

THE Hardwick Gazette

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photo by Doug McClure

The "East Hardwick Lockers" were old, refrigerated meat lockers. White Water Gallery owner James Teuscher restored the building over 14 years ago.



courtesy Hardwick Historical Society

In this undated photo of East Hardwick, the old Post Office is clearly visible to the left of the (then-covered) bridge across the river.

East Hardwickians Express Concern Over Contested Street

by Doug McClure

EAST HARDWICK – At the October 15 select board meeting, the board heard a long-standing concern raised by some in East Hardwick over one particular street that may or may not be a legal town street. That street is now known as "River Street," but was previously known as "Mill Street," since a mill was sited there in years past.

The East Hardwick Fire District (EHFD) has property on that street which it has allowed a resident to use, and those present tonight said the resident had assumed or been told that meant

the street itself was their property and therefore parking on River Street was not allowed. While some maps recognized River or Mill Street, what is unclear at this juncture is whether the street is in fact town-owned or if it is just a private drive.

While the issue has been percolating for some years, bringing the issue to the board now centers on the former Post Office adjacent to the bridge. Like the White Water Gallery, it is effectively locked to just its footprint, and as such, relies on that street for parking. The resident who feels the street is theirs believes otherwise, and

Doug Cassavant of the EHFD said in an e-mail "River street" in East Hardwick is not a town road, I would consider it a driveway? My Resident Tracy Martin noted that in White Water Gallery's former use as East Hardwick Lockers, customers parked diagonally on the street.

Martin said the disagreement is "limiting development in our

little village to two very important structures," and if not solved, "we'll lose that [old] Post Office [building's prospective tenants]". She said her research had unearthed two documents in town records that suggested the road was town-owned. In 1929, she said a deed showed one Clarence Smith had "deeded what we call the Grist Mill &

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Twinfield Principal Calls Student's Threatening Posts a "Cry for Help"

by Mara Brooks

MARSHFIELD/PLAINFIELD – Twinfield Union Principal Mark Mooney said a student who posted threats against the school on social media last Friday will not return to campus "for some time," but characterized the posts as a "cry for help" and not a serious threat to the school.

"There was no imminent threat," Mooney said.

The Plainfield school went into "modified lock down" October 16 after a Twinfield student contacted Mooney to report disturbing posts on social media made by another student. Neither student was present on campus at the time, Mooney said. No injuries occurred.

The principal said after reading the student's posts he immediately contacted Vermont State Police and the student's family.

"The original posts were concerning because the person was just being negative about themselves," Mooney said. "But then in the interactions, one of the posts kind of turned to something that could happen here on campus."

Mooney said he imposed the modified lockdown on campus while police investigated the matter.

"We immediately located where this young man was, which was not even in Marshfield or Plainfield but farther removed from us, and the police eventually did meet him," Mooney said.

During the modified lockdown, "we secured the building, we weren't letting anybody in and out, we secured and watched anybody that came up or drove up into the parking lot," Mooney said.

All students ate lunch in their classrooms and were not allowed in

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photo by Vanessa Fournier

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, part of the town of Hardwick's parking lot next to the Village Restaurant has been reserved for outside seating. Some people who parked in the lot walk up the bank and cross at the intersection, causing a dangerous situation. The Pedestrian & Traffic Safety Task Force noted that a fence would both look nice and hopefully would deter people from climbing the bank. On Sept. 30 the Hardwick Highway Department personnel put up an 80-foot split rail fence.