

New Mural at Town Parking Lot Gets Concept Art, Finish Timeline



An artist's rendering of art that will be proposed for installation above the wall of the parking area on Mill Street.

By Michael Bielawski

HARDWICK — A new mural called the Mill Street Project is planned for placement above the retaining wall at the parking lot across from the Village Market. An artist has now been chosen and concept art planned out. Those backing the project hope it will get completed by the end of this summer.

The organization behind the effort is the Grass Roots Art and Community Effort (GRACE), based in the old fire station, which is also not far from the parking lot. Local resident Gary Michaels has been asked to lead the project for over a year, attending select

board meetings and gathering public feedback.

Different samples of artwork by various artists were presented to the public at Town Meeting in February. She is a native Vermont woman with an extensive resume of mural art, including work at High Moving Seeds, Jasper Hill, Pease Green, Sterling College, City Market and the Galaxy Bookstore in Hardwick.

The final plan called for painting the mural directly onto the retaining wall, but the town and the artist would like to avoid that to protect the artwork while allowing that area and it was not clear

if conditions on the wall itself were ideal for a painting.

"There are too many reasons not to paint the wall," Michaels said. "One thing they're wanting there would block to the wall, so you'd have to clean it when you're parked there."

The plan calls for five 6 x 6 foot panels, which will be mounted on top of the wall. The panels will be made of specially treated plywood mounted on pressure-treated 2x4s donated by Poulin Lumber.

The wall itself will be pressure-washed or cleaned in up and completed the new mural.

"The art includes imagery associated with different stages of the town's history. The first panel will depict native Americans and a lot of research is being done for this panel."

"There is evidence that there were Native Americans in this area some time ago," Michaels said. "So we think in order to start at the beginning, we would reflect that."

Another panel will depict imagery of the textile industry and the railroad, which used to be an integral part of Hardwick life until the 1920s century.

Some imagery will include Spring Lake and the town's connection to the House, the House, and one of the first brick homes built in East Hardwick.

"There will also be depictions of agriculture, as that has been a cornerstone industry in this area."

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Brook Blackshaw (left) of the Plainfield Fire Department, Caleb Korman (center) and Jonathan Marrow (right), Plainfield firefighters, help transport a fire truck. Plainfield firefighters helped transport a fire truck from a truck accident scene held at Twinnick School for grades 7-12 on May 11.

Town Announces Planning for New Manufacturing and Business Center

By Michael Bielawski

HARDWICK — The Center for an Agricultural Economy, the Northeastern Vermont Development Association, and the Town of Hardwick have released the Hardwick Business Accelerator Feasibility Study, outlining plans to revitalize the site of the Big Yellow Barn at the north end of Wolcott Street.

The study was conducted by Kitchell Table Consultants, based in Dover, New Hampshire. It includes input from residents and businesses on what they believe is

needed to drive the economic development of Hardwick. A copy of the consultants report can be viewed online at hardwickvt.org.

Town Manager Joe Jewett said the consultants spoke with various town leaders from various industries, including food producers, retail, grocery and manufacturing.

The report's findings identified issues and performing a survey of the property lines.

Initially, the consultants assessed three sites around town for the new business center.

"We have potentially some people lined up who might be interested in becoming tenants of the facility if we built out from the Yellow Barn."

"We're moving ahead with a plan to ask for a grant from the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) to help with a site plan and some preliminary architectural

plans to move forward," Jewett said.

"We've also been talking with some folks about the possibility of using the Yellow Barn [after construction is completed]."

Jewett said next steps include securing new funding sources, acquiring permits, assessing flood issues, highway access issues and performing a survey of the property lines.

Finally, the consultants assessed three sites around town for the new business center.

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Gallison Purchase Re-Vote May 17

By Will Walters

PLAINFIELD — A recent informal meeting on the Gallison property in the upper village last night nearly two hours. Many people spoke on whether the town should purchase the property. The purchase was approved by a vote of 13 to 2. However, the question of future use and the cost of what could be done with the property arose during the meeting.

Cost was the major point, with a purchase price of \$70,000 for about 13 new parking spaces. Estimates of the cost of rebuilding for the Town Hall and Open House across Route 2. However, the question of future use and the cost of what could be done with the property arose during the meeting.

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School Budget May Cut School Sports

By Will Walters

CABOT — A third version of the school budget was approved by the school board on May 9, one which the board hopes will be the final one by the voters on May 29 in time to meet June 1 deadline. The voters overcomes the major obstacle in the state in the past two years: cutting proposed spending to eliminate the state-mandated excess spending plan.

"Public comments at the meeting were more receptive to this version, now that the penalty was eliminated, but it will take the May 29 vote to determine whether a majority of voters agree. The Tuesday voting on May 29 comes right after the Memorial Day holiday and concerns have been expressed whether the timing will affect turnout. Absentee ballots can be requested at any time until the morning has been filed with the town clerk's office. Ballots can be picked up in the clerk's office and voted on the spot or voters can request the ballots be mailed. Ballot boxes are received by the clerk to be counted in the election tally.

Although the penalty tax is eliminated in the new version, the tax, which will increase as a result from the budget, but rather from action by the legislature to increase the state property tax action. The latest version projects an increase for Cabot taxpayers of a

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In Sports, 10

TRUJANS COME UP EMPTY

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Main Street Eateries Getting Refurbished

By Michael Bielawski

HARDWICK — Havana 802 has closed its doors, but work is already underway by the next tenant. Across the street, the Village Bonanza is getting a face lift.

The former houses at Havana 802 on Main Street will get its fifth coat of paint in as many years, as new owner Sven Olsen takes the helm with plans to open a seafood restaurant called the Scale House. He hopes to have an opening by mid-June.

Olsen, the owner and manager, is familiar with the space, as he led the Friday Fish Nights at Havana 802.

Kristina Michelson, consultant captain of business matters, shared some details. She was one of the partners who ran Claire's, the first and only restaurant to make a run in the space in the middle of Main Street. Olsen's renovation is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Every other restaurant since

Claire's felled up in 2013 lasted a year or so. These include The Supper Club (2014), The Vermont Place (2015), and most recently Havana 802 (early 2016 to a month).

Cuban-themed Havana 802 changed the restaurant layout, including removing the bar, which had been installed since Claire's. The new restaurant will bring back the original bar, restaurant and expanded beyond its original size by Matt Geraghty, who built the original for Claire's.

A lot of the renovation work is currently in progress, including painting, rebuilding the bar, moving walls and re-doing the lighting system. Some improvements to the restaurant's structure will include sound mitigation.

"One of the things that we are working really hard on as part of the renovations is soundproofing materials in the space," Michelson said. "Because one of the perennial

complaints to drive the economic development of Hardwick. A copy of the consultants report can be viewed online at hardwickvt.org.

Town Manager Joe Jewett said the consultants spoke with various town leaders from various industries, including food producers, retail, grocery and manufacturing.

The report's findings identified issues and performing a survey of the property lines.

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In Towns, 2

GREENSBORO WELCOMES SUNDAY-WINTERS

In Towns, 2

GREENSBORO WELCOMES SUNDAY-WINTERS

In Arts, 6

CAMELION SULLUKA IN PLAINFIELD

In Arts, 6

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