



BERLIN TOWN NEWS

August 2008

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Berlin Municipal Office
108 Shed Road
Berlin, Vermont 05602

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Town Clerk	229-9298
Town Offices	223-4405
Administrator	Ext. 305
Treasurer/Tax Collector	Ext. 302
Lister	Ext. 303
Office Assistant	Ext. 300
Zoning Office	Ext. 304
Sewer Commission	Ext. 307
Administrators – Fax	223-4404
Clerk/Treasurer – Fax	229-9530
Conservation-Recreation Commission	Ext. 305
Berlin Historical Society	223-1203
Highway Department	223-7337
Police Department	
Emergency	911 or 223-4400
Other Business	223-4401
Fire Department	
Emergency	911 or 223-5555
Other Business	223-5531
Station # 1	223-5531
Selectboard Chair	476-8411
Berlin Elementary School	223-2796
Union High School # 32	229-0321
Washington Central Supervisory Office	229-0553
Visit our Website at www.berlinvt.org	

Selectboard Report

The Selectboard welcomes this opportunity to review with you the key activities that have taken place in the Town since Town Meeting. We hope that you will find this report of interest and will let members of the Board know if you have any questions or concerns. Selectboard members are Pat McDonald, Chair; Brad Towne, Vice Chair; Kitty Langlois, Secretary; Don Blanchette and Susan Gretkowski. As a reminder, regularly scheduled meetings are held on the first and third Monday of every month and the Board encourages your attendance at the meetings. Agendas are available in The Times Argus, posted at Shaw's Supermarket, Maplewood Convenience Store, Riverton Country Store and available on the Town website: www.berlinvt.org. Meetings are also televised on Adelphia Cable, Central Vermont Television and Trans-Video Cable Television. We would also encourage you to check the Berlin website at www.berlinvt.org, maintained by Norb Rhinerson, for the latest news (and some great pictures!)

2008 Town Meeting: Berlin's 2008 Town Meeting was held on March 4, 2008. The final municipal budget of \$2,061,116 passed and Selectboard members were voted into office. The Selectboard wants to recognize the Planning Commission, not only for its work during the year but also for the outstanding presentation on "Planning 101" at Town Meeting. It was a highly professional and creative education experience and serves as a reflection of the continued dedication of the members of the Commission.

Crosstown Road, closed since March 2007, was opened on June 9, 2008 and a ribbon cutting ceremony held on June 11th at the Riverton Fire Station. It was a great event and a perfect time to extend the Board's thanks to all those who made the opening a reality. The Selectboard wants to particularly thank the residents of both Crosstown Road and Rowell Hill for their patience and understanding.



Continued on page 4

Berlin Historical Society Exhibit at History Expo 2008 at Tunbridge

The Berlin Historical Society featured "Mary Greene Nye" at their exhibit at History Expo in Tunbridge on June 21 and 22.

Mary Green Nye was "Editor of the State Papers" from 1927 to 1950. This position is now called the State



Archivist and is now held by Gregory Sanford.

Mary was born in Williamstown on August 26, 1872 and first came to Berlin in 1891 when she taught at the East Road School which was on what is now Airport Road. Mary married Newton Perrin Nye in September of 1892 and they lived in the Nye homestead which later became the first administration building for the Knapp Airport. Their son Richard was born in April of 1897. Mary graduated from the Business course at the Montpelier Seminary in 1906 and worked for a number of firms in the area.

In 1912 Mary began work for the Commissioner of Immigration in Montreal and stayed there until 1917 when she returned to Vermont and began working as the Chief Clerk for the Washington County Draft Board. In the early 1920's she purchased the property on the corner of Scott Hill and Crosstown Road popularly known as the Nye House.

In late 1921 she began work for the Secretary of State arranging and indexing files.

In 1927 she was named the "Editor of State Papers" and continued in that position until her retirement in 1950. She was honored with a marble plaque which hung in the Secretary of States office until that office moved to the Redstone Building. That plaque was the centerpiece of our display and is currently on display in the Town Hall near the Historical Society display case.

While the Editor of State Papers Mary authored 4 books and created thousands of index cards, some of which have now been made available on the Internet and thousands are still to be done.

Mary spoke to many groups about various aspects of Vermont History during her tenure.

In 1951 following her retirement she authored the Berlin History, Early History of Berlin, Vermont 1763-1820. Mary died on February 21, 1956 and her son Richard died in 1983. She was truly a Berliner who merited the special exhibit at History Expo 2008.

IMPORTANT IRISH HILL CORRIDOR CONSERVED

On May 17, 2008, an important corridor on Irish Hill was conserved with the purchase of a 48-acre parcel by the Town of Berlin, made possible through an environmental award by the State of Vermont. This parcel closes a gap to an unspoiled habitat in a public land corridor for wildlife and the public and is of special significance to the town. The Irish Hill ridge line is integral to Berlin's rural character and is an important resource for recreation, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and scenic vistas. Citizens of Central Vermont have an historic appreciation of this ridge line, and this purchase ensures that future generations will have the opportunity to recognize it as a special place as well.

BERLIN COMMUNITY NEWS

Please check out

<http://www.socialenergy.blogspot.com> for events happening at Berlin Elementary School, in our community and in the surrounding area. If you would like to be on an email list to receive occasional emails directly with this type of information, please send your request to Corinne Stridsberg at corinne.s@comcast.net.

Town Committee Vacancies

The Town of Berlin currently has vacancies on several of its Committees, Commissions, and other appointed positions. The vacancies include:

Economic Development Advisory Council

Development Review Board

Planning Commission

Town Constable

Town Auditor

Persons interested in any position may submit a letter of interest to the Berlin Select Board c/o Town Administrator, Municipal Office Building, and 108 Shed Road, Berlin, Vermont 05602. Information on these positions may be obtained by contacting the Town Administrator, Jeff Schulz, at 223-4405, or at jschulz@berlinvt.org.



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BMAC (Berlin Methadone Advisory Council)

The Berlin Methadone clinic located on Granger Road opened on March 7th, 2008. The clinic is currently serving 45 people, comprised of 25 males and 20 females. They range in age from under 20 to 54 with an average age of 30.5. A detailed breakdown by age group follows: Under age 20 – 1 individual; 20 to 24 – 9; 25 to 29 – 16; 30 to 34 – 9; 35 to 39 – 3; 40 to 44 – 3; 45 to 49 – 1 and 50 to 54 – 3. These numbers represent 70% prescription drug addiction and seem to reflect the current trend of prescriptions drugs being more problematic than other types of drugs. The clinic is open from 6:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. dosing hours are 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. The program is run under strict guidelines and individuals approved for the Berlin program based on a set of specific criteria.

BMAC meets monthly with all meetings open to the public. During these meetings we receive clinic updates and discuss any public concerns or comments.

The advisory committee consists of the following Berlin residents: Linda Couture, Chair, Tom Williams, Ricky Richardson, Peggy Moon, Diane Nichols-Fleming, Pat McDonald, alternate, and Police Chief Bill Wolfe along with many other ex-officio members from various organizations.

If at any time you have any questions feel free to contact any member of the council or attend a meeting.

Meetings are duly warned and posted on the Berlin website.

Linda Couture
BMAC Chair

Berlin School Board Report

Now that things have settled down since Town Meeting, the School Board met and had a discussion about the Town Report. After the oversight with the School Report, we thought it was important to hear from you. We are already working on one suggestion given at Town Meeting. We would like to give everyone the opportunity to not only make suggestions about information that is already there, but to let us know what is important to you. What information do you need in order to have enough to vote? What would you like to see in the presentation? You are the group of people that elect us to make sound decisions about the budget. We are serving the school, but we also have an obligation to the voters in the town of Berlin. Please feel free to email any of the School Board members with any ideas. We would love to hear from you. Of course, you are welcome to any meetings. Our meetings are held on the third Monday of each month. We don't meet in July. We want to keep the lines of communication all the way around.

Linda Beaupre
School Board Chair

LDMJI@aol.com (home)

LindaKB@mpsyt.org (work)

Vfrazier5477@aol.com Vera Frazier

amy@onionriver.com Amy Brewer

jboyd74@yahoo.com Jonathan Boyd

jgoddard@VSEA.org Jonathan Goddard

Kellogg-Hubbard Library by Daniel L. Pudvah

Greetings to residents in the Town of Berlin. June 1, I began my duties as the new executive director of the Library, which provides services for many Berlin residents. Martin Hahn, the former director, and his family will be leaving the area shortly for a year to carry out a special project for a private international school in India. He has served this organization splendidly and we wish him well.

I recently left Central Vermont Medical Center, where I served as vice president for community relations and fund development. I currently serve as Chair of the Board of Green Mountain United Way, with its office in Berlin. I am very pleased to be affiliated with Kellogg-Hubbard Library. It is a wonderful organization, the second-busiest library in the State. We see eight-hundred visitors every day, many of them from Berlin. I look forward to working with Library Director Hilari Farrington and our Board of Trustees, one of whom is Catherine Donniss of Berlin. Our professional library staff is one of the finest anywhere and we regularly hear that from patrons. Much of my responsibility centers around ensuring that they have what they need to meet your expectations.

If you have not visited us recently, please consider doing so this summer. It is a beautiful facility with over 72,000 volumes, a generous array of programs, media, such as CDs and DVDs, and of course there is the popular Children's Library, computers and internet access.

We wish you a terrific summer season.

Town of Berlin Web Page

<http://www.Berlinvt.org>

Berlin has an active web page which provides information on all of the town activities.

This includes agendas of upcoming meetings, minutes of those meetings so the residents of the Town can keep track of what is going on. In addition the webmaster puts up new pictures on the home page on a regular basis. Sometimes a special event is pictured such as the recent ribbon cutting for the reopening of Crosstown Road.

There are extra features such as ordinances, studies, costs of various permits, forms and a calendar of upcoming events. Minutes of meetings are placed in an archive file for each board so that you can look back at

least a year if you need to do so. There is a photo gallery where pictures that have been used on the home page are kept in case you missed one. The webmaster is always looking for pictures taken in Berlin that you might think others would be interested in seeing.

There is a Road Construction link which provides many pictures of Crosstown Road and some other road projects carried out by the Town Road Crew. On occasions someone takes a walk on a trail and takes pictures along the way and if provided to the webmaster they will be added to the Photo Gallery.

The Berlin Historical Society has many histories of Berlin, the agendas and minutes of their meetings and their purpose listed. The Cemetery Committee link has pictures and indexes of all of the 9 Towns Cemeteries under their jurisdiction. You can also find agendas and meeting minutes of various ad hoc committees, such as the Post Office Committee, the Economic Development Committee and the Water Study Committee. Links are provided so that you can e mail various town officers and officials in addition to the Webmaster.

There are also links to the Elementary School and U32. Two volunteers are acting as the Town Webmasters, Norbert Rhinerson and Andrea Chandler.

Berlin Police Department

Hello, I would like to take this opportunity to say hello and introduce myself to the Berlin community. I am happy and excited to have the opportunity to serve the Town of Berlin as your Chief of Police. I have lived in this area (Barre Town) since 1985. My law enforcement career began in 1987 with the Barre Town Police Department. I was promoted to Sergeant in 1996 and held that position until March of 2000 when I accepted the Chief of Police position with the Village of Waterbury. I spent the next eight years with the Waterbury Police Department before coming here to Berlin.

I am committed to providing fair, professional, and efficient police services to this community. I approach law enforcement as a partnership with the community and am convinced that without your involvement we cannot be nearly as successful as we should be. Berlin is a growing and active community with a significant commercial element. My initial observations are that the commercial sector utilizes the greater share of our resources. As you might expect, this is a busy police department. I am grateful to my current staff who continues to give one hundred percent to this community to ensure you are safe and that your complaints and concerns are answered. They have done, and continue to do, a remarkable job, and in passing, if you have the

chance to say hello, or offer a kind word, I am certain it would be appreciated.

I pledge to you my honesty, integrity, and sense of duty. I welcome your input and encourage you to call, write, or stop in. I look forward to seeing you around Town. In this newsletter I have included a sampling of our department statistics comparing this year thus far to the same period in 2007. As you can see, your police department's workload continues to increase.

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Change</u>
Calls for Service	1802	1642	+9.7%
Accidents	133	118	+12.7%
Traffic Stops	1441	932	+54.6%

Sincerely,
William H. Wolfe
Chief of Police

Selectboard Report

Continued from page 1

The grand list will be submitted to the Vermont Department of Taxes and Berlin's education tax rate will be set based on the new common level of appraisal (CLA) so that tax bills can be run and mailed by August 13th or 14th. The first payment will be due on September 13th or 14th, and subsequent payments due on November 20, February 20, 2009 and May 20, 2009. It's a tight schedule and the Board wants to recognize the work that has been done by both Vt. Appraisal Company and the Listers.

Berlin Winter Preparation: The Berlin Selectboard and members of Berlin's Emergency Management Committee have joined together along with several other volunteers to begin preparing for possible winter challenges relating to food, fuel and transportation. At the request of the Selectboard, Berlin's Emergency Management Committee is hosting a series of meetings over the coming month regarding issues concerning fuel, food and transportation that may be impacting our friends and neighbors this coming winter. Recommendations range from identifying and communicating available regional and statewide services to arranging for firewood to be available, making sure people understand the potential hazards of space heaters, informing people of weatherization tips, supporting a neighbor-helping-neighbor program and being prepared to open up a shelter should temperatures drop. The first Berlin Winter Preparation (BWP) meeting was scheduled for July 10th with a more expanded regional meeting scheduled for July 23rd. Additional BWP meetings will be scheduled as needed. If you are

interested in participating, please contact one of the following individuals: Jeff Schulz at 223-4405 or jschulz@berlinvt.org; Ture Nelson at 476-6371 or ture.nelson@dot.org; or Pat McDonald at 476-8411 or patmcdonald8411@charter.net.

Emergency Management Committee: In addition to taking the lead on the Berlin Winter Preparation initiative, members of the EMC, under the direction of Ture Nelson, have attended training classes such as DisasterLan and Incident Command provided by the State. The Town's Rapid Response Plan was updated with the help of Rebecca Richardson, Administrative Assistant. Many thanks to all!

Shared Services Committee: The Selectboard extended an invitation to Barre City and the City of Montpelier to join representatives from the Town to talk about how all three entities might share available resources to reduce costs and improve level of service on a regional basis. Three individuals from each entity are the core members. Berlin's representatives are Pat McDonald as chair of the Committee as well as Jeff Schulz and Kitty Langlois. The first area under discussion is the feasibility of a regional water system. Please see the report from the Berlin Water Committee, Tom Willard, Chair.

Rte 62/Fisher Road Intersection: DuBois & King finalized the Rte 62/Fisher Road study funded by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and the Agency of Transportation. Several public hearings, to include area landowners and a representative from the Act 250 Board, were held to review the findings and recommendations. DuBois & King have recommendation both short- and long-term proposals. Additional information has been requested by the Board and once the information is gathered and reviewed, the Selectboard will make a decision as to its preferred approach, based primarily on safety concerns with the intersection.

Chase Brook Bridge: The project to replace the bridge required some redesign due to unexpected soil and bedrock conditions. The engineer proposed two alternatives, one which would require the closing of the bridge for 48 hours and the other involving a temporary bridge to keep the road open. The temporary bridge will increase the cost of the project by \$35,000 but the Selectboard determined that this was the only viable alternative because of safety concern for the residents. A site visit was held with the engineer and residents on July 9th to ensure everyone concurrence with the Board's decision.

Post Office Committee: At this writing the Committee, chaired by Pat McDonald, is close to finalizing its presentation to request the re-establishment of a post office or postal station in Berlin. The presentation will consist, in part, of a written proposal and power point of key locations and facilities in Berlin. Once approved by the Selectboard, the report will be sent to the U. S. Postal Service with a copy sent to Vermont's U. S. congressional delegation, Washington County Senate delegation, both the Barre and Montpelier Postmasters and Mayors, and the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce. A complete copy of the submission will be posted on the Town's website. Any comments should be directed to Rosemary Morse at townclerk@berlinvt.org. The Committee has spent considerable time over the past year and members need to be commended for all their work and persistence.

The Post Office Committee is also working on the possibility of renaming the Barre-Montpelier Road to further enhance Berlin's identity and economic importance to Central Vermont. First steps will be to reach out to employers and residents along Rte 302 to ask for their comments on the idea.

Charter Change Committee: The Selectboard is appointing a Charter Change Committee to review the Town's current Charter and to recommend possible changes which have been identified throughout the year at Selectboard meetings and other venues. There will be several public hearings as required by statute and a Town vote on the changes will hopefully take place at this November's Election. The next step would be for a Charter Change to be presented to the Legislature for its approval.

Economic Development: The Town Economic Development Plan (EDP) has been completed by David Versel of Devonomics and is available on the Town's website. Many thanks to Paul Irons, Chair and members of the Economic Development Committee as well as all of the residents and business owners who provide invaluable input into the final report. The Plan includes detailed action steps for the Committee and the Town to follow.

Town Center Task Force: The Selectboard has sent a letter of support to the State for their proposed housing project on the State Library property. We are awaiting a response. In the meantime, The Town Center Task Force is continuing its work on the draft conceptual town center master plan. The Board wants to thank Shirley Fortier and Keith Robinson, co-chairs and all the members of the TCTF for their continued dedication and hard work.

Bike Path Committee: The Bike Path Committee presented a comprehensive overview to the Selectboard at its July 7, 2009 informational meeting. A project summary and project cost summary are available on the Berlin website. It is important to note that with anticipated donated property rights and a savings account balance of \$53,000 from private contributors, the Town will not need to ask voters for additional funds beyond the \$40,000 authorized in 1999. Construction of the Berlin portion of the bike path is scheduled to begin in 2010 with a completion date in 2011. Many thanks to all of the members of the Bike Path Committee!!

Public Safety: The Selectboard wants to recognize the many hours of effort by both union representatives of the police department and Town management in finalizing the first "Agreement between the Town of Berlin and Chauffeurs, Teamsters, Warehousemen and Helpers Union No. 597. The agreement is effective from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011. The Board also wants to welcome Chief Bill Wolfe who became the Town's new Chief of Police on February 18, 2008 and recognize Miles Silk, Jr. who was named Fire Chief by the members of the Fire Department on May 15, 2008.

This report is not meant to be an all-inclusive list of the work that is occurring in Berlin. The report has not detailed the on-going work being done by the Planning Commission; Development Review Board, chaired by Bob Wernecke; Sewer Commission, chaired by Rob Allen; Cemetery Board, chaired by Norbert Rhinerson; the Conservation/Recreation Committee, chaired by Jenn Ingersoll or the Board of Civil Authority, chaired by Josh Fitzhugh. The Selectboard owes everyone involved a debt of gratitude. The Selectboard hopes that residents will check the Town Website for updated information on the activities of all the various boards and committees within the Town. The Board is always looking for individuals to get involved. If you have a particular interest in any of the areas mentioned, please contact Jeff Schulz, Town Administrator or Pat McDonald, Chair.

There is one final note of apology and one of congratulations! First the apology: there had been a decision last year to hold a community event this past spring but that did not happen primarily because of all the foregoing events – just too much on everyone's calendar. It's important that the Town have an event to draw us all together to help celebrate the uniqueness of Berlin and all it offers! We will make sure that discussions occur over the summer to identify ways in which we can all get together as a community! And second the congratulations: Many thanks to all the members of the Berlin Historical Society for their incredible display on Mary Green Nye. It was definitely

a success at the Vermont Historical Society Expo 2008, held at Tunbridge Fairgrounds June 21-22nd.

In closing, the Selectboard would like to recognize the outstanding work done by the Town staff from the various administrative offices to the highway and police departments with special thanks to Jeff Schulz, Town Administrator, who took over at a very busy and challenging time. Also, the Board would like to thank all of the volunteers who work so hard for the benefit of the residents and businesses we serve. Thank you all!

The Berlin Selectboard
Pat McDonald, Chair
Brad Towne, Vice Chair
Kitty Langlois, Secretary
Don Blanchette
Susan Gretkowski

Green Mountain Transit Agency

GMTA is looking for volunteer drivers to bring neighbors and friends to medical appointments, on shopping trips or a ride to the pharmacy, as well as community and social events and weekly dialysis treatments. Drivers will receive reimbursement for miles traveled. There is also GMTA's Ticket To Ride program, which is designed to address some of the transportation needs that persons with disabilities of any age and persons over 60 years of age may have, by providing assistance with arranging and paying for a ride. Call GMTA at 802-223-7287 for further information.

Winter Preparedness Self Mailing Survey

Enclosed is a survey to identify how the Town might be able to assist you, and if interested, how you might be able to help us with this effort. Completed surveys should be returned to the Town of Berlin, Municipal Office Building, 108 Shed Road, Berlin, Vermont 05602 Attention Jeff Schulz, Town Administrator.



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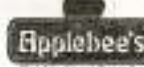
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TOWN OF BERLIN WINTER PREPAREDNESS SURVEY

Food, Fuel and Transportation

The Berlin Selectboard and members of Berlin's Emergency Management Committee have joined together along with several other volunteers to begin preparing for potential challenges relating to food, fuel and transportation that the coming winter months may bring. The Town is also involved with the Central Vermont Food, Fuel and Transportation Coalition that is focusing on similar issues. We are hoping, through this survey, to identify how we might be able to assist you and if you are interested, how you might be able to help us with this effort. Completed surveys should be returned to the Town of Berlin, Municipal Office Building, 108 Shed Road, Berlin, Vermont 05602 Attention Jeff Schulz, Town Administrator.

1. Given the pressure of rising costs and shifting priorities are you concerned about

- Heating your house? Y__ N__ If yes, do you currently heat with oil, wood, electricity or other source? _____
- Being able to get to/from key destinations? Y__ N__
- If yes, please explain (trips to medical treatments, food shopping, picking up or dropping off children, etc.) _____
- Providing balanced nutritional food for you and your family? Y__ N__

2. Are you interested in offering assistance to others or volunteering on a specific project? Y__ N__

__ Ride Share/Volunteer Driver

__ Home Share

__ Cutting and Delivering Wood

__ Helping at a Temporary Shelter

__ Fundraising/Donating

__ Distributing information

__ Gathering, donating or

delivering food

3. Are you interested in learning about weatherizing your home? Y__ N__

Are you interested in learning how to preserve your own food? Y__ N__

4. Would you like to be involved in a Neighbor-to-Neighbor Program (being available as a resource to friends and neighbors in your area)? Y__ N__

5. Are there other suggestions or concerns you might have regarding winter preparedness? _____

6. Do you know of any area services that would be important for us to know about?

7. Would you like to be kept informed about related information over the coming months? Y__ N__ If so, what is the best way to contact you? _____

If you have questions, please contact Muriel Morse 223-3670, Jeff Schulz at 223-4405, Ture Nelson at 476-6371 or Pat McDonald at 476-8411.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Cell _____

Email _____

