

# The Athenian

Volume 15, Number 2

Sponsored by Grafton Cares

OCTOBER 2024

## Your 2024 Ballots are in...the Mail!

I'm sure we'll all be glad to have the 2024 general election in the rearview mirror! Campaigning for this election has been going on since 2021, and we're exhausted, but we all need to vote! So take advantage of the State of Vermont sending every voter an early ballot and get yours done and in. See the information below from our Town Clerk about that. Then you can get to work enjoying these crisp mornings with the change of seasons, the annual Grafton Fire Department Tag Sale, picking apples, and all the other things we love about fall in Vermont!

- Sherry Maher



Cemetery Commission reviewed a design for steel gates at the Valley Cemetery. He estimates that the job will cost approximately \$3000 in materials and hardware along with volunteer labor and tools.

- Bull Creek Common Lands, a community-based organization, is working on a new conservation project involving land from north of Sam Farr Rd to the Townshend line. Bull Creek is applying for grant money to purchase the land with hopes to make the properties a community resource. The select board agreed to sign a letter of support to submit with the grant application.

- FEMA Grant Agreement- the state will be dispersing the FEMA funds for the 2023 flooding when the funds are available.
- There was a discussion of comp time for road crew members.
- Concerns were expressed about the marked trees that have not been removed in the view shed of the Meetinghouse. Krista pointed out that there were almost two accidents during the quilt show due to poor visibility on the corner.

- Ginger Maciejowski

### Select Board Meeting Tidbits

In addition to news in other pieces below, here are a few things from the September Select Board meeting that might be of interest:

- Don Capponcelli thanked the road crew for their work ditching the Reed Rd. \* There was discussion about work done by the road crew on Mill Hill and concern by Linda Taylor that work was not complete and needed a riser in the catch basin. Concern was also expressed that grant money may not cover work done on this project from outside contractors. Sandi and David explained that the state agreed to include the Mill Hill work in the town's Grants in Aid with the rest of this year's stormwater work and that would cover Ivor Steven's time.
- Hannah says taxes are collected with about \$80,000 delinquent. Some funds are still coming in.
- MERP Implementation Grant: Hannah and Don have been working on a budget. The deadline has been extended a week and opened up to more towns making it more competitive. The total amount asked for in the grant application is \$425K for town garage improvements which includes 20% for ADA upgrades and 20% for oversight, permitting, engineering, and other support services. Hannah said that BGS requires a building to be ADA compliant in order to get grant funds.
- Hannah stated that there is \$75,000 in the MERP request for the Community Center. \* Don said the

### Notes from the School Board

The start up of school went very well. We have 34 students enrolled: 14 from Athens, 17 from Grafton, 2 from Westminster and 1 from Chester (a private pay).

At the August board meeting the board approved hiring Megan Corey as a part time Guidance Counselor. At the September board meeting we were informed that our current art teacher, Scott Febbie, will be leaving us November first. He has been great with the students and we wish him well. There is an upcoming interview at the end of September for this position. We are in hopes of having this position filled soon.

Summer was a busy time of maintenance at the Grafton school. The new playground was installed and the students are enjoying it. The parking lot has been resurfaced, the building's exterior has had damaged

clapboards replaced and received a fresh coat of paint. There are a few repairs that are still in progress, but those scheduled for this season will soon be completed. The interior, as always, was shiny, clean, and welcoming for the first day of school thanks to our dedicated maintenance crew.

At the September meeting, the Ath-Graf school board voted to approve the application for a new Athens' board member, Mark Berman. We now have a full board of 6 members, thank you Mark.

Save the date. On October 22 there will be a Community Forum. Please come and let us know your thoughts and concerns regarding how the school is doing. How are your children doing in their school work? What might help them do better? The time of this meeting has not been set. Call the school or check the Schools web page for the time once we are in October

- Lynn Morgan

## November General Election Information

The State is mailing ballots to all registered voters in the next week. Please use these ballots to vote.

Return ballots to the Athens Town Clerk:

- by mail (no postage needed)
- by dropping it off at the town office
- or by bringing it in on Election Day, Nov 5th

If you don't receive a ballot in the mail by the middle of October, or if you lose the ballot you received, you can come to the town office and vote early during open hours, or on Election Day, November 5th.

- Hannah Regier

## Quilt Show a Success, What's Next?

Saturday, September 14th found every pew in the Brick Meetinghouse adorned with many beautiful colorful handmade quilts for the 2nd Athens Meetinghouse Quilt Show...64 quilts to be exact! And over 50 visitors from near and far created a steady stream of traffic in and out of the Meetinghouse. Many were already inquiring about next year, and the quilters seemed to be happy with the show as well! So if you missed it, you can watch for it to come back around next year. In the meantime, we will be hosting a fall Open House on October 20th at 2 PM with cider, and donuts.

And next on the agenda is nothing small for sure. We met with architect Jon Saccoccio this past week to begin the planning process for handicap access. This would certainly make events like the Quilt Show or the concerts we've held there accessible to anyone in a wheelchair, but it will also make general entry to the



building easier for all. If you've climbed those beautiful, but steep stone stairs to enter the building you'll know what we mean!

Next week, Ginger Maciejowski and Sherry Maher will be attending a 2-day retreat with Preservation Trust Vermont titled Accessibility in Historic Buildings. The timing for this retreat and our efforts to move from stability and exterior preservation to interior work and looking to the next 200 years for this building couldn't have been better. Stay tuned as we work through this new phase of planning, grant writing and fundraising, grateful to the guidance from experts like Preservation Trust Vermont and their partners supporting efforts like ours. If you would like to help us reach the goal of access for all with a tax deductible charitable donation to the Athens Historic Preservation Society contact me for more information at 802-869-2141. Every little bit helps!

- Sherry Maher

## Grafton Cares Update

Back from our two month vacation, Grafton Cares community meals took off with great spirit, great food, and great attendance. We are sorry to report that we cannot offer a dinner on Friday, October 4, as the Chapel is booked for another event, but the rest of our October meal schedule will carry on as normal. Here it is:

- Wednesday, October 9, lunch at noon
- Friday, October 18, dinner at 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 23, lunch at noon

All our meals take place in the Chapel in Grafton. They are free of charge although donations are gratefully accepted.

Our other activities provided Meals on Wheels to 9 customers, 2 rides to medical appointments. \$125 in gas cards for travel to medical appointments, 3 sunshine baskets, and 1 shawl from our knitters. Questions? Just call Kate Bova at 869-1527, or Bill Toomey at 843-2397.

Again, our first community meal in October will be at noon on Wednesday, the 9th. We hope to see you there!

- Bill Toomey

## Grace Cottage Hosts Saturday Flu Shot Clinics

Grace Cottage will host Saturday flu vaccine clinics on October 5 and November 2, from 9 a.m. until noon, at Grace Cottage Family Health, 185 Grafton Rd., Townshend, VT.

You do not need to be an established patient at Grace Cottage to get a flu shot at these clinics. Pre-registration is recommended (call 802-365-4331); walk-ins will be accommodated as space permits. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Most insurance covers flu shots; please bring an ID and insurance card with you. If you are not insured, payment for your flu shot is expected at the time of service.

Two different flu shots are being offered this year, one for those age six months to 64, and another for those who are 65 and older. Flu shots are also available at Grace Cottage weekdays by appointment; call 802-365-4331.

An annual seasonal flu vaccine is the best way to avoid getting the flu and spreading it to others. It takes about two weeks for protection to develop after vaccination. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone age six months and older get an annual flu vaccine. People over age 65 or those with a chronic disease, such as diabetes or asthma, have a higher risk of contracting the flu and are especially urged to get the shot.

For more information about the flu and vaccination, visit [www.healthvermont.gov](http://www.healthvermont.gov) or call the Vermont helpline at 2-1-1.

Grace Cottage will collect donations for the Townshend Food Shelf during the clinics. If you wish to support the Food Shelf in this way, you can bring a non-perishable food item to the clinic.

For more information about this or other Grace Cottage services, visit [gracecottage.org](http://gracecottage.org) or call 802-365-4331.

- CJ King

[NOTE- See a recent article in the Reformer where Grace Cottage CEO, disputes the recent state report: [https://www.reformer.com/local-news/at-risk-grace-cottage-disputes-state-hospital-report/article\\_e1bd38a2-79cf-11ef-b41c-8bcf75e97517.html](https://www.reformer.com/local-news/at-risk-grace-cottage-disputes-state-hospital-report/article_e1bd38a2-79cf-11ef-b41c-8bcf75e97517.html)]

## Weather Emergency Committee Notes

While Hurricane Helene was barreling down on the southeast, the Athens Weather Emergency Committee (AWEC) gathered to review our protocols for weather emergencies here in Athens. Our hearts go out to everyone impacted by this horrific storm. And while we were not directly affected, it is likely that we will see and feel the impact since it's harvest season across the southeast, with crops from avocados and cotton to citrus and peanuts being hit, many trees blown over in pecan and peach orchards, and devastation to nurseries, beehives and livestock operations. Remember this when prices start to increase in the coming months. But especially remember the farmers whose futures are extremely uncertain.

Would you like to get involved with the AWEC? We could use 1 or 2 new members. Contact me if you

are interested in learning more at 869-2141.

- Tim Stevenson

## 2024 Fall Fireman's Sale

The Grafton Elementary School PTO will be holding their annual food booth sale at the Fireman's Fall sale. They need a lot of help to accomplish this and are looking for people to work the booth to sell coffee, tea, hot chocolate, donuts, hamburgers, hotdogs and crock pot goodies. They also usually have a lot of baked goods donated and sold by donation. So they are looking for LOTS OF baked good donations, food and help at the booth. The less they have to spend to get this up and running the more profit they make! Please sign up early so they can shop for anything that has not been signed up for on Thursday evening or Friday.

Use this Sign-Up Genius link to register for items needed: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4FAF\\_AA2DA0FA7-51451812-2024/139829073#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4FAF_AA2DA0FA7-51451812-2024/139829073#/)

- Angela Cartier



## Reed Road September Weather Summary

The temperatures this month seemed about normal for us, but we were quite dry having only one major rain storm the whole month. The flowers loved it though!

High temperature: 83.4 degrees F.

Low temperature: 41.9 degrees F.

Rainfall: 1.9" - Treah Pichette

## Thoughts to Ponder

“Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits.” - Samuel Butler

“Notice that autumn is more the season of the soul than of nature.” - Friedrich Nietzsche

“Democracy is not just a right, it is a responsibility.”

- Thomas Paine

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

**Select Board Meetings:** 3rd Thursday 7:00 PM

**Budget Committee:** 2nd & 4th Tuesday 7:00 PM

**Planning Commission:** 1st Tuesday 10:30 AM

**Meeting House Committee:** 2nd Monday 10:00 AM

**School Board:** 2nd Thursdays 6:00 Grafton School

Do you have a news item for The Athenian? Get on our email list to get the newsletter in your inbox.

**CONTACT US** at [theathenianvt@gmail.com](mailto:theathenianvt@gmail.com).



**TRASH PICK-UP: OCT 7 & 21, NOV 4**

**RECYCLE PICK-UP: OCT 14 & 28**

## Charles Perham September 1873

*Transcribed by James Trimble*

- 1 Rainy today have not done much went down to Jim Eagers. Went up on the hill to get a stick for a sill for the shed. And drew two loads of brakes. (Brush or fern mixed with hay.)
- 2 Have been mowing Rowen today. (Old name for 2<sup>nd</sup> cut of hay). Mr. Warren Thompson here bought my oxen for \$225.00. He offered for the steers and Smith heifer \$100.00.
- 3 Have been mowing Rowen today got in three loads. Mr. Wright here today sold him 10 sheep for \$40.00. Just at night went up to Charles Whites to get him to go buy ---- but he would not go. Did not get home till after 11:00pm. Received my book from Keene.
- 4 Rainy today. Have been to Brookline after a pair of oxen. Have engaged to have a pair of 4 year old oxen for \$135.00. 15 lambs for \$32.50. Called to uncle Hiram. Also to Mr. Marshes to get the old mare shod.
- 5 Mowed Rowen in the upper mowing and got in two loads. Mr. Whitney got me letters from J.S. Bellows Treasurer Walpole Bank Keene and Mr. Cobb Westminster.
- 6 Mowed Rowen behind the barn.
- 7 Have been to Meeting today. Elizabeth (his wife) went down to Merrills. Got in the Rowen when got home.
- 8 Went up to the sheep to mark some to sell. Some to have lambs. Went down to Jim Eagers to get him to work but he was not home. Mowed rowen the rest of the day. Jim Eager here just at night.
- 9 Have mowed a little and turned Rowen the rest of the time. Went down to the grave yard and helped set the monument over fathers grave and paid him for it \$112.50. Elizabeth went down to Mr. Edwards.
- 10 Mowed a little rowen and get it all up to dry.
- 11 Have been down to Brookline after the oxen bought off Laren Ranney. Paid him \$100.00 towards them.
- 12 Have drawn some ---- in the forenoon. In the afternoon turned out the oxen. Found my lambs with Mr. Cobbs sheep. Get them down and get them out.
- 13 Went and looked for the oxen but could not find them. Came home and Elizabeth went with me down to Mr. Ranneys after them. To Uncle Daniels to dinner.
- 14 Jim Eager up here and turned out 9 lambs and Elizabeths old sheep out into Merrills pasture.
- 15 Pulled the Beans in the forenoon. In the afternoon went down to Saxtons River to see about the chickens and the butter.
- 16 Went down to Jim Eagers to get the Phebe cow home. In the afternoon mowed a little rowen and commenced to cut corn. Turned the Ranney oxen out with the cows for the first time today. Turned the old mare down in the oxen pasture.
- 17 Have been to work on the shed. Jim Eager to work here today. In the evening went down to Jim Smiths.
- 18 Jim Eager to work here today on the shed.
- 19 Very rainy today. Jim Eager to work here today.
- 20 James Smith works here today. Have been cutting up corn. Jim Eager works here. Henry worked today.
- 21 Have been up to the Post office and Merrills. Just at night Lennie and Wallace here.
- 22 Have been on the hill getting out Pine logs. Jim Eager works here today.
- 23 Have been down to Brookline to get the Tub hooped and the horse shod. Henry went with me. Jim Eager works here today. Very rainy today.
- 24 Have been to Bellows Falls to carry off the chickens today. Henry went with me.
- 25 Carried off the butter today to Mr. Butterfield Saxtons River. There was 143 pounds.
- 26 Got in one load of brakes in the forenoon. In the afternoon dug potatoes. Went and turned Cobbs steers back to his pasture. Went down to Mrs. Bennetts to look for the rest but could not find them.
- 27 Dug potatoes and put in the cellar 18 bushels beside the little ones. Got in the piece of corn on the hill. Charlie Wyman and Thompson here just at night.
- 28 Have been to see about my sheep. Went down to the Stickney pasture on the hill. Came around through Gibsons by the Stickney place. In the evening went down to Jim Smiths.
- 29 Husked corn this forenoon. In the afternoon get in corn and beans. Jim Eager helped me. Nellie Eager here this morn. Let her have \$5.00 to go on Jims work.
- 30 Went over to the Ball lot to get a load of apples with the old mare. In the afternoon husked corn. Mrs. Reed and Gary White here.