

SELECTBOARD REPORT

As we look back over this past fiscal year (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, the time frame that this financial report covers), and beyond into the rest of 2020, there was a great deal of activity and change for the Selectboard. We welcomed Clayton Whittemore to the Board, joining Barbara Dewyea and Ricky Morin (Chair).

The Halloween storm of October 31, 2019 set us up for a great deal of work to do in repairs to the Town roadways and infrastructure. In total, three structures were lost to this incredible storm event; one on Albany Road, one on Blakeville Road and another on Paronto Road. Thanks to excellent work and many hard hours put in by our Road Commissioner and his small crew, Paronto Road has a temporary fix in place. We now await further design for a permanent bridge. Albany Road and Blakeville Road structure replacement projects remain to be done in 2021. We aim to work with FEMA to cover a majority of the costs of these large projects.

While locals experienced the long duration of the closure of Knowles Flat Road, their patience paid off when, this year, we were proud to announce that the bridge on Knowles Flat Road was completed. This project bears out the efforts of Town Office staff, the Selectboard and the Road Commissioner as the taxpayers paid no cost of this expensive bridge replacement. Funded by State of Vermont Federal Priority project and ANR VAG Settlement monies, the Town of Eden successfully managed to complete this project without passing any cost on to the town residents.

Patty & Craig Fryk were our LERA managers for the 2019 season, ensuring all had a safe and enjoyable time at Eden's gorgeous local asset, Lake Eden. The 4th of July was a hit with a full lot of cars and happy campers celebrating America's 243rd birthday!

LERA also felt the impacts of the October 31, 2019 storm and resulting damage was repaired by our highway crew and was partially covered by FEMA funds. Much needed electrical and water system upgrades began for the LERA campgrounds, covered by monies from the American Gift Fund. These improvements will be greatly appreciated by all who call this "home" for the summer months.

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Watershed Management division is working to control storm water runoff and approached the Town to propose implementation of best management practices at LERA and in the surrounding area. They also worked to remove invasive species from the waters of Lake Eden. We are thankful for their efforts towards keeping our gem of a lake as clean as it is!

Hannah and Emilie Thomas took up the reins as Managers of LERA for the 2020 season, which had a late start due to the State mandates around COVID-19. They had a lot to learn as we all took in the quickly changing rules and regulations being put in place in the spring of 2020. As a result of the virus, shelters and playground equipment were off limits for the beginning of the 2020 season.

We were happy to host another year of swimming lessons, offered for free to all Eden children, through the Teach America to Swim program. What a beautiful, safe place to learn how to swim! We are always grateful for this partnership with Teach America to Swim, a

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program created by Sabrina Keller in 2014. This program brings swim lessons and water safety education to local communities all across Vermont and we have been partnering with them to offer these lessons at Lake Eden since 2017. According to the National Institute of Health, formal swim lessons reduce the risk of drowning by 88%.

In July, 2020 Eden joined Belvidere, Cambridge, Hyde Park, Johnson, Morristown, Stowe, and Waterville in the Lamoille FiberNet Communication Union District. The mission of LFCUD is to make locally-controlled, affordable, and reliable high-speed internet service available to every address in the member towns. Joining the LFCUD costs taxpayers nothing, but aims to benefit all Eden residents in the future. In November, LFCUD took the first steps towards building a fiber-based broadband network in the north central Vermont region with a pole assessment, conducted by Matrix Design Group. All costs are being funded through grants and funds from the Federal CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act). We are thankful for local residents, Liza Jones and Stephanie VanBlunk for representing Eden on the LFCUD Board.

We continued our work with Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) Regional Transportation Planner Rob Moore on a town-wide road erosion inventory. This inventory is required for State enforced Municipal Road General Permit (MRGP) compliance. The end goal of the inventory project is to minimize road erosion caused by storm water runoff and ensure the sediment that does erode is sufficiently filtered before reaching waterways. The Road Erosion Inventory for Eden accomplishes the following objectives: (1) an increased understanding of erosion concerns along municipal roads, (2) an inventory of hydrologically connected road segments, and (3) a five-year work plan to identify and prioritize road erosion sites. The Town of Eden is just over 64 square miles with approximately 45 miles of town-owned public roads. The approximate number of hydrologically connected, municipally-owned, not fully compliant road segments in need of work before the 2036 MRGP compliance deadline is 177 segments, or approximately 11 miles. This work will be ongoing between town staff, the Highway Department and LCPC.

Green Up Day, held annually on the first Saturday of May, was another success for us here in Eden this year. We try to do our part in the Town-wide efforts to keep Eden looking its best, by taking discarded tires to be properly disposed of with monies from the Good Neighbor Fund. We are thankful for all Eden residents for doing their part to pitch in on this fun annual Vermont tradition. What a great way to jump into springtime, sleeves rolled up!

A member of the Green Mountain Club, and also an Eden land owner, Molly Flannigan transferred a 14 acre parcel over to the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation to become a part of the Long Trail State Forest to become public land. If you've had the pleasure of enjoying time in the Long Trail State Forest, you have local landowners like this to thank. Get out and enjoy the great outdoors—we are so fortunate here in Eden to have acres and acres to explore.

We would like to take this opportunity to give thanks for the following people: Tracey Morin, for her continued years of help and support to the Selectboard, the Town Office and

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LERA. Barbara Dewyea for stepping up and participating as a member of the Selectboard; we were fortunate to have Barb with us as part of the Selectboard until the sale of her home in the Summer of 2020. Vermont State statute asserts that only town residents can sit on the board, and as such, Barb offered her resignation from the board this year. Kristi Ehlers, for her years working with the Listers Office. Andrew Ehlers, for his role as Eden's Emergency Management Contact. The Ehlers are about to launch into a new step in their lives together, as they move to fulfill duties of Andrew's role with the VT Air National Guard. We see them off with gratitude and well wishes. It takes a certain kind of citizen to dedicate their time to their community in the ways that these folks have. We are forever thankful to those Eden residents who carve out the time and put in the care to keep our little, busy, beautiful town running. Municipal work comes in many forms, and we wouldn't be successful without everyone playing their role. They, along with all of our dedicated town employees and volunteers, are what keeps our town government running smoothly. Thank you!

You may notice some familiar reports missing from this years' town report; the Eden Energy Committee and the Eden Planning Commission were quiet this year due to COVID-19 and an overall dip in activity. Charles Leon offered his resignation as the Chair of the Planning Commission this year. We thank him for his time and efforts in this role. We look forward to more activity from our local boards in the future as we are once again permitted to meet for thoughtful discussions.

As we look towards the future, we know we can count on the new team members who have joined us at the Town Office this year as well; this includes Freeda Powers as the new Town Administrative Assistant, Sarah Hyde as the new Assessors' Assistant and Jayson Hill as the new Dog Officer. Welcome aboard!

In closing, we would like to acknowledge the dedication and time given to the Town of Eden's Selectboard, by our Chair, Ricky Morin. Ricky, whose term as Chair is up March 2021, will run for the open 1 year term, leaving the three year term open. Thank you, Ricky, for your leadership and commitment to the Town of Eden as the Selectboard Chair. We appreciate the countless ways that you serve our community—truly a man of many hats!

Sincerely,

Eden Selectboard:

Ricky Morin, Chair
Clayton Whittemore