



Bethel Courier Online

A Publication of the Bethel Revitalization Initiative

Vol. 3 Issue 7

August 2010

Summer in Vermont

Summer is short in central Vermont. Therefore, people get very busy trying to squeeze a short growing season, vacations, home improvements and everything else into a few brief weeks.

We had only a couple submissions for the July issue of the Courier and thus, did not print one. This seventh issue, then, is a combination of our July and August issues. For that reason, it is a little larger than usual. But it is filled with some great news and events and even an interesting article by the late John Dutton. I hope you enjoy it.

A Reminder:

I would like to encourage more of our citizens and friends to sign up to receive the newsletter electronically. To do so, just drop me an email at: Laurelin@sover.net

As always, I'd love to get even more submissions from town organizations, committees, businesses and individuals. Even an article about some topic of interest to you. Tell your friends and organizations! **The submission deadline is the 25th of every month. Please consider sending something in.**

Kirk White, Editor

White River Lodge #90 Freemasons



White River Lodge meets on the second Thursday of every month except July and August.

Next meeting: September 9th. We'll be doing the 3rd degree on one of our new brothers. Come out and show your fellowship. Meetings start promptly at 7 PM. For more information, contact lodge secretary: Eric Richardson at 234-9565. 2B1 ASK1

Organization News:



Bethel Area Rotary Club Calendar

Rotary meets every Monday night from 6 PM to 7:25 PM in the Bethel White Church. Dinner is catered by Maybelle Dumont and costs \$11.

Monday, August 2nd

Club Assembly – our monthly business meeting.

Monday, August 9th

Our District Governor will be making his annual visit.

Monday, August 16th

Joanne Kent will have a great speaker for us.

Monday, August 23rd

New principal Kevin Dirth will speak to us about his vision and plans for the Bethel schools.

Monday, August 30th

Jamal Kheiry will have a great speaker for us.

We are always looking for good speakers and topics of local, national and international interest. If you would like to come and tell us about your organization, club, company, hobby, or whatever else is your passion, please contact Scott Putney at 234-9550 (Spaulding Press).

**Support the
Bethel Town Hall!!
Donate Today!**

Notes of the Bethel Town Hall Restoration Committee
July 22, 2010, 7:00 PM
Bethel Library

In Attendance: Neal Fox, Geneva Gaiko, Nick & Heidi Nikolaidis, Mary Floyd, Kevin Flynn, Sue & Greg Fedak, Chris Masters and Joe & Carol DeFreitas

Neal called the meeting to order at 6:55 PM.

Neal informed the committee that he had attended the construction meeting on Tuesday, July 20, 2010, and was told by the contractor that they expected to have the building completed by the last quarter of the month of August. The front doors are scheduled to be shipped around the 10th of August.

Moving the electrical boxes on the left hand side of the stage (facing the stage) would entail another \$1,900.00. This would be necessary to hang a draw type curtain as they would be behind the curtain if left in their present location.

Joe had talked with Robert Brier about hanging the Painted Curtain, however, Robert needed the exact measurements of the curtain to give us an accurate figure. Carol will get in touch with Janet Burnham to see if Janet knows the exact measurements.

Grant money was discussed and we will have to get in touch with Chris Hadsel to find out about applying for a grant to hang the Painted Curtain. It is a matching grant so we would have a certain amount of time to come up with matching funds. Bill Pollock, from Lilliesville area, has volunteered his services in applying for grant money. Chris had told us previously that there was supposed to be a class in September on how to write a grant.

The Bethel Area Rotary Club has donated \$1,100.00 for a podium and flagstaffs and bases for the Town Hall.

Additional speakers were discussed and the Hall is supposed to be wired for speakers to be put in at a later date when a sound system is installed in addition to the podium speakers. Del Cloud is supposed to get in touch with Seth Stoddard to find out about getting a price from Seth for a sound system for the Hall.

Neal asked Mary if she has talked to Keith Bush about getting a piano for the Hall and Mary said that she will contact Keith and see what he can find for us.

Someone (can't recall who) mentioned that Paul Feeney was still looking into the chair situation at his church.

Carol noted that the stage floor is in pretty bad shape and inquired as to whether that was in the plans for refinishing. Neal made a note of that and will look into it.

Heidi and Nick informed us that there needs to be a 36" space between the cabinets for a 6 burner commercial gas stove and that the cabinets that are now over the stove area will have to be removed as they are too low to accommodate a large pot that may need stirring. There is a cabinet presently situated over the fridge space that will have to either be raised or removed altogether to accommodate a

commercial fridge.

Mary Floyd is working on putting an Entertainment Committee together. Suggestions were made by various members as to who she should contact to see if they would be interested in helping put on a Bethel-based performers show for the opening of the Town Hall. Neal said he would try and get in touch with Gayle Apprilliano as she had previously volunteered to help put together a show for us.

It was noted that we will need to have chairs before we can do too much in the way of entertainment.

Susie wanted to know whether rental fees had been set yet and Neal told her that the Select Board and the Town Manager are still working on that as there is such a variation in what different Halls charge for their usage.

Heidi was wondering when the Hall and Conference Room would be ready for use. Again, this all depends on when the Hall is done and all of the workmen have left the premises and occupancy permits are completed and approved.

Ideas for honoring the people who have donated to the Bethel Town Hall Restoration Project were fielded but nothing definitive was established.

Dates of August 12th and 26th were set for the next two meetings. Neal felt that it would be good to have another meeting in 2 weeks rather than wait for another month as the progress is picking up and the project is near completion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM

Area Events:

RACC Golf Tournament

The Randolph Area Chamber of Commerce will be holding its annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 11, 2010 at Montague Golf Club.

Registration begins at 10:00 with a shotgun start at 11:00 a.m. Anyone interested in playing or sponsoring the event should contact the Randolph Area Chamber of Commerce at 802-728-9027.

Annual Auction

to Benefit Quin-Town Center for Seniors
August 28th - 7 PM - White Church in Bethel

Auction items will include merchandise from local retailers, gift certificates and used items. Preview begins at 6:00 PM Snacks will be provided

Bethel Historical Society

For information please call Nick Nikolaidis, 234-5064, evenings, or email at

The Bethel Historical Society's regular meetings are on the first Monday of each month at 7 PM.

Meetings are held at: Paradigm Consulting building, 245 Main Street, Bethel, VT.

For more information call Nick Nikolaidis 234-5064, or email at nick@nikolaidis.com

Bethel Town Hall Plea

Dear Friends,

Finally, after many years of planning by numerous dedicated Committee members, Select Board, and Town Manager, both past and present, the restoration of our beautiful Town Hall will be completed by August 2010.

We wish to thank the many, many people who donated their time and money over the years to make this a reality. Now that our Hall's exterior and interior are reaching completion, we have to think about the "extras" that will make it a fully operational facility for social functions, exhibits, and theatrical performances.

To this end we have compiled a "Wish List", put together by our various Sub-Committee members. We are submitting this list to you, the residents of Bethel, to request donations in order to purchase the following items. You may donate the entire sum requested for each item or make a general donation in whatever amount you feel you can afford and the Committee will apply your donation to what they feel is the most urgently needed.

Vulcan 6 burner, single oven LP Gas Range/installation, freight & tax \$ 1,796
Commercial Dish Washer \$ 4,590
TRUE Commercial Refrigerator \$ 2,200
Small Freezer \$ 300
Stage Curtains (used from Chandler) \$?
Stage Curtains - cleaning and fireproofing \$ 1,200
Lighting & Sound \$ 25,000
200 Chairs \$ 12,000
15 each, Round and Rectangular Tables \$ 1,950

It would be wonderful to have some of these necessities in time for the gala opening sometime late this Summer or early Fall. Our little Hall has made it this far, let us all contribute to its completion by sending your donation to the above address.

Thank you,
The Bethel Town Hall Finance Committee

Bethel Business Association

The BBA meets on the first Wednesday and third Thursday of every month at 6:30 PM.

Contact Ola O'Dell at 234-6801 for more information.

Bethel Green Team

The Green Team and 21C ExCEL are collaborating on the "idea/development" phase of a potential teen center built and operated by teens themselves. Our idea is to work with the After School Program at the middle and High School level to expose students to hands on experience with sustainable construction practices, conservation, recycling and alternative energy sources to develop the physical structure. As students participate in various programs after school they will have the ability to apply their knowledge to the project and with the help of adult volunteers and community members bring their project to light.

We welcome input, feedback, and involvement from parents, teachers, friends and community members. Please let us know if you have any questions or if you'd be interested in sharing skills that you have with those participating in the program. Your thoughts and ideas are most welcome.

Contact: bethelgreenteam@gmail.com

Political Organization News:

Bethel Democratic Committee

The Bethel Democratic Committee meets the second Tuesday of every month from 6 – 7 PM at the Bethel Town Offices.

Bethel Republican Committee

No information.

Bethel Progressive Committee

No information.

**“The change in the general, common,
meaning of certain words between 1780
and 1880”**

by John Dutton

*Dictated by John Dutton to Victoria Weber 6-14-2010
[Phrases in brackets [] are added by VW for clarity.]*

In the first 20 years or so after 1780, none of the area was residential except for a few log cabins. The population was small enough so common word usage that would be used in bigger towns and cities wouldn't have gotten here yet. Residents here (in Bethel) were largely in couples – that is, 2 people per residence - and had little contact with the outside world except for selling their produce. But the use of these words is not so much as in ordinary conversation between man and wife, but relates to someone writing up a description of a piece of land. The terms I want to define (and then probably re-define) are:

- 1- hill
- 2- mountain
- 3- interval.

These early people got that last term screwed up. In Latin ‘inter’ means on the outside of the room, that is, between 2 domains, like the boundary area. ‘Intra’ means within the walls or the confines. What they were trying to say with their own local word, interval, was ‘between’, or ‘the land in between’.

So, ‘uplands’ descend (like all of Vermont does) to valley bottoms, and then up again. When you are down there, you are between the uplands. This is what they meant by interval. And for them it was the difference between life and death because they needed those deep valleys to support themselves. If all land had been uplands –that is, steep and rocky so that you couldn't just clear it without the risk of not knowing if it was good soil – they would not have been able to make a living off it.

It was evident to everyone in this part of the territory where these intervals were. Most of the purchasers had seen the land they bought. They did not buy it sight unseen without coming up to the area. So early on, anyone who made a contract for a farm made sure he'd have at least some interval to survive on -- and prosper some -- plus some upland land. So this is the way the land was sold – some uplands and some interval.

[See the Map that John drew marking the 3 main streams running through Bethel and the sections between the streams numbered 1-4.]

Region #1 represents mountain and was known as “south of the Main River” [that is, the White River coming in from Stockbridge]. North of that, is a strip of interval along both sides of the main river. And north of that strip of interval is #4 which is mountainous land known as ‘Lympus’. [This is all the land north of the White River and west of the Third Branch/Route 12 north to Randolph].

‘Lympus is the entire area of #4, including what is now Gilead. During the middle 1800's you often ran into the terms ‘north Lympus’ or ‘south Lympus’ on either side of an imaginary line. All this is before the name ‘Gilead Brook’. It was then called Ordway Brook.

The term Gilead came from an evangelistic preacher who held Methodist Camp meetings with people attending from everywhere.

East of #4 is a strip of interval along the Third Branch. East of this narrow strip is an extensive portion of hill land known as Christian Hill (labeled #2). To the east of Christian Hill is a narrow strip of interval [along the Middle or 2nd Branch near East Bethel] and then another piece of hill land known as “east of the 2nd Branch”. [John says that in Vermont ‘branch’ is a fairly common term for a stream.]

The main reason that these definitions are important is that these words, hill, interval and mountain, are confused nowadays. Now we think a ‘hill’ is a nice place to go down on a sled. We think of it as a unit that rises to a peak and stops.

The term ‘hill’ used to mean all land not bad enough to be called mountain, and not good enough to be called interval. The purpose for writing this is to try to educate people not to use the terms ‘hill’ or ‘mountain’. It is dangerous to use these terms because they did not mean what they do today.

This is not a problem with deeds, so much as with general understanding of what old wording might mean.

For example, there is no top to Christian Hill in Bethel. Modern people ask “Where are the limits of Christian Hill?”. What was called Christian Hill was the entire ridge of land between the Third and the Second Branches of the White River. Topographic maps further confuse the issue by choosing a high point and labeling it ‘Christian Hill’. U.S. topographic maps can be very lax and wrong.

The first surveyors came up from Connecticut and surveyed the three streams within the four town lines, which had already been surveyed. Then they'd hire someone like you or me as a surveyor to survey some of the best spots in town. They would begin with the map I drew and choose a spot to use for the center of town. In Bethel they used to point where Camp Brook meets the Third Branch as the center of town.

Bethel Revitalization Initiative:

The BRI was formed several years ago by a handful of citizens to “help foster growth and development in Bethel’s aesthetic, business, social, and cultural climate and activities.”

Over the years it has worked closely with the Bethel Business Association and other groups and individuals in encouraging interaction, cooperation, and communication between the town’s various organizations, businesses, clubs, individuals and town government. Publication of the Bethel Courier is one tool towards that goal.

In private conversations at this past town meeting, a number of citizens expressed an interest in becoming more involved in improving our town, its organizations and its government.

The Bethel Revitalization Initiative would welcome any groups or individuals interested in promoting the growth and development of Bethel’s business community, its social organizations and activities, its cultural climate, and aesthetic assets in a cooperative, mutually inclusive and beneficial manner.

For more information contact:

Kirk White 234-9670

Laurelin@sover.net

Please support your local Bethel Business Association members:

Automotive

Dean's Auto Service
Lucky's Trailer Sales
Ted Green Ford, Inc.
Valley Motor Sales

Banks and Money

AM Turk Tax Associates
Grn Mtn Economic Development Corp.
Randolph National Bank
Mascoma Savings Bank
Northfield Savings Bank
White River Credit Union

Gardening and Flowers

Dandelion Acres
Purple Iris Florists

Health and Beauty

Kathy's House of Styles
Kirk White, Licensed Acupuncturist
Lady Bug Beauty Salon

Home and Building

Bethel Mills
Chuck Adams Builder
Control Systems Services, LLC
Hutchinson's Interiors
Mills Hardware
Mt. Olympus Excavating
Vallee Improvements

Markets, Stores and Supplies

Bethel Central Market
Locust Creek Country Store
Lukana's Dream
McCullough's Quik-Stop

Restaurants and Caterers

Black Forest Cafe and Caterers
Cockadoodle Restaurant
Ketner's Second Cup Café
Onion Flats
Toziers Restaurant
Travelin' Willy B's Catering

Noble-Beckwith Post 66 American Legion

Professional Services

Clarity Strategic Communications
Ellis Music Co.
Eric Benson Appraisal Co.
Herald of Randolph
Katherine Pope, Attorney
Mills Laundromat
Mountain View Technologies
My Little Jessie Press
Paradigm Consulting Co.
Debra Leahy, Attorney
Spaulding Press
Washburn & Wilson Insurance

Local Industry

GW Plastics
Power and Tel
Rock of Ages
Ultramotive Corporation

Friends

Jay Caruso	Chris Costanzo
Geneva Gaiko	Carroll Ketchum
Ellen Nobile	Ola O'Dell
Richard Perry	Joyce Richardson
Margarete Viera	Shelia Richardson
Bev & John Washburn	Norman Case