

Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter

March 2010

TUESDAY, MARCH 2 TOWN MEETING 2010

On Monday evening, March 1st both the Selectboard and the School Board will hold their informational meetings in the Community Hall, beginning at 7 p.m.

On Tuesday, March 2nd the polls will open at 10 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. Town Officers and the School Officers and School Budget are voted by paper ballot. You must have been registered by February 24 if you wish to vote. If you would like to vote via an absentee ballot, you can obtain an absentee ballot from the Town Office. You must either go to the Town Office in person or request a ballot by mail.

Moderator John Hill will call the Town Meeting to order at 10 am on Tuesday, March 2nd. The annual Benson Town School District meeting will follow Town Meeting.

The Benson Village School 8th Grade Students will be selling a light lunch downstairs at the Community Hall during the break for lunch.

We've requested good weather, so we hope to see many of you there!

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION/EVENT</u>
March 1	Monday	7:00 pm	Community Hall	Informational Meetings
March 2	Tuesday	10:00 am	Community Hall	Town Meeting
March 6	Saturday	1 – 3 pm	Fire House	Rabies Clinic
March 8	Monday	11:30 pm	Community Hall	Senior Luncheon
March 8	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
March 9	Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Community Hall	Benson Busy Buddies
March 9	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Benson School	School Board
March 10	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Planning Commission
March 11	Thursday	6:00 pm	Community Hall	VerdMont FCE
March 11	Thursday	6:30 pm	Town Office	Energy Committee
March 15	Monday	8:30-4:30	Town Office	Taxes Due
March 22	Monday	7:00 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
March 23	Tuesday	6:30-8 pm	Community Hall	Benson Busy Buddies
March 25	Thursday	6:30 pm	Benson School	Playground Committee
March 31	Wednesday	4:30 pm	Town Office	Dog Registration Deadline
LOOKING AHEAD				
April 1	Thursday		Transfer Station	New Permits Required
April 12	Monday	All Day	Benson School	Playground Committee
April 17	Saturday		Community Hall	Bear Stuffing

Monthly Senior Luncheon
at the Benson Community Hall on March 8th

There's certain to be some great topics for conversation at March's luncheon: Town Meeting, our new Town Clerk, what happened to winter, what people will be wearing for St. Patrick's Day – so don't miss it! Proposed menu: Tossed Salad, New England Boiled Dinner, Corned Beef or Ham, Cabbage, Carrots, Potato, Irish Soda Bread, St. Patrick's Day Cake, Milk, Coffee, Tea.

For reservations, please call Deanna Britton by Friday, March 5th : 537-2971.

READY FOR A ROAD TRIP?

Take a day off and join our State Representative Will Stevens on a bus trip to Montpelier, Tuesday, March 9th! We will leave the Halfway House Restaurant at ~7:30, and return at ~5:30. There should be plenty of floor action in the House and Senate, and we have time scheduled to meet with the Governor and the Speaker. Take a tour of the State House, visit the nearby Vermont Historical Society's Museum, or have a stroll in downtown Montpelier. As a bonus, we can be present at the dedication of Vice President Levi P. Morton's portrait! (He is arguably Shoreham's most famous native son.) Contact Will at home (897-7031) to reserve a seat, and leave a message if no one answers. The cost is just \$5/person, thanks to the support and sponsorship of local businesses, including the Book Shed in Benson.

CHOWDER COOK-OFF RESULTS

If you missed the Chowder Cook-Off, you missed a great time as well as a lot of incredibly delicious chowder! Organized by Gina Cull, Shirley Vladyka and Jen Whitehurst, this event raised \$500 for the Family Day Fund.

Judges Ken McGraw, Margaret Newell, Will Tyler and Jayme VanNoordt sampled the chowders prepared by Chefs Marcia Anderson, Daniel Britton, Kari Lussier, Kevin Messer, Dot Pikkarainen, Joe Shaw, Pat Shaw, Shirley Vladyka and Dave White. First Prize (\$100) was awarded to Joe Shaw and Kari Lussier won Second Prize. Joe Shaw was also voted the Peoples' Choice Award.

CAT Country's C.C. the Cat was there for the event and Black Box Barbecue, Ice Adventures Guide Service and Westminster Crackers all made donations which added to the fun had by all.

The Family Day Fundraising's Committee's next events are on April 17th (a Bear Building event) and June 19th (a Fathers' Day Car Show). If you have any suggestions or want to be involved with any event, please contact any member of the Committee.

If you want more information – minutes of meetings, schedules, opportunities in Town - please remember to visit our Town's website: <http://www.benson-vt.com>



BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Open Wednesdays, 3 pm – 7 pm and Saturdays 11 am – 2 pm

Our Reading Group is starting up again – a sure sign that Spring is almost here! In March we will be reading and discussing Pat Conroy's The Water is Wide. All are welcome to come join us on Wednesday, March 17th at 6 p.m. in the Library.

And please remember that you do not need to be a member of our Reading Group to browse our ever-expanding selection of great reads! Stop in and see what's on our shelves.

CHURCH NEWS

Our Bible Study group is meeting on Wednesday's at 10 a.m. We are studying Revelations and if you would like a study book, please contact Holly so that she can order one for you. During Lent we will be once again collecting money for One Great Hour of Sharing. This organization provides immediate monetary help when disasters occur. Our contributions from last year have already gone to help the victims in Haiti.

We are now worshipping downstairs for the winter. Everyone is welcome to join us.

9:30 a.m. Choir Practice

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship

**Questions? Please contact Holly Noble: 802-446-3575 or
hollyberry530@yahoo.com**

IF YOU CAN REMEMBER....

...the steps to the Irish Jig, we can help you be upright and ready to dance it on St. Patrick's Day. Come and visit us at Bone Builders and see what we're all about. Our FREE LOCAL balance and fitness program takes place right here in downtown Benson every Monday and Thursday morning, from 9 – 10 am at the Community Hall.

DOG OWNERS

Benson First Response's Annual Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday, March 6th at the Fire House. Get your pets off to a good start this spring by being sure they are registered and have their shots. Please remember that this is not only good for your dog but is also required by law AND makes our Town safer for everyone. The deadline for registering your dogs without paying a penalty is March 31st. If you don't comply, the taxpayers have to pay for someone to enforce this law, so please take advantage of this convenient, easy and affordable opportunity to have your dog immunized and registered.

YOUR CHOICES FOR TOWN OFFICERS

On Tuesday, March 2, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. you can vote for the following:

Agent to Prosecute: one 1 year term – *no one submitted a petition*

Auditors: two 3 year terms – *no one submitted a petition*

Benson Village School Board: one 3 year term

Mike Ellis

Benson Village School Board: two 1 year terms (vote for 2 people)

Bobbi Jo Bean, Eric Hults

Benson Village School Moderator: one 1 year term

John Hill

Cemetery Commissioner: one 5 year term

Don Parker

Delinquent Tax Collector: one 1 year term

Daryl Burlett

First Constable: one 1 year term

Dean Hanson

Grand Juror: one 1 year term

Daniel Britton

Library Commissioner: one 5 year term

Jean Butman

Lister: one 3 year term

Les Burleson

Selectboard: one 3 year term

Guy Charlton

Selectboard: two 1 year terms (vote for 2 people)

Gina Cull, Sue Janssen

Town Clerk: one 3 year term

Daphne Bartholomew, Bobbi Jo Bean, Daniel Britton, Barbara Burlett, Jon Dodd,
Tammy Simmes

Town Moderator: one 1 year term

John Hill

Town Treasurer: one 3 year term

Daphne Bartholomew, Bobbi Jo Bean, Daniel Britton, Barbara Burlett, Jon Dodd,
Tammy Simmes

Trustee of Public Funds: one 3 year term

Wesley Bowen

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES

To give all candidates for Town Clerk/Treasurer the opportunity to make a statement to the voters of Benson, we sent each candidate 5 questions. The responses from each of the 6 contenders for the position of Town Clerk/ Treasurer follow. Please note that Diane Drake has withdrawn from the race for personal reasons.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

There has been a group of community members working together since September on ways to improve the grounds at the Benson Village School.

We are pleased to announce that we currently have a work day set! We have teamed up with the Skills USA students from Stafford Technical Center under the leadership of their faculty advisor, John Bixby. It is with their generous donation of time, resources, and manpower that this work day will be taking place. We have also been fortunate in securing EPSDT Grant money which will enable repairs to be made on existing equipment, grounds work, the purchase of new equipment, and general sprucing up of our school's exterior. The Benson PTO has made a donation of two tetherball games, which will be installed on this day. There is still a lot of work to be done and we can't do it without the continued support of the community. We will be doing these improvements on Monday, April, 12th and we are in need of donations. The following items would be greatly appreciated:

- Monetary donations to be put towards the purchase of trees which will be planted as a wind break behind the playground;
- 4 foot pieces of sauna tube to use in setting some of the equipment in cement;
- Monetary donations will also be accepted to help purchase food for the student volunteers.

We are always open to further suggestions and additional donations, if you feel you possess something that would be of use to us on our work day, and would like to donate it please get in touch with Amy Munger at 537-3456 or Gina Cull at 537-2063. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday March 25th at 6 p.m.

Wildlife Corridors

Planning Commission Meeting March 10, 2010

Did you know you live in a Wildlife Corridor? It's true. There are few places where large mammals like black bear, bobcat, moose and fisher can travel between the Adirondacks and the Green Mountains, but two likely corridors have been identified and both run through Rutland County.

Monica Erhart representing the organization "Staying Connected" will make a presentation about Wildlife Corridors in our area at the March 10, 2010 Planning Commission meeting. The presentation will include a description of Wildlife Corridors and information on the importance of Wildlife Corridors, what individuals and communities can do to protect and enhance Wildlife Corridors and the services available to individuals and communities from "Staying Connected".

You are invited to join the Planning Commission for this presentation at the Benson Community Hall starting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday March 10th.

**2010 TRANSFER STATION PERMITS ARE NOW
AVAILABLE. YOU NEED YOUR NEW ONE BY APRIL 1st.**

PLAY GROUP IN BENSON

The Rutland County Parent Child Center hosts a playgroup downstairs in the Community Hall every Wednesday from 9:30 – 10:30 am. Any child, age 0 – 5, from any town, is welcome to participate. Please bring a snack.

Questions? Call Lori at 775-9711.

BENSON BUSY BUDDIES 4-H CLUB

The Benson Busy Buddies 4-H Club is getting ready for the Fashion Review coming up in April. Everyone has been buying their patterns and material. We will be sewing for all of March to get ready! This year lots of new skills will be learned and hopefully old ones will be perfected. We can't wait to see the end results!

The Benson Busy Buddies are also taking part in the State 4-H fundraiser "Hearts to Haiti". We are collecting school supplies and old books in good condition to send to kids in Haiti. If you have anything that you would like to donate you can either call 537-2089 or 537-3652 or give the items to a 4-H-er. We plan on collecting items thru the month of March.

The Benson Busy Buddies meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month and are open to ages 5 to 18. We welcome all new members and invite people to find out what we are about!

HOME ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAM COMES TO BENSON

The Benson Energy Committee is partnering with Efficiency Vermont to bring a new energy-saving program to local households. The Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project (VCEM) is a volunteer program designed to help residents save money and energy in their homes.

Trained volunteers from our community will come to your home, install free compact fluorescent light bulbs and water-saving devices, review your home heating usage and provide information and special incentives to save more energy.

The number of home energy visits is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested? Please call Karen Barber at 537-3155. All home energy visits will be completed by the end of April.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

For the **April 1st** newsletter, please submit your news and ads no later than **March 25th**. To submit your news, please either e-mail the information to bensonnews@shoreham.net or call Sue Janssen at 011-33-4-93-60-32-06

Submit your ads to Shirley Vladyka: ShirleyV@shoreham.net

Town Officers of the Past

Town officers are elected at the annual Town Meeting and have been for more than two hundred years. There have been changes in town offices over the years but some have remained the same including Selectman, Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, constable and moderator.

The first Superintendent of Schools was elected in 1846 and School Directors first appear in the records in the 1890s. The first Overseer of the Poor is listed in 1844 and the last in 1964. Town-wide Road Commissioners were first elected in the 1890s and the last in 1977. The duties and responsibilities have also changed. The Town Auditors were very important positions for the first hundred years and beyond. Many towns have now eliminated the position and we are considering the same.

There are notable examples of individuals holding the same position for extended periods of time. There have only been four Town Clerks and four Town Treasurers in the last 100 years. According to my notes F. W. Kellogg was Town Clerk for over 50 years and Judith Munger for nearly 40 years; C. J. Williamson was Town Treasurer for over forty years. The name Kellogg is listed as Town Clerk for a total of 95 years in the 220 plus years since the Town was organized. Oliver Root was Town Treasurer for over 20 years in the early 1800s. R. D. King appears to have been influential in school matters in the 1800s; he was School Superintendent for 19 years. The first woman we find listed as a town officer was Miss Julia Sherman, School Superintendent in 1891 and 1892.

We also like our Constables once elected. There are a number who served for 15 or 20 years. It was apparently a lucrative position in the late 1700s; there is a note in the records that David Hodgship was paid \$30.25 for the position in 1799.

Town-wide Road Commissioners were elected for less than 100 years. The two longest serving appear to be H. C. Munger for 10 years and Leslie Barrett for 25 years. The longest serving Overseer of the Poor was A. J. Dickenson (1878 – 1907); the second appears to be Heman Bartholomew (1947 – 1964).

Selectmen in general did not have long terms of continuous service particularly during the 1800's; C. B. Goodrich served at least twice for six and seven years. There were longer years of continuous service in the mid to late 1900's. We only looked at records through the 1980's; it appears the Selectman with the most years of continuous service may be currently on the board.

COMMUNITY HALL WEATHERIZATION UPDATE

The weatherization work on the Community Hall is nearly done. The largest part of that job was blowing additional insulation into the attic. Venting and dams containing the additional depth were installed. The existing insulation was blown fiberglass which has come to be seen as less effective than originally thought, especially on horizontal surfaces. Fiberglass also tends to compact over time, cellulose will compress less. We blew an additional 6" of cellulose resulting in an R-40. Other work included interior door sweeps, weather-stripping and jamb repair and caulking.

DAPHNE BARTHOLOMEW

How can voters contact you? Dsb9241@shoreham.net or 537-3421

How long have you lived in Benson? I was born in Benson and have lived here most of my life. I attended BVS, FHUHS and UVM and I got my Masters in Library Science at the State University of New York.

What made you decide to run for Town Clerk/Treasurer? A desire to be of service, and a conviction that my background and skills are a good match for these important positions.

What experience have you had that prepares you for this job? Most of my working life has been spent running a mid-sized public library. In that position, I learned to manage information and maintain records, to handle public funds (I've also done the bookkeeping, including payroll, for the family farm for many years), to work independently, and to get along with all kinds of people, respecting their privacy and putting the public interest first.

In what way have you previously been involved with Town activities? I was for many years the volunteer organist at the United Church, and am currently a volunteer at the Benson Village School.

BOBBI JO BEAN

How can voters contact you? 537-2251 or mrsbean@yahoo.com

How long have you lived in Benson? I have lived in Benson for 6+ years with my husband Chris, and our 3 daughters Courtney, Kelsi and Katrina. However, I fell in love with Benson when I was a tween and I use to come to the "cool" school dances in Benson (with my cousins) and the strange festival called the Burdock Festival (now known as Family Days). For as long as I can remember I pictured Benson as a caring community, where your neighbors looked out for you and there was always a friendly face to say hello, this is why my husband and I decided to raise our family here in Benson.

What made you decide to run for Town Clerk/Treasurer? I have been planning on running for the town clerk position since 2007 when Jan Ladd told me she was going to retire in 2010. In 2008, while I was still working at G & L General Store (where I worked for 5 years while attaining my associates' degree in business) I decided although I loved working at the store and in Benson, I wanted to do something a little more challenging with more hours. That want for challenge took me to Heritage Family Credit Union where I am currently employed. I love working at HFCU, but I truly would appreciate the opportunity to serve the town of Benson and all the residents here that I love working with and have missed seeing since I have been working in Brandon.

BOBBI JO BEAN continued

What experience have you had that prepares you for this job? I have been working in the public sector for 17 years, starting with my first job at Devils Bowl Speedway and my second job at Ames in Middlebury where I was the Customer Service Representative my Sophomore year of high school. In 2006 I graduated from CCV with my associates' degree in business, at CCV I took several accounting courses, computer courses, banking courses, and management courses. At Heritage Family Credit Union I work as a teller at the Brandon Branch. My duties there include working with cash, accepting deposits, loan and mortgage payments, cashing checks, helping members solve problems, balancing my own cash drawer, the ATM, the branch vault and the branch itself daily. I love working with the public and providing excellent friendly service. I am extremely good at multi-tasking and love a challenge.

In what way have you previously been involved with Town activities? My current involvement with the Town: Vice Chair/Clerk of Benson School Board, Treasurer of the Benson PTO, Playground Committee, 2 years coaching the youth league Softball team with my husband Chris, 8 years involved with the haunted hayride, "Bingo mom" Chair for this year's 8th grade. In the past: Served on two principal search committees, Brownie girl scouts co-leader with Amy Hults, last year repainted the two dugout, benches and backstop of the school's baseball field with the BVS community service club, which my two oldest daughters are part of.

BARBARA BURLETT

How can voters contact you? 537-2708 or barbaradaryl@shoreham.net or 229 Temple Road, Benson

How long have you lived in Benson? I am a lifelong resident (50 years).

What made you decide to run for Town Clerk/Treasurer? As a lifelong resident, I would like the opportunity to give back to the community. I am very proud of Benson and feel that my experiences would be beneficial to the community. I care very much about the Town of Benson.

What experience have you had that prepares you for this job? I have accounting and bookkeeping experience as well as customer service. My working career to date has been to serve the people. I am experienced in Quick Books as well as NEMRC, the software in use at the Town Office.

In what way have you previously been involved with Town activities? I have been active with the Zoning and the Development Review Board. I am also very involved with the Delinquent Tax procedures. Additionally, I have been involved with Mrs. Trutor at the Benson Museum.

DANIEL JASON BRITTON

How can voters contact you? Home: 5676 Stage Road; Phone: (802) 537-2971; Email: gypsy@shoreham.net

How long have you lived in Benson? My wife and I have lived in Benson since May 5, 2002. We moved to Benson from San Jose, California to raise Suri Alpacas. Prior to moving to California for our jobs in 1989, we owned a home and lived in Colchester, Vermont.

What made you decide to run for Town Clerk/Treasurer? Where some people see this as a good job in town with benefits, I see it as a great opportunity to improve Town services that happens to have benefits. I believe my organizational and technological skills will be an asset in making the offices of Town Clerk and Treasurer more efficient, thus reducing many day-to-day repetitive functions and allowing for greater productivity, quicker service and greater accuracy.

What experience have you had that prepares you for this job? Several years on the Benson Selectboard, 20 years of management experience in manufacturing, interest in the latest technology and how it can improve the quality of life, excellent written and oral communication skills, a passion to learn and to increase my skills, belief in honesty and fair play, in treating everyone equal and with respect until they give you a reason to do otherwise.

In what ways have you previously been involved with the Town? My first town activity was Family Day 2002. I prepared a gallon of BBQ sauce and shucked corn with Les Burluson who was kind enough to share with me his tales of Benson. Since then Deanna and I have always done what we could do to help support community causes. When I won \$400 in food from the Wheel Inn I used it to have a benefit to raise money for someone in town who was facing some heavy medical bills. It just seemed to be the best use of the prize. When the Town decided to have a website, I volunteered to do it because I thought I could do it for less than the service they were planning to use and I could give them a site that would be different than the "canned" product they intended to use. After a years experience with the website, those in charge of the website agreed and I have designed and maintained it ever since.

TAMMY SIMMES

How can voters contact you? Tabsbenson@aol.com

How long have you lived in Benson? I am a lifelong resident of Benson.

What made you decide to run for Town Clerk/Treasurer? I decided to run for Town Clerk/Treasurer because I think I would really enjoy the job.

What experience have you had that prepares you for this job? I am very experienced with customer service and office skills.

In what way have you previously been involved with Town activities? N/A.

JON DODD

How can voters contact you? Voters can contact me by phone at 537-3173 or by e-mail at jondodd@shoreham.net.

How long have you lived in Benson? My wife and I have lived in Benson for over five years.

What made you decide to run for Town Clerk? I have over 30 years of governmental experience in management and I feel that I should use my training and experience to support the town where I live.

What experience have you had that prepares you for this job? I worked for the U.S. Navy as a civil service human resources manager for over 28 years and more recently as the Castleton Town Manager for 3 years.

In what way have you previously been involved with Town activities? I have been a volunteer photographer for Benson's Family Day, Memorial Day, etc. I have also been a volunteer for the Benson senior lunch program, and a Benson election official. I also maintain and print the Benson Bulletin mailing list, and help copy, stuff and mail the Benson Bulletin to subscribers.

Down Home Derby Winners

January 30 & 31st, 2010

Northern Pike

Tom Callahan 16.41 lbs Shawn Mulholland 15.51 lbs
Pete Holcomb 12.20 lbs Robin Roberts 12.14 lbs Vanessa Robie 6.55 lbs

Walleye

Shawn Mulholland 8.4 lbs. Shawn Bowen 6.72 lbs Brent La Fountain 5.73 lbs

Perch Group of Three

Dillon Welch 2.52 lbs Pete Holcomb 2.11 lbs Parker Lamoureux 1.95 lbs
Brock Blanchard 1.65 lbs. Mark McGuinness 1.25 lbs

Other

Dustin Shaw 12.25 lbs (Catfish) Greg Holley 2.37 lbs(Pickerel)
Vanessa Robie 2.26 lbs(Pickerel)

Kids Down Home Derby Winners

Northern Pike – Alec Burns 8.29 lbs Colton Riley 7.50 lbs

Walleye – Kyle Hendee 6.88 lbs

Three Perch – Adam Stewart 1.21 lbs Noah Bartholomew 1.16 lbs

Other - Jesse Hults 2.70 lbs(Pickerel) Shawn Mulholland 1.96 lbs(Crappie)