



115 Vermont Route 30  
Bondville, VT 05340

## TOWN OF WINHALL VERMONT

Tel: 802-297-2119  
townadmin@winhall.org  
www.winhall.org

### *Town of Winhall Newsletter*

*November 2020*

What a wonderful fall we have had here in Winhall; it is one of the most beautiful I can remember. As we head into winter, the town highway crew is getting all the plows ready, the salt shed is full and everyone is preparing for our first snowfall. Please remember to drive cautiously; four-wheel drive does not make us magical and speaking from personal experience, it can be quite easy to end up in a snow bank or ditch!

Remember, Election Day is on Tuesday, November 3rd. If you are not registered to vote, Vermont makes it very easy. You can go online, to the Vermont Secretary of State webpage. If you have any questions, call Beth Grant at town hall. She is our Town Clerk and also oversees our elections. It is a job she does with incredible skill and integrity. The first time I went to Town Hall (the old one which is now the community arts center) to vote, I looked at Beth and asked “how do I do this?”. She replied “with a pencil”. I had never voted without some sort of machine. Beth wears many hats in addition to keeping our elections running smoothly. At this time of year as we all button up for the long winter I am grateful for townspeople like Beth who were ever patient as I learned my way around our wonderful community.

REMEMBER TO VOTE NOVEMBER 3rd

Julie Isaacs,  
Winhall Selectboard Chair  
julie@winhall.org 802-275-2160

## **Reminders**

**ELECTION 11/03/2020 ~ 10AM to 7PM**

115 Vermont Route 30, Town Offices

**Winhall has a parking policy in effect**

**November 1 until May 1**

**Cars can be towed and fines incurred**

**More info:** <https://winhall.org/pdf/ParkingOrdinance14Signed.pdf>

*Elizabeth Grant started work part time in 1986. She graduated from Burr & Burton Seminary in 1987 and The Community College of Vermont in 1996. In 2000 she became 911 coordinator, Asst. Town Clerk, part time transfer station attendant as well as the Vital Record Historian. In March of 2004 Elizabeth was elected as Winhall Town Clerk. She went on to receive her CVC (Certified Vermont Clerk) in 2007 and CMC (Certified Municipal Clerk) by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks in 2011. In 2016 Elizabeth became the Winhall Treasurer as well.*

*In the years as Winhall's Town Clerk, Elizabeth has upgraded the land records to computerization and has also spent countless hours and restoring many of the land records, vital records and historic documents.*

*Elizabeth is the face of the Town, the go to person when you need help and the local property historian. Her many duties include Tax Collector, Registrar of Deeds, Presiding Officer of Elections, Board of Civil Authority Clerk, Keeper of all Town Records and Vital Records.*

*Elizabeth was born in Winhall on the family homestead in 1969 and currently resides with her Husband Lawrence, son Alexander, her dog Thunder and cat Kittler. She loves to travel (missing only 5 states), explore new places, make new friends and eat delicious food.*

*Please feel free to reach out to Beth if you need assistance 802-297-2122/802-375-5415©  
Or email at [winclerk@comcast.net](mailto:winclerk@comcast.net).*





*Greetings from your Winhall Police & Rescue Department.*

We are in the process of gearing up for Winter weather and we hope that you are doing the same. There are many important steps to take to make sure that your vehicle is ready for the cold weather.

*Here is a list of things to consider:*

- Make sure you have your vehicle tuned up and checked for any mechanical issues that might arise during the winter season. Make sure that all fluid levels are checked as well. Understand the safety features with your vehicle, such as antilock brakes and stability control and how each reacts on slippery surfaces. Look closely at your tires, inspecting for sufficient tread and appropriate tire pressure. Consider upgrading to snow tires if possible.
- Keep items in your vehicle that can help you if you are stranded in an emergency during the winter months. Items may include a shovel, broom, ice scraper, jumper cables, flashlight, warning devices or flares, charged cell phone, water, food and blankets.
- When planning on going out into wintery weather, be sure to check forecasts and road conditions. Leave early, drive slowly and allow enough time to get to your destination safely. Remember that your GPS is not foolproof and can sometimes lead you down roads that are not maintained or safe for winter travel.
- Make sure everyone in your vehicle is wearing their seatbelt. Also, be sure that children are buckled up in an age appropriate car seat, booster seat or seat belt.
- Winter driving can be difficult all by itself. Avoid using your cell phone while driving and always drive sober. Both alcohol and drugs whether legal or illicit can cause impairment.
- Slow down! It is harder to control or stop your vehicle on ice or snow covered roads. Regardless of whether you own a 4-wheel drive or all-wheel drive vehicle or have aggressive snow tires you can still lose control of your vehicle. Remember that speed limits are for ideal driving conditions. Winter driving conditions are not ideal.
- Don't crowd plow trucks. Plow trucks travel slowly, make wide turns, stop often and exit the road frequently. It may also be difficult for the driver to see your vehicle. If you find yourself behind a plow truck, use caution, and stay behind or pass in a safe location.

Hopefully these tips will help you prepare for the upcoming season. As always, don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Derrick Tienken, Chief of Police & Rescue

802-297-1013 [derrick.tienken@vermont.gov](mailto:derrick.tienken@vermont.gov)

## MEETINGS

### *Select Board*

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month at 5:00PM

### *School Board*

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 5:00PM (Remote)

### *Planning Commission*

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month at 7:30PM

*Interested in joining the Winhall e-mail list?*

*Simply send an e-mail to: [townadmin@winhall.org](mailto:townadmin@winhall.org)  
with the subject line "Subscribe".*

*The Winhall website contains information, news,  
agendas, meeting minutes, and more.*

[www.winhall.org](http://www.winhall.org)

The Winhall Memorial Library Building is closed to the public, but you can still enjoy our services! The building may be closed, but we are still here for you! We are still purchasing the newest books! Visit our website, Facebook Page, or Instagram to view our newest materials!

Outdoor Pick-up of Books, Audiobooks, DVDs and Magazines; Printing Services; Free Online Resources; Monthly Book Discussion, Free Online Classes through Universal Class; Passes: Echo Aquarium and the Clark Art Institute; Interlibrary Loans; Free 24/7 Wi-Fi (password winhalllibrary); Virtual Events. Don't have a library card with us? Call or email to sign up today! Check out our inventory/catalog in process at <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/Winhalllibrary>



We are excited to announce that we now have Hoopla available for our patrons! What is Hoopla? Hoopla is a groundbreaking digital media service offered by your local public library that allows you to borrow movies, music, audiobooks, ebooks, comics and TV shows to enjoy on your computer, tablet, or phone – and even your TV! Call or email to find out how to use this new service!Outdoor Pick-Up Available: Visit our website at [winhallmemoriallibrary.org](http://winhallmemoriallibrary.org) for more information.

Call 802-297-9741 or Email [winhalllibrary@comcast.net](mailto:winhalllibrary@comcast.net) to reserve Books, DVDs, Audiobooks, Magazines, or to request our Printing Services. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

### *FROM THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR*

Welcome to the Town of Winhall; an awesome place to live happy and healthy lives and super enjoy the endless benefits of “our brave little State!” Some of you are recent homeowners; some of you have been here forever; but you have one thing in common, you want to make your homes uniquely yours by making improvements. You will need to contact me, as I issue all sorts of zoning permits from building a new home, to barns, garages, accessory buildings of all descriptions, decks, additions, renovations, home occupations, or changes of use and even treehouses.

If you are not sure if your project requires a permit, simply email me, or better yet, pick-up the phone and let's chat; getting a zoning permit is neither difficult nor overwhelming, and I am super friendly and helpful. Just to let you know, Winhall instituted zoning regulations in 1971 to guide development so that in the end, you are protected; your neighbors are protected; and Winhall is protected. It's a win, win for everybody!

You can locate me at the Town Hall most mornings; call 802-297-1820; or email [wpczba@comcast.net](mailto:wpczba@comcast.net).

If you want to receive the Winhall Newsletter email [townadmin@winhall.org](mailto:townadmin@winhall.org) or just go to the Winhall website, [www.winhall.org](http://www.winhall.org) to find out more about our extraordinary Town.

*Lucia Wing, Winhall Zoning Administrator*

*~ A Reminder from the Highway Department ~*



The highway department would like to remind everyone that the town has a no parking policy on the town roads from November 1 until May 1 with a \$50 fine and vehicles will be towed. The reason we have this parking policy is because it is difficult for the highway trucks to get down the roads with the size of the trucks we use. The plow is a total of 11 feet long and the wing on the side of the truck is 10 feet long so the total width of the truck going down the road is 12 feet wide. It also makes it hard for the Rescue Department to access people if the road is blocked. If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call here at the highway garage at 802-297-2120. Thank you and please be safe on the roads this winter.

Trevor Dryden, Road Foreman

*Thoughts on Covid-19*

Covid is persistent. What can anyone say that you have not thought of yourself? Sometimes redundancy helps confirm what you believe. Now that our outdoor season for dining and socializing is drawing to an end, it's time to become more vigilant in our efforts to stay well as we move indoors. I, and maybe you, have become too comfortable with the fact that we live in a place where we feel safe. The news lately, locally, nationally, world wide, has not been good with respect to Covid.

So for the benefit of yourself and the people in our community, I ask that all of us raise our level of caution a few notches to help ensure that all the effort that has been put into staying well and being safe does not degrade into what is happening elsewhere. Take a moment to reflect on what to do and share that with someone. Saying it out loud to others helps to ensure you act out your plan to stay safe. Thank you for efforts at keeping yourself and others safe.

Marcel Gisquet

*Solid Waste Implementation Plan*

The Town of Winhall has recently updated its Solid Waste Implementation Plan, per requirements set forth by the State of Vermont.

To view the draft plan, visit:

<https://winhall.org/pdf/WinhallSWIPDraft2020.pdf>

*wondering how to dispose of various items?*

Visit the A-Z Guide at:

[https://www.winhall.org/?p=Solid Waste Info](https://www.winhall.org/?p=Solid+Waste+Info)

## Kendall Farm Road Town Forest Parcel ~ Benefits of Planned Timber Harvests

1. **Recovery of Imminent Losses Through Harvesting of At-Risk Trees:**
  - a. This forest contains a significant proportion of good-quality, high-value, and at-risk ash trees.
  - b. Ash trees are threatened by “Ash yellows” and the emerald ash borer. (confirmed emerald ash borer infestations nearby)
  - c. Once infected, these trees quickly decline and lose value.
  - d. Harvesting now will remove much of the at-risk ash sawtimber, thereby recovering imminent / likely losses.
2. **Improve Future Value of Forest:**
  - a. Low-quality, diseased, mature, and over-mature trees will be targeted for removal.
  - b. The best-quality and most vigorous trees of desirable / high-value species will be favored for retention in the forest.
  - c. Crowding will be reduced to allow for increased rates of growth, which will lead to increased value accretion.
  - d. By removing low-quality, diseased, and mature sawtimber, we will create more growing space for the best quality and vigorous trees. This will improve growth rates and value accretion into the future.
3. **Improve Wildlife Habitat Diversity:**
  - a. This harvest will use the “single-tree selection” and “group selection” methods.
  - b. When used together, these two methods will create gaps of varying sizes throughout the canopy of the stand that will function to promote the establishment of seedlings and saplings and allow for the growth of already established, but immature trees.
  - c. Young seedlings and saplings serve as browse for many mammals and birds and provides essential nesting habitat and cover for many species. The structural diversity created through this harvesting provides desirable habitat for many migratory birds.
  - d. The establishment of seedlings / saplings, especially in group openings will provide excellent browse and cover for a variety of wildlife species. The general increase in structural diversity will create more suitable habitat for a wider variety of wildlife species.
4. **Improve Forest Health and Resiliency:**
  - a. The north-eastern forests face an increasing number of threats.
  - b. These include pests and pathogens, more severe and more frequent weather events, and invasive species to name a few.
  - c. This harvest is designed to remove more susceptible and high risk trees, increase species diversity, create a cohort of young trees, and improve the overall health and vigor of the forest.
  - d. Improving species diversity, creating a wider variety of age-classes, and focusing growth on the most vigorous and healthy stems will help make this forest more resilient in the face of current and future threats and more capable of recovery.
5. **Create Recreational Potential:**
  - a. The current recreational trail system is extremely limited and provides access to only a small proportion of this forest.
  - b. Harvesting will result in the re-opening / creation of a network of primary and secondary skid-trails
  - c. A portion of these trails could be further developed into a network of looped-trails serving primary purposes for a variety of activities including hiking, skiing, birding, mountain-biking, forest management education, etc.
  - d. Forests of this type typically require 15 – 20 years of recovery time before a re-entry for harvesting is justified.
  - e. Harvesting will create a base network of trails while also providing income to support future recreational development. Involvement of a municipal recreational board / committee, partnerships with recreational organizations, as well as the availability of grants, should be explored.