



PAWLET NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF PAWLET IN VERMONT'S METTOWEE VALLEY

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 2

SPRING 2015

INTRODUCTION

This issue of the Pawlet Newsletter includes results from Town Election Day on March 3. Also featured is news on the revision of Pawlet's Town Plan. Community input, starting with a survey and public forum, is essential to this process. See page 6. An important study of Flower Brook will be undertaken this summer, as explained below.

The Pawlet Newsletter has been published continuously since April 2003 to make town news available and encourage community involvement. It may be viewed online at the Town's website <http://pawlet.vt.gov/> and also at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission website www.rutlandrpc.org.

The editor welcomes suggestions and submissions; send to egib@vermontel.net. Thanks! *Elizabeth Gibson, Editor*

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TAKING CARE OF FLOWER BROOK

by Hilary Solomon, *Poultney Mettowiee Natural Resources Conservation District*

Flower Brook originates in Tinmouth, flows south-westerly through Danby and into the Town of Pawlet, where it merges with the Mettowiee River in the village center. In 2012 the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation released a study summarizing pollution in Flower Brook, including chronically-high *E. coli* bacteria levels and excessively warm summer water temperatures.

Since then local conservation groups and landowners have been working together to address these problems, and data from 2013 and 2014 show that the water quality of the brook has improved as a result. The Poultney Mettowiee Natural Resources Conservation District attributes much of this improvement to work completed on local farms.

Additional sources of *E. coli* bacteria have been tentatively identified in the Pawlet Village Center as groundwater inputs from failing septic systems and inputs via stormwater infrastructure and runoff during storms. These pathways will be studied this summer as part of a coordinated effort between the PMNRCD, the State, and the Pawlet community.

The conservation district has already been working with the Pawlet Planning Commission and Select Board and plans to convene a Wastewater Advisory Committee that would solicit local input and also keep

Flower Brook, continued on page 11



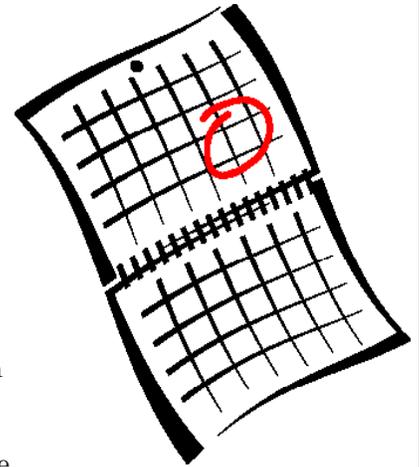
A sugar maple planted along Flower Brook in May 2014 is growing well a few months later. Located in the village center near some riprap resulting from Tropical Storm Irene, it will provide shade, stream bank stability, and wildlife habitat.

The tree was planted by PMNRCD through the Trees for Streams program administered by the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts. Source: Hilary Solomon

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR: MARCH – MAY 2015

March

- 3/8, Sunday, 7:30 - 11 AM. West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department Pancake Breakfast, West Pawlet Firehouse
1 PM. Select Board Special Meeting, West Pawlet Town Garage, Route 153 (more details next page)
- 3/10, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers Seniors Potluck Lunch, Pawlet Church
- 3/11, Wednesday, 6:15 PM. Pawlet School Board Meeting, Mettawee School
7 PM. Union District 47 Board Meeting, Mettawee School
- 3/17, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall
- 3/23, Monday, 12 PM. Pawlet Energy Group, Town Hall
6:30 PM. Pawlet Planning Commission, Town Hall
- 3/24, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers Seniors Lunch, Mettawee School
- 3/27, Friday, 9 – 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet Community Church
- 3/31, Tuesday, 7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall



April

- 4/4, Saturday, 5 PM. Roast Pork Supper, Pawlet Community Church
- 4/6, Monday, 7:30 PM. WPVFD
- 4/7, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers Seniors Potluck Lunch, Pawlet Church
7 PM. PVFD
- 4/8, Wednesday, 7 PM. Union District 47 Board Meeting, Mettawee School
- 4/12, Sunday, 7:30 - 11 AM. WPVFD Pancake Breakfast, West Pawlet Firehouse
- 4/14, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers Seniors Potluck Lunch, Pawlet Church
7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall
- 4/18, Saturday, 8 – 9:30 AM, Household Hazardous Waste Collection, Mettawee Community School parking lot
- 4/24, Friday, 9 – 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet Community Church
- 4/27, Monday, 12 PM. Pawlet Energy Group, Town Hall
7:30 PM. Pawlet Planning Commission, Town Hall
- 4/28, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers Seniors Lunch, Mettawee School
PM. Select Board, Town Hall

May

- 5/2, Saturday, Green Up Day. Pawlet Coordinator: Jonathan Weiss. See www.greenupvermont.org.
5 PM. Roast Pork Supper, Pawlet Community Church
- 5/4, Monday, 7:30 PM. WPVFD
- 5/5, Tuesday, 7 PM. PVFD
- 5/10, Sunday, 8 AM - 12 PM, PVFD Mother's Day Brunch, Pawlet Firehouse
- 5/12, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers Seniors Potluck Lunch, Pawlet Church
7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall
- 5/13, Wednesday, 7 PM. Union District 47 Board Meeting, Mettawee School
- 5/22, Friday, 9 – 11 AM. Food Pantry, Pawlet Community Church
- 5/25, Monday, 12 PM. Pawlet Energy Group, Town Hall
7:30 PM. Pawlet Planning Commission, Town Hall
- 5/26, Tuesday, 12 PM. Haystack Hustlers Seniors Lunch, Mettawee School
7 PM. Select Board, Town Hall

Notes:

- For Pawlet Public Library events and news Facebook "Pawlet Public Library"
- Mettawee Community School website: <http://bit.ly/1g9ih6p>
- UD #47 School Board information is available at brsu.iqm2.com

Household hazardous waste collection

Saturday, April 18, 8 – 9:30 AM, Mettawee Community School parking lot

No fee; proof of residency required

Granville, NY, transfer station is open for household waste and recyclables

Tuesday, Friday & Saturday 8 AM - 4 PM except holidays; call 518-642-3026 for information

Electronics may be taken to any Vermont e-cycles location for recycling. Many items are free. Visit www.vtecycles.org or call 1-855-6ecycle

TOWN OFFICE NEWS

Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins

Dog Licenses: Vermont Law requires that owners of unlicensed dogs over the age of 6 months come to the Town Clerk's office to license their dogs. Owners must also present a current rabies certificate to the Town Clerk by April 1 of each year. If the dog has been spayed or neutered, that certificate must be presented for the reduced license fee.

Get connected: Check out the Pawlet Town Clerk Facebook Page for regular updates, notices of meetings, election results, emergency management notices, and more! To receive updates directly via e-mail, send an e-mail to pawletclerk@vermontel.net and put "add me to the e-mail list" in the subject line.

Town Clerk office hours: Monday & Wednesday, 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM; Tuesday, 11 AM – 6 PM; Thursday, 9 AM – 12 PM. Closed Friday. Contact: 325-3309, pawletclerk@vermontel.net.

Holiday closing: The Town Clerk's office will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2015 for Memorial Day.

Town Treasurer, Judy Coolidge:

Homestead Declaration Form: Don't forget to file the Declaration of Vermont Homestead, Form HS-122, by April 2015. You must file HS-122 even if you do not file a VT income tax return or do not participate in the property tax adjustment program. Filing on time will save you money; if you are late you must still file a declaration and pay a penalty. To file online or download the form, visit the Vermont Department of Taxes website www.state.vt.us/tax.

Wastewater user fees: Reminder to some West Pawlet residents that the second installment of wastewater user fees is due May 10; unpaid accounts will go to the delinquent collector on May 11.

Town Treasurer office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 9 AM – 12 PM & 1 – 4 PM. Contact: 325-3309, pawlettreas@vermontel.net.



Town Hall, by Nancy Offensend Houghton

Select Board: The Pawlet Select Board meets at 7 PM every other Tuesday at the Town Hall. The public is encouraged to attend. Meeting minutes are posted at the post offices in Pawlet and West Pawlet and on the town website <http://pawlet.vt.gov/>; click on "Select Board" page.

The board has five members: Mike Beecher, Bob Jones, Charles Weeden, Ed Cleveland and Sarah Ludlam. Clerk of the board is Kim Ayers.

Listers: Call the Listers' Office at 325-3309 or email pawletlister@vermontel.net. Consult our page at the Town website http://pawlet.vt.gov. Listers are Charles Mason, Elaine Decker, and Karen Folger. Office hours are by chance or appointment.

Planning Commission: Meeting minutes are posted at the post offices in Pawlet and West Pawlet and on the town website <http://pawlet.vt.gov/>; see "Planning Commission" page. The commission meets every fourth Monday, 7:30 PM, at the Town Hall. Members are Eric Mach, Harry Van Meter, Fred Stone, Gary Baierlein, Wayne Clarke, Lenny Gibson, Paul Elsholz.

Health Officer: Monthly reports & other information are posted on the town website. Contact Health Officer Bob Morlino at 325-2116 for assistance.

SPECIAL NOTICES AND REMINDERS

Select Board Special Meeting, March 8: The Town of Pawlet Select Board will meet on Sunday, March 8, 1 PM at the West Pawlet Town Garage on Route 153 to confer with representatives from the National Guard about a potential project next summer to fill the quarry hole.

Reminder to all landlords from the Pawlet Health Officer: Per the Vermont Rental Housing Code all rental units (apartments or homes) must have a photoelectric smoke detector and a carbon monoxide detector. It is the responsibility of the landlord to supply these life-saving devices. Thank you, Bob Morlino, Pawlet Health Officer.

Planning Commission seeks clerk: Duties include attending evening meetings on the fourth Monday of each month, transcribing and distributing minutes to Planning Commission members, the Town Clerk and others. Ability to distribute minutes electronically in PDF format is required. Must be willing to attend occasional special meetings. This is a paid position. Please send letter of interest stating your qualifications to Deb Hawkins, Pawlet Town Clerk, PO Box 128, Pawlet, VT 05761.

STATE HOUSE UPDATE

Robin Chesnut-Tangerman, Representative for Pawlet, Middletown Springs, Rupert, Tinmouth and Wells

Many serious issues are being addressed in Montpelier, but there is one primary focus. Money, or the lack of it, is the reality that frames most discussions. All members are feeling the pinch. Despite media reports, we do not spend our days debating state dogs and Latin mottos, though that might be a welcome break.

Facing a budget shortfall in this fiscal year and a revenue gap of about \$112 million dollars in next year's budget, both the administration and the Legislature have been struggling to find savings, make cuts and raise revenue. The crisis makes legislators cautious to consider even minor changes to health care and education funding, let alone any sweeping reforms.

Since the governor dropped comprehensive single payer health care there has been little agreement about where to go next. Close the Medicare gap? Adopt universal primary care? Both might help lower insurance premiums. But substantive change takes time and usually money up front to save money in the long run. And there is no money up front right now.

Everybody who campaigned for office last election got the message loud and clear that education-based property taxes are pinching us all. There are many contributing factors: rising costs, additional programs or requirements, decreasing enrollment, other expenditures from the education fund, and a fundamentally expensive system of small rural schools. Include a be-

wildering 273 school districts and some 60 supervisory unions, and it's easy to think that consolidating governance systems and schools makes sense. Consolidation seems to be the direction things are moving. There are proposals to cap or change the funding mechanism, but they require study to determine long term effects.

On top of all this, the toxic algae blooms in Lake Champlain and other state waters have the Environmental Protection Agency on the verge of stepping to mandate cleanup procedures. One thing that everyone in Montpelier *can* agree on is that an EPA-mandated cleanup plan will be more expensive and less effective than our own plan. So a high priority is to pass and implement our own plan. But that takes money, too. Funding proposals include a \$15-per-ton tax on fertilizers, a 2 cent-per-gallon gasoline tax and an increase in the alcohol and rooms and meals taxes – in other words, something for everybody to hate.

I am working hard to represent this district. Please contact me with your questions or concerns at rchesnut-tangerman@leg.state.vt.us. Thank you.

Representative Robin Chesnut Tangerman



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TOWN ELECTION RESULTS, MARCH 3, 2015

Town Moderator, one year, John Thrasher
 School Moderator, one year, John Thrasher
 Select Board, one year, Sarah Ludlam and Ed Cleveland
 Select Board, three years, Charles Weeden
 Lister, three years, Charles Mason
 First Constable, two years, David Ricard Sr.
 Delinquent Tax Collector, one year, Kimberly Ayres
 Pawlet School Director, three years, Susan Ceglowski
 Union School Director, three years, Sally Cleveland and Sarah Post
 Library Trustee, three years, Glenn Munson and Molly Beverage (write-in),
 Library Trustee, remainder of 3-year term, Rebecca C. Hulett

School budget passed; town and highway budget passed; all other articles passed. Total votes cast: 308.

Select Board: The board would like to thank retiring member Clarence Decker for his decades of service to the Town in various capacities, most recently as Select Board member for several years. The board welcomes new member Ed Cleveland.

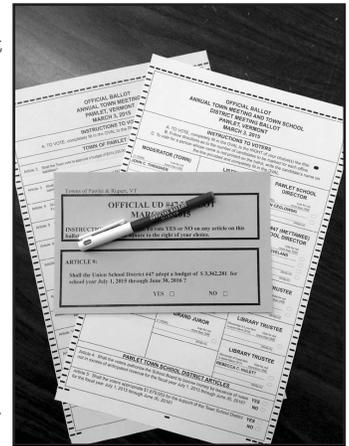


Photo: Deb Hawkins

After town elections, the board held its annual organizational meeting. See the Town of Pawlet website www.Pawlet.vt.gov for the appointments and areas of responsibilities.

TO HONOR ALL OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

The West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary requests donations to help with its project to place and maintain U.S. flags on all lighted telephone poles in Pawlet and West Pawlet. The flags honor those who served or are currently serving. We need donations to replace many of the older flags.

To make a donation please send a check payable to "WPVFD Ladies Auxiliary" and mail to Joanne Reid, 3474 VT Route 153, West Pawlet, VT 05775. Please call Joanne with any questions (645-0244).

Special thanks to Clarence Decker for encouraging this project. *Cindy Hosley, President of the Auxiliary*

WEST PAWLET COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET
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 at the Fish and Game Building in West Pawlet

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"Like" the West Pawlet Community Farmers' Market on Facebook and watch for weekly market menus and specials.



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Planning Survey 2015

Planning Commission Seeks Community Input for Pawlet Town Plan

The Pawlet Planning Commission is revising the Town Plan and wants to know your concerns for the future of Pawlet.

The Town Plan, which is renewed every five years, sets intentions for town government and governs important aspects of major developments that come before Pawlet's Development Review Board or Act 250 review.

If you attended Town Meeting, you may have received a copy of the survey to complete there or return to the Town Office. If you did not do that, please complete the copy of the survey on the following pages and return it to the Town Office in person or by mail to Planning Survey, Town of Pawlet, P.O. Box 128, Pawlet, VT 05761.

You may also complete the survey online at <http://pawlet.vt.gov>. Watch for a link to the online copy of the survey in the Pawlet eNews. If you do not yet subscribe to the eNews, just send a request to subscribe to egib@vermontel.net. You may send any questions you have about the survey to the same email address.

More than one person from a household may submit a completed survey.

Please also consider attending the Planning Commission public forum on Monday, March 23, 2015, 7:30 PM at the Town Hall. The Planning Commission welcomes your help and participation in shaping the future of our town.

Take the survey on the next page now!

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Pawlet Planning Survey 2015



Are you a (check one) full-time resident *or* part-time resident

Approximately how long have you lived in Pawlet?

less than 3 years 3-5 years 5-10 years more than 10 years

How many people live in your household? _____

Circle each of the following age groups that *any* member of your household belongs to:

⋮ 5 years old or under ⋮ ⋮ 6-18 years old ⋮ ⋮ 19-44 years old ⋮ ⋮ 65 years or older⋮

Do you use (check all that apply): email the Pawlet Town Website Facebook Twitter
 other social media (specify) _____

Do you get your local news from (check all that apply and identify): TV Station(s) _____
 Radio Station(s) _____ Newspaper(s) _____
 Pawlet Newsletter Pawlet eNews Website(s) _____

CIRCLE ONE RESPONSE TO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

What is your opinion of the rate Pawlet is growing?

much too slow | too slow | about right | too fast | much too fast

Should Pawlet encourage development of some affordable residences for young, local families?

definitely yes | probably | don't know | probably not | definitely not

Should Pawlet encourage development of some suitable residences for elderly of the Town?

definitely yes | probably | don't know | probably not | definitely not

How much should Pawlet spend on education?

much less | somewhat less | same as now | somewhat more | much more

Should Pawlet encourage its artists, craftspeople, and other small-scale entrepreneurs?

very much | probably | don't know | probably not | definitely not

How much *importance* do farming and agriculture have for Pawlet's future?

very much | moderate | don't know | little | none

How much *importance* do volunteer activities have for making Pawlet a good place to live?

very much | moderate | don't know | little | none

Should Pawlet develop policies concerning renewable energy?

Definitely yes | probably | don't know | probably not | definitely not

turn page over



Pawlet Planning Survey 2015, continued from previous page

From the list of items below *choose* up to five you think are very important for Pawlet's future.

Write the *letter* of the item you consider the most important after '1st choice,' write the *letter* of the next most important item after '2nd choice,' and so forth:

1st choice____; 2nd choice____; 3rd choice____; 4th choice____; 5th choice_____.

- A- Protecting farms and farmland
- B-Developing public transportation
- C-Encouraging community activities
- D-Developing flood resiliency
- E-Improving roads and bridges
- F-Preserving historic sites and structures
- G-Preventing pollution of streams, wells, and other water sources

- H-Supporting employment training
- J-Encouraging young families and people to live in Pawlet
- K-Strengthening the sense of community
- L-Other
(specify)_____

In the space below please write any comments you would like to make about the future of Pawlet or any comments you wish to make about this survey:

Please return completed survey to the Pawlet Town Office in person or mail to: Planning Survey, Town of Pawlet, PO Box 128, Pawlet, VT 05761. Thank you!

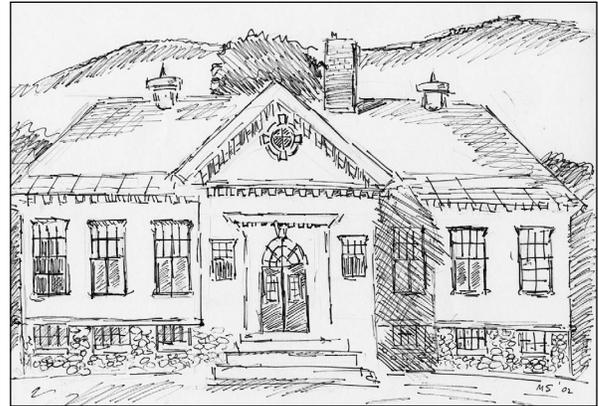
PAWLET PUBLIC LIBRARY SEEKS FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS

The town of Pawlet is fortunate to have a thriving library. About 15 years ago The Pawlet Projects Committee oversaw the task of converting the former Pawlet Village School into a free public library. Since then the library has grown and now provides a community platform for learning, growth and wellness activities as well as programs and technologies that serve Pawlet residents of all ages. The library is also available to rent at a nominal fee for private events.

This past year brought many changes. Our new librarian Melissa Palulis has been refurbishing and adding to our book sections, has added one new computer and hopes to acquire 3 much-needed new computers. We are now open 6 days a week with the help of assistant Tina Mach to keep our library available to as many residents and guests as possible.

In 2014 the Pawlet Public Library also received a top, 5-star rating from the Library Journal Index – one of only 2 libraries in Vermont to be so honored, based on the number of library visits, items checked out, attendees at programs and public computer use.

We are extremely fortunate to have a group of wonderful, dedicated volunteers who help with,



Pawlet Library by Matt Solon

among other things, our annual book sale in July – a major fundraising event. While the book sale provides a significant part of our revenue, we must raise additional funds to meet the library’s many needs. We are looking for volunteers to help with this fundraising task. Please consider stepping up or perhaps pass the word on to a friend. Thanks for helping to keep our library a growing resource and community center. For additional information, please contact Janno Gay, Library Trustee, at 325-3120.

First Annual Springtime Handmade & Homegrown Festival

Join us for our first Spring event at the Pawlet Public Library, Saturday, March 28, 10 AM to 3 PM. This seasonal twist of our Holiday Market will be the ideal place to pick up homemade gifts and goodies for Easter and Mother’s Day! We hope to have some farm fresh produce and seedlings, and a silent auction to top it all off.



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WINTER SAFETY TIPS FROM THE PAWLET AND WEST PAWLET FIRE DEPARTMENTS

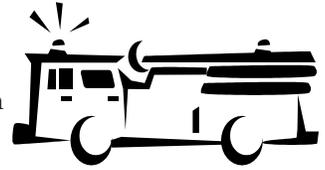
2015 has been off to a very busy start for our community's volunteer firefighters. Here are four tips to help keep your family safe as we get through these last few weeks of winter.

1) Make sure your house number is visible. Emergency responders often have to locate the home that has summoned help based only on the street address, which can be no small feat. This becomes even harder in the winter, when snow encrusts mailboxes. The next time you drive up to your home, try to put yourself in a firefighter's boots. Can you find your house from a moving vehicle, knowing only the street number? Can you read the numbers when approaching from either direction? How about at night? Big, bold numbers on your house or on a marker set up high and back from the road where it won't get covered in snow can make all the difference.

Be sure everyone in your home knows the address so that they can call for help if they need it. Posting the address and emergency contact numbers by the phone is a great idea if you have a babysitter or house guests.

2) Inspect your chimney. We have had several chimney fires in our community so far this winter – don't let your house be next! The venting for a wood-burning stove should be inspected regularly. Giving it a look once per cord of wood burned it is a good rule

of thumb. If there is any tar-like buildup visible, the chimney must be swept. A licensed chimney sweep can help you inspect and clean your stove venting.



3) Remove hazardous snow. Snow accumulation presents some safety hazards around your home. Drifting snow and ice accumulation can obstruct appliance venting, allowing dangerous carbon monoxide (CO) gas into the home. Snow can slide or drift any time of day or night, so functioning CO detectors are a must! Heavy snowfalls can also place tremendous weight on your home, which has led to numerous structural collapses in New England this winter. Shallowly pitched roofs and flat surfaces like decks are especially vulnerable and should be shoveled off regularly.

4) Check your smoke detector. Smoke detectors cut your risk of dying in a fire in half. These inexpensive devices watch out for your family 24 hours a day, and for their hard work they receive a nice, early retirement: ten years is the service life of all smoke detectors, and any detector older than this (or of unknown age) should be replaced. While they are in service, detectors should be kept clean, unpainted, and unobstructed. Check the detector to make sure it has power by pushing the "test" button monthly.

ED LARSON
Owner

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Flower Brook, continued from page 1

area homeowners informed about the details of the project this summer.

Several other activities will also involve local residents. The first will include a survey of water flowing from the storm drains in town. The State will hire a consulting firm to test water draining from the storm drains for signs of septic or greywater pollution. Any 'positive' results will be reported to the Town and any affected landowners, and a plan will be made to move forward with repairs.

The second part of the project, coordinated by the PMNRCD, will be to study the overland runoff in the Village that flows to Flower Brook. This effort will focus on identifying measures that will increase infiltration of stormwater into the soils and decrease direct runoff into the stream. The aim is to decrease pollution and 'flashy' high water flows that can cause erosion. We will also do a door-to-door survey to discuss septic system details with homeowners and provide tests for drinking water wells. We will help any homeowners having concerns about their septic systems evaluate options for replacement.

The third part of the work this summer includes walking the headwater reaches of Flower Brook and determining the causes for the sediment flows in the

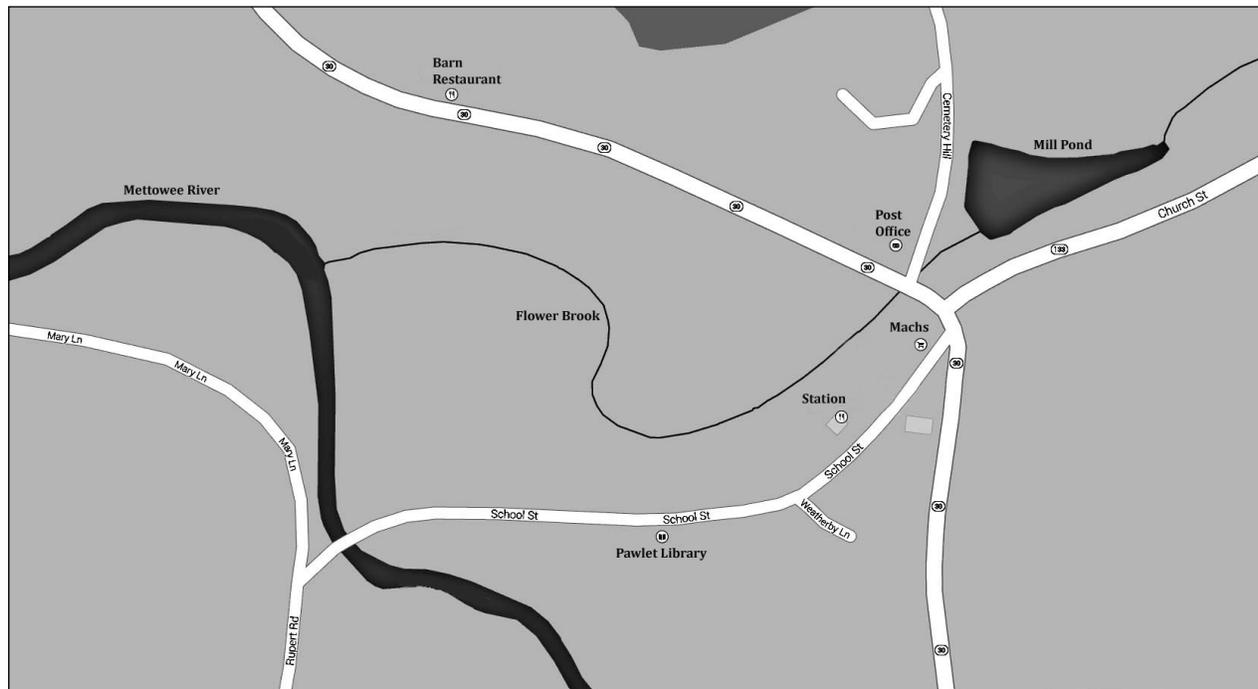
upper tributaries. Several gullies have formed in the headwaters of Flower Brook, and we hope to stabilize the erosion.

The overall goal is to restore clean water and remove Flower Brook's impaired designation. We look forward to spending the summer in Pawlet and welcome your involvement. The District will send a letter to property owners along the brook, detailing the timeline of the project and introducing the consultants who will be helping us. We will also continue to publish short articles detailing our activities in town.

In the meantime, anyone who wishes to serve on the Wastewater Advisory Committee (or other comments) can contact Hilary Solomon, PMNRCD District Manager, at (802) 287-8339, or pmnrccd@gmail.com.

Thank you, Hilary Solomon

Editor's Note: There is a longstanding debate about the spelling of Mettowee versus Mettawee. USGS maps have used "Mettawee" for more than a century, and that's how Google Maps spells it, too. But local usage tends more toward "Mettowee," so that is the spelling that the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District uses. If any readers have stories to share about this debate, please contact the Editor, Elizabeth Gibson, at egib@vermontel.net.



Pawlet Village Center, where Flower Brook flows into the Mettowee River. Flower Brook is seven miles long and begins on the southern slopes of Tinnmouth Mountain. It is considered a "flashy" stream with a history of minor flooding. The Mettowee, 41 miles long, originates on the southern slopes of Dorset Mountain and eventually flows into the Champlain Canal south of Whitehall, New York, as part of the Lake Champlain watershed.

(Adapted from Google Maps)

PAWLET ENERGY GROUP NEWS

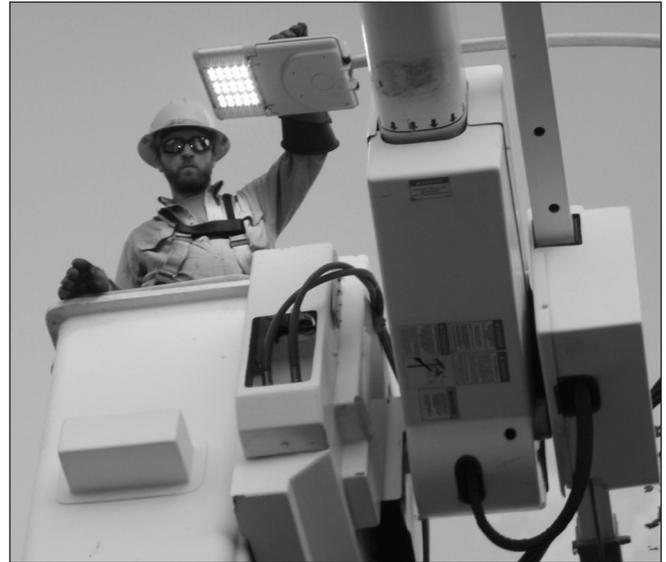
PACE Program Approved by Pawlet Voters: The Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program is a financing mechanism that allows Vermonters to make energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements to their homes through the creation of a special municipal assessment district. While only those homeowners who sign up for PACE actually pay for it, the fact that municipalities are involved necessitates the full community's support.

Pawlet voters decided in the recent town election on March 3, 2015 to make Pawlet a PACE district, joining more than 50 towns in Vermont that have already done so. The vote was 203 in favor and 99 against.

After the Pawlet Select Board has formally adopted the program, residents will be eligible to apply for PACE funding. The nonprofit utility Efficiency Vermont will administer the PACE program for Pawlet and will handle the loan applications, approvals, calculations and funding and other details.

PACE loans can be used for approved energy-efficiency and alternative energy projects on residential homes. The basic idea is that the homeowner's savings on energy exceed the cost of financing the project.

PACE loans have good fixed rates and are long-term – up to 20 years – and are designed to stick with the property, even when it is sold.



Pawlet has eliminated about one-third of its streetlights and is converting the remaining 41 lights to more efficient LED fixtures. Photo: Green Mountain Power

Municipal Streetlight Study: The energy group has been helping the Town assess its use of streetlights to see how they can be more efficiently operated. Initially the town considered eliminating 24 streetlights in Pawlet and West Pawlet.

During a trial period in last fall these lights were turned off, and public comments were solicited. Based *continued next page*



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Streetlight Study, continued

on the comments received, the list was modified to 20 streetlights, representing about one-third of the town's lighting demand.

The Town has now eliminated those 20 streetlights and will convert the remaining 41 streetlights to more energy-efficient LED fixtures. These changes will result in significant cost savings to the Town.

The previous annual operating cost to the town for 61 fixtures was \$11,779. The total cost for converting the remaining 41 streetlights to LED fixtures is \$13,843. Applying the \$6,400 Efficiency Vermont incentive reduces the installation cost to the town to \$7,443.

The annual future cost of using LEDs will be \$6,158, so the estimated payback time for converting the remaining fixtures to LEDs is 1.3 years.

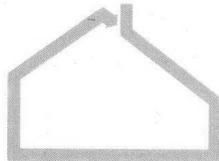
Energy Section of Pawlet Town Plan: The group is also working on revising the energy section of the Town Plan and is working with the Pawlet Planning Commission to be sure that the Town's energy and land use policies are compatible.

The Pawlet Energy Group started in 2010 at the request of the Select Board to address the energy components of the Pawlet Town Plan and consider other ways to help the Town increase energy efficiency and lower energy costs.

The Energy Group usually meets the fourth Monday of each month, 12 PM, at the Town Hall. Energy group members are: Sue LaPorte, Town Energy Coordinator; Harry Van Meter, Secretary; Ken Friedman; Elizabeth Gibson; Nancy Morlino; and Cintia Morrissey.

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WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselors offer guidance and support to everyone who is currently breastfeeding or those who are interested in breastfeeding

For more information: Contact Jill at the Vermont Department of Health, 802-786-5111

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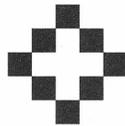
The newsletter editor maintains an email group list for updates on local events via email. To receive

Pawlet eNews, contact Elizabeth Gibson at egib@vermontel.net. Visit the website for the Town of Pawlet at <http://pawlet.vt.gov/>. Leave comments, news and updates at the site or email egib@vermontel.net. And check out the new Pawlet-Wells Front Porch Forum web site to share information and news with your neighbors at <http://frontporchforum.com/>.

Front Porch Forum helps neighbors connect and build community by hosting online regional networks of neighborhoods and towns.

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EVENTS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The Haystack Hustlers invite all area seniors to our upcoming activities. Bring a friend and enjoy educational programs, entertainment and fellowship. We have lunches together every other Tuesday at noon: a potluck lunch at the Pawlet Church on the second Tuesday of each month, and a hot lunch at the Mettawee School on every fourth Tuesday during the school year.

At our school lunches, we enjoy meeting with some of the students and teachers and hearing about what they are studying. At each gathering we collect food for the Pawlet Food Pantry and hold a 50/50 raffle. School lunches are by reservation; cost is \$3.50.

Our schedule of upcoming events is:

- March 10, 2 PM, potluck lunch, Pawlet Church, with presentation by Bill Clark about Horace Greeley, who lived in Poultney and established the New York Tribune
- March 24, 12 PM, lunch, Mettawee School
- April 14, 2 PM, maple celebration lunch, Pawlet Church
- April 28, 12 PM, Lunch, Mettawee School
- May 12, 12 PM, Potluck Lunch, Pawlet Church
- May 26, 12 PM. Lunch, Mettawee School

All seniors are welcome. Meet new people and enjoy a great meal! Contact Phyllis Mason at 325-3196.

St. Frances Cabrini Church

*Sunday Mass: 11:00 AM
Rte 153, West Pawlet, VT 05775
Fr. Antony Pittappillil, SVD, Pastor
802-265-3135; sfcabrinipawlet@gmail.com*

Pawlet Community Church

*Sunday Worship: 9:30 AM
38 VT Rte 133, PO Box 116, Pawlet, VT 05761
Rev. John Sanborn, Pastor
802-325-3022; revjohnnwheels@gmail.com*

CHURCH SEEKS ORGANIST

The St. Frances Cabrini Parish in West Pawlet needs an organist for its 11 AM Mass each Sunday through Easter. Our snowbird guitarist will be returning then, but we will need the organist as a sub during the Spring/Summer/Fall and again fulltime from after Christmas through Easter. Knowledge of Catholic liturgy very helpful but not essential; playing the 4 hymns per Mass is the primary need. Please email Paul Turnley pturnley@aol.com or call him at 645-0955 for more information.



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 PO Box 128, Pawlet, VT 05761.*

Ads: Business Card \$25 (3 issues, \$70); Double Business Card \$50 (3 issues, \$140)

Ads to Barry Schoenwetter, 561 North Pawlet Road, Wells, VT 05774; bartsky@together.net or 645-0654.

News to: Elizabeth Gibson, Editor, 128 Solar Park, Pawlet, VT 05761; 325-3619, egib@vermontel.net.