

Intersection Gets Public Interest

by Will Walters

PLAINFIELD—What will be a major construction project to modify the intersection of Route 2 and Main Street had an informational hearing on September 24, which brought 55 people to hear what the preliminary proposals by the Agency of Transportation (AOT) are.

In addition to the general public from Plainfield and a few from Marshfield, State Sen. Andy Perdik of Montpelier and State Rep. James Azevedo of Calais attended. Azevedo represents Plainfield in the state house and Perdik is a member of the senate transportation committee. Project Manager Eric Parizo and Engineer-Designer Greg Goyette were on hand to provide a quick update of where the project currently stands, as well as hear from residents and commuters in the area regarding any questions, ideas or concerns.

The intersection has been on the town radar for some form of modification to improve safety and create easier access to and from Route 2 and the lower village. The proposal that AOT considers the best design is, as Parizo said, in a very early state of development and public input will be able to customize the final design, within engineering standards. Major reconstruction projects have been done in past years in Danville, two in East Montpelier and one in Montpelier, the Plainfield one presents significant challenges, not unlike those there. For this intersection, the level of the road will be lowered two feet. The water and wastewater lines, which are only five feet below the surface, will need to be relocated lower.

Lowering the road level can possibly affect the stability of the nearby buildings along the road and extra care must be taken if there is ledge that needs to be blasted. Monitoring after each blast will be done to see if it affects the building. This will be particularly important to the old Plainfield Inn, which sits only feet away from the road itself. Moving the building back so trucks can access the building for loading and unloading was not looked into. Parizo said that is not practical. Alice Dworkin asked if the importance of the building was taken into account and Parizo said that with historical building, the historical aspects of the projects must be considered and forwarded to Wash-

ington, D.C. for federal review. Road Commissioner Brian Tobin said the road work will be completely paid by the state and that no match will be made by the town, but relocating the water and wastewater pipes will be a 100 percent town expense. Chief System Operator of the Water/Wastewater Department Thomas Chamberlain expressed concern over the fact that all the water/wastewater lines come from one side of the Village to the other at the construction site and pipes cannot go without water for a week or so.

Tristan MacGregor-Stewart from the Water/Wastewater Department said replacement of the water/wastewater lines would be done at the same time or at different times. Parizo responded that AOT can work with the town in terms of putting out a contract for both the intersection construction and water/water line replacement, although funding would



Part of the location of the 'Little Library' has collapsed under, and other parts have been damaged. Photos were taken by Doug McClure and others. The building is the original 'Innhouse' in this location. The East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization is seeking to raise \$1,500 to avert the building's collapse over the

Little Library Needs Help

by Doug McClure

EAST HARDWICK—In the vision of a renewed East Hardwick, few structures have proved as vexing as the "Little Library." Despite the building's undeniable issues, many residents view the tiny structure as a symbol of their childhood in the village, and argue its potential to play a role in burgeoning efforts to revitalize East Hardwick. The building has played various roles in the village's history, ranging from firehouse to library.

An debate continues about what, if any, role in the community the Little Library may serve, an urgent concern has emerged. The building's foundation needs immediate work before water enters in or any discussion of its future may be moot.

An immediate sum of \$1,500 is

needed to address the building's worsening condition, said Cheryl Michaels of the East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization (EHNO). Michaels hopes to raise this money from residents who share an affection for the building and its special place in the village's history.

"We think we can raise this money," said Michaels. "Our goal is to find 10 families to donate \$100, and 20 to donate \$25. Smaller donations, such as \$2 to \$10, are also welcomed and are very important." They will show community support for the project as we move forward with grant applications.

In an update to residents of the village, Michaels described the "critical condition" of the structure in or any discussion of its future may be moot.

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Businesses, Emergency Services Affected by Intersection Project

by Will Walters

PLAINFIELD—Joseph Chiello, a tenant in the old Plainfield Hardware Store on School Street, is concerned that the current plan for the intersection would put him out of business because there is no way for tractor trailers to deliver large items to his store. The plan calls for the elimination of School Street.

Both Christiansen, owner of the property, said he does not know what that would mean for his business, but he is currently a month ago when he noted that there is no parking available in front of the building. Eric Parizo agreed that the current plan has not been updated with respect to that, but assured impacted property owners that AOT will work through the issues with them. She said the area could be deemed green space that could

Craftsbury Outdoor Center Opens Biathlon Range

by Emmett Avron

CRAFTSBURY—The crackle of gunfire is no stranger in the hills of Vermont, especially an hunting season, but the gentle roar of Saturday, October 5, was not due to hunting but to the inaugural event held on the Craftsbury Outdoor Center's new biathlon range.

Nearly a hundred people gathered on the freshly-minted range for this year's Singletrack Shootout, a trail running or biking biathlon. The new range is a major upgrade over the outdoor center's two previous ranges, both in a number of shooting lanes and the technology used. The range is built to Olympic specifications, but with 15 shooting lanes, a full world-class competition range has 33.

"This range," said head biathlon coach for the Green Racing Project (GRP), Sam Daugherty, "is probably one of the biggest steps forward in what we can do here at Craftsbury. This range makes it so when we are training and racing it looks and feels exactly like it would at the Olympics." Daugherty said the main focus of the new infrastructure is to improve training capabilities so the Outdoor Center can host higher-level biathlon events. Outdoor Center's

new range is viewed as an investment in the sport. The GRP, the Craftsbury Outdoor Center's professional racing program, plays a role to a significant percentage of the U.S. national ski team, thus high-level training is always a priority. The new range creates an opportunity for more targeted training and junior development training and racing, as well. The hope is with more targeted training at multiple groups training at the center, the center can become a hub we can build our adult programs, our kids program, while still supporting our GRP.

The Outdoor Center has two existing ranges, but Daugherty said they are quick, dirty, and small, and lack the technology with more targets to be part of this," said Daugherty, "is that we can have a range that we can build our adult programs, our kids program, while still supporting our GRP."

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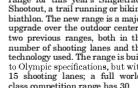


Photo by Vanessa Fournier

Town Hall Renovation in the Home Stretch

by Will Walters

CAILAIS—A site visit to tour Town Hall was the item on the agenda with the Town Hall Restoration Committee Sept. 24 reviewed the renovation work in progress.

Project architect John McCullough took on a significant amount of work to keep the project moving forward after the death of Ernie Parrish, owner of contractor Green Line Builders. Completion is expected in the time frame originally set out by the restoration committee. Andy Folles, the town's carpenter and maintenance person, attended the meeting and said he is willing to step in and assist.

The restoration project targets the need to rebuild or replace old parts of the structure to be safe and meet current code requirements, and some modification to the structure to make it usable for community events. The building was previously used for town meetings and other public events.

city activities, typical for town halls in the state. Recently his only use was select board meetings, but the last several months as the heating system was not sufficient for winter. The upper level was being used as a number of rooms, including the town hall safe, which is built inside the structure and outside. During the winter the town of six building services Fisking Brook Road was used for meetings, but the town had a limit of 10 people inside the open markets impractical at times. Restoration to the town hall will be an alternative that will be able for community events and as a stage area for community theater. The downstairs will be used for community events and as a stage area for community theater. The downstairs will be used for community events and as a stage area for community theater. The downstairs will be used for community events and as a stage area for community theater.

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See NEWS 4.

In Towns, 2 Day in the Dirt

by Will Walters

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Town Says Watch Flushes

by Michael Bialowiski

HARDWICK—Town wastewater operator Ken Lacasse told the Gazette that there is a lot of troublesome material entering the wastewater system, and it is causing major problems for the system.

"It's happening," Lacasse said, "to clean them all out."

"This issue is nothing new," Lacasse said. In March 2018, then town manager Jon Jewett raised it during a select board meeting.

At the meeting, Jewett said the town was dealing with more clogs than usual, requiring something that "looked like a nephrolith" was found in the system. He said baby wipes were high on the list of de-structive items.



The Hardwick Wastewater Treatment Facility operates a backdrop of the village.

"Green is another big one it sticks to the pipes and causes all sorts of trouble," Lacasse said. "The less grease you put down the drain the better they are."

Lacasse said the only thing that should go down the pipes is toilet paper and human waste—with no exceptions.

"People don't realize what they can go down it. We had needles, feminine products, man products, anything. People have to use due diligence and try to stop themselves."

Residents are also cautioned not to flush cooking grease down the drain.

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Photo by Vanessa Fournier

Brief Agenda, Unknowns on Horizon

by Doug McClure

HARDWICK—In a brief October 3 meeting, Hardwick's select board reviewed progress on the Bridgman Reservoir, and Town Manager Shaun Fielder of feedback based on his attendance at the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) Annual Meeting in Killington. Fielder reported progress on the Lamoille Valley Trail. The department enforcement situation is currently in limbo, the board learned.

The inherent complexities of making even basic changes to town charters has been a long-standing VLCT concern. As of this week, Fielder said he is attending the Town's "welder" position is absolute and should be eliminated, but the process of doing so would require a change to the charter. Making that change would be "really cumbersome,"

Fielder said. The VLCT has long advocated for the local control of charters than current legislation allows.

Portions of the VLCT's Annual Meeting focused on legislative actions during the back half of its biannual this winter. Fielder said. The VLCT's "statement was we think the retail market for marijuana is going to go this time around." What that would look like is yet to be determined. The idea was to offer "pre-emptive" as much as possible, Fielder said. The VLCT will plan education for towns on the subject. Select board chair Eric Boniak said "There are probably things we should be thinking about. A lot of implications, either way."

Chair Danny Heale agreed the legislation could be "good and bad." Police Chief Aaron Cochran said "We're not sure if it's a good or bad." See UNKNOWN 4.

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