Less: Transfer from ICS in transit at 9/30/2017		(21,137.32)	
Cash on Balance Sheet ~ 9/30/2017		<u>\$ 5,622,828.32</u>	

Treasury Bill rates:

26 week - 1.20%

1 year - 1.31%

Wall Street Journal Prime = 4.25%

*Cheryl A. Lindberg, Treas*  
Cheryl A. Lindberg, Treasurer

Handout 11/15/17

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TO: Town of Norwich Selectboard  
FROM: Pamela Thompson Smith  
Date: November 15, 2017  
RE: Civility

I would like to object to Mary Layton's comment made during last Wednesday's Selectboard meeting under the heading of "Selectboard Rules for Conduct". Mary said, "Oh that was just a tone thing" when referring to John Langhus' treatment of Stuart Richards during the Open Meeting Law discussion. This is more than a "tone thing". This is about how the Selectboard interacts with the residents of this Town.

During the "Public Comments" session at the November 8, 2017 meeting, Mary Layton apologized to Stuart Richards for the comments made in Phil Dechert's email, which Stuart read to the Selectboard. This was followed by John Langhus stating that this tied in with "how our Town is with each other" .... "We [the Selectboard and Town employees] owe it to the folks to approach everyone from a position of respect".

Approximately one hour and forty minutes later, John Langhus launched into a verbal attack on Stuart Richards. This was not only in direct conflict with the issue of bringing civility to the Selectboard that he championed as a candidate and his comments earlier in that same meeting, it is an issue of a Selectboard member trying to intimidate and bully a resident of this Town. A resident who has been nothing but respectful in all of his efforts to cure several violations of the Open Meeting Law.

When no one on this board challenged John Langhus' behavior, I spoke up and suggested that an apology to Stuart was in order. John's initial reaction was to defend his actions by saying he was upset, which was by no means a justification for bullying and intimidating a resident of this Town. In fact, I had to push John to apologize not only to Stuart, but to everyone in the room for violating his own stated goal of bringing civility to our Selectboard and our Town. Several people approached me after I left the meeting to thank me for speaking up. Someone even mentioned to me that word is going around town that many see John Langhus as a bully.

I have thought about all of this a great deal over the past week. And probably, what is most upsetting to me is that not one Selectboard member spoke up to challenge John Langhus for the lack of civility exhibited in his attack on Stuart. I have no doubt that if I, or any resident of this Town, were to address this Selectboard in the tone that John Langhus used toward Stuart Richards, the response would have been swift and severe. Therefore, it is inexcusable that this Selectboard not only chose to ignore the exchange, but Mary Layton later characterized the exchange a "just a tone thing"! If I had not challenged John to apologize, this Board would have just carried on as though nothing had happened. Perhaps this board thinks Open Meeting Law violations are a petty issue and Stuart should just drop it. Perhaps this Board hoped that John's attempt to intimidate and bully Stuart would convince him to stop pushing for these violations to be cured. But, if Stuart could be bullied into giving up, where does it end? How many other violations of State statutes or Town ordinances will be overlooked in the future? The Town's Personnel Policies do not mention violations of State statute or Town ordinances as a reason for disciplinary action, which I feel needs to be corrected.

We do not expect the Selectboard to pay lip service to the residents about civility. We do not accept that it is okay for the Selectboard to talk the talk, but not walk the walk. If you would not tolerate this behavior from a resident of this Town, then you cannot tolerate this behavior from one of the members of this Board directed at a resident of this Town. Shame on John Langhus for being a hypocrite and shame on this Board for not challenging John's behavior!

/pts

Pamela Thompson Smith  
1445 New Boston Rd  
Norwich, VT 05055