



Fairlee Newsletter

September 2023

Click the on the browser link at the top for the best newsletter image.



WELCOME RYAN LOCKWOOD

We are pleased to announce that Ryan Lockwood is Fairlee's new Town Administrator. Ryan is a resident of Bradford and serves on its Selectboard. He brings a wealth of both management and municipal experience to the position. *Meet Ryan at 2:30 PM on Saturday, September 30th on the Common, before FCA's Fall Fest.*

GET INVOLVED IN BUDGET BUILDING

October is the month when Fairlee's Town Administrator, Treasurer, and Selectboard begin discussions about next year's budget—the municipal budget that will be set before Fairlee voters for their approval at Town Meeting in 2024. *Residents are invited to the budget kick off meeting that will include department heads at the Selectboard meeting on Monday, October 16.*

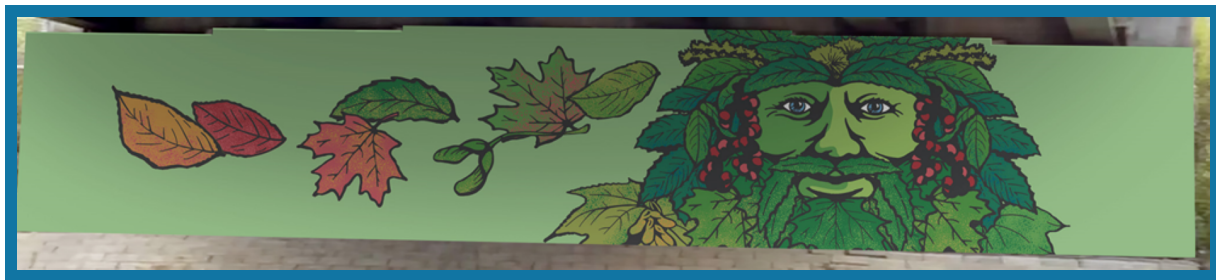
SELECTBOARD MEETS WITH RISD SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

On September 25th, the Selectboard met with David Gagner, Jason

Knowles, Clem Powers (Fairlee's three Rivendell School Board representatives), and Board Chair Kathy Hooke to discuss tax challenges facing many Fairlee residents. Education taxes account for approximately 75% of local tax bills. *Fifteen community members attended the meeting and shared comments; many acknowledged the importance of greater transparency.*

COMING TO FRUITION

Residents who participated in Better Connections forums in 2019 strongly recommended sidewalks on Main Street as a way to slow traffic and build community. After completing an engineering study and winning \$100,275 from grants, *sidewalk and gravel path construction from Bridge Street to the Railroad Station is near completion.* Eighty-three percent of the cost is covered by grants; 17% is from ARPA funds.



PUBLIC ART

A second Better Connections recommendation was a mural in the I-91 underpass. After Samuel Morey School and Aloha Camp volunteers cut and painted mural images, *Fairlee Community Arts, residents, and Fairlee businesses went over goal and raised \$5,510* in a crowdfunding campaign (thank you, donors!), later receiving a 2-for-1 match of \$11,000 from Vermont Community Foundation. Since weather events have delayed VTrans' bridge repair work, *installation of the mural is postponed until 2024.*

ARPA PROJECTS ARE OFF THE GROUND

Fairlee received nearly \$300,000 in ARPA funds. The Town set aside \$20,000 from the ARPA distribution for engineering and architectural work *to expand and replace the decades-old vault* in



a manner that sustains the architectural integrity of the Town Hall. Additionally, Fairlee has ordered an *automatic security gate for the Transfer Station* and will pay for it with approximately \$17,000 from ARPA funds.



LONG AND WINDING ROAD

Finally, a bus shelter at Fairlee's Park & Ride! The first (very affordable) shelter that was selected did not pass the approval of VTran's head of historic preservation, who entered the process after the shelter had been ordered. Through contacts at Two Rivers Regional Planning Commission, Fairlee was able to swap its new shelter with a used but historically proper one in Morrisville owned by RCT (Rural Community Transportation). Many thanks to volunteers for their superb help during the transport and installation of the shelter, *including Larry Martin for his trailer, Curt Gagnon and Dakota Burgess for the use of Fogg's forklift, and Dylan Chapman and Tim Danen for their tools and their expertise.*



HERE COMES A FIRETRUCK

Fairlee's pumper truck is 32 years old and nearing the end of its productive life. The same holds true for Fairlee's tanker. As noted in the Fairlee newsletter prior to last spring's Town Meeting, truck delivery time is typically 18 to 24 months and a pumper's current price tag is approximately \$500,000, making it essential that Fairlee select the best truck for its needs, borrow, and compete for grants, particularly ones from FEMA.

Our thanks to Fairlee firefighters for carefully specifying their preferred vehicle and building a database of historic usage data important for grants. Additionally, the Town has received a preliminary, favorable response from FEMA about securing a Firefighter's Equipment grant. *Learn more about the department's needs at [Touch-a-Truck at](#)*

FCA's Fall Fest on September 30th on the Common.



Comments or questions?

Peter Berger: peter.berger@fairleevt.gov

Cathy McGrath: cathy.mcgrath@fairleevt.gov

Lance Mills: lance.mills@fairleevt.gov

Our mailing address is:

Town of Fairlee
PO Box 95
Fairlee, VT 05045

[Add us to your address book](#)