

Winter Newsletter 2016

January 2017



Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- ◆ **Select Board:**
- ◆ 1-30 at 6:30pm
- ◆ 2-21 at 7:00pm
- ◆ 3-21 at 7:00pm
- ◆ **School Board:**
- ◆ 1-24 at 6:00pm
- ◆ 2-28 at 6:00pm
- ◆ **Planning:**
- ◆ 1-3 at 7:00pm
- ◆ 2-7 at 7:00pm
- ◆ 3-7 at 7:00pm

Did you know?

There are 25 solar array installations in Dorset.

Dorset has 19 rooftop solar installations that generate an annual 281,154 kWh.

This ranks Dorset 29th overall in rooftop solar electricity generation.

Learn more about this data on page 9.....

Support a Great Cause!



SKI for HEAT

ski * ride * cross-country * snowshoe

Ski for Heat is committed to raising funds to provide heating fuel assistance to low-income families and individuals in communities throughout Vermont, by way of outdoor winter activities open to participants of all abilities. Ski for Heat is a small nonprofit organization that is run and managed solely by volunteers.

Ski for Heat at Wild Wings & Bromley Saturday Jan. 29th

Visit: skiforheat.org for registration and ticket info!

Ski for Heat: Benefit Concert & Dance Party

“Downtown” Bob Stannard and Those Dangerous Bluesmen

**Saturday, January 21st at 7pm
Manchester Eagles Hall
Route 11/30**

Sponsored by:



THE BEST TRACTOR PARADE IN VT:

Thanks to the efforts of Malcolm Cooper and Billy Brownlee the Dorset Tractor Parade has become a local favorite and a must do item for welcoming in the Holiday Season.



This year over two dozen tractors were entered with easily 200+ people in attendance. Thanks to all who participated!

The parade route runs from HN Williams Store to the Dorset Green with a couple laps around the Green before heading back to the HN Williams.

News from Bennington County.....



SoVermont Economy Project An Economic & Workforce Development Network

The Southern Vermont Economy Project (SVEP) seek to stabilize, improve and expand **the rural economic and workforce development network** in Southern Vermont. The Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) applied for a USDA RCDI grant to facilitate this project. Over the next two years SVEP will connect and expand collaboration for economic and community development work in the Southern Vermont Economic Development Zone.

To grow a more resilient region the Southern Vermont Economy Project will:

- Strengthen economic collaboration,
- Improve access to economic & workforce development information, programs, services, technical assistance, best practices training and funding initiatives,
- Bolster economic & workforce development services in Windham and Bennington Counties,
- Improve the capacity of participant organizations to work individually and collectively on the Southern Vermont economy.

For more information and to get involved, contact: Santina "Sunny" Leporati, Southern Vermont Economy Project Manager - Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation 802-257-7731 ext. 222 * 802-681-5616 (Cell) * sleporati@brattleborodevelopment.com



Regional Food System Study Advances

This winter, The USDA Rural Development Business Grant funded food system study of Bennington will continue its research and interview process.

The BCRC is partnering with Liz Ruffa and Northshire Grows, a project of Food Connects, to assess farm viability and food access issues in the greater Bennington area. Ken Meter from Crossroads Resource Council

and Rosalie Wilson, a farm and food business development specialist based in Norwich, VT, are assisting with this work. Look for information about public input meetings in February and for a presentation of the study's findings this spring. Northshire Grows is applying for a second year of funding for market assessment work throughout Bennington County, with an eye toward partnerships in Windham County. Year Three will focus on developing the "enterprise" that this study is exploring.

In other food system related work, Liz Ruffa has been appointed Local Food And Agriculture Commissioner for the BCRC. Additionally, a Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union Farm to School professional development course is being offered to area teachers, administrators and food service staff. All area K-12 schools are welcome to participate! This course will be held, starting in February, at the MAU Middle School. Contact Liz@foodconnects.org for more information

BCRC ANNUAL MEETING—Celebrating 50 years of Service to the Towns in Bennington County. Thursday May 18, 2017. More details to follow.

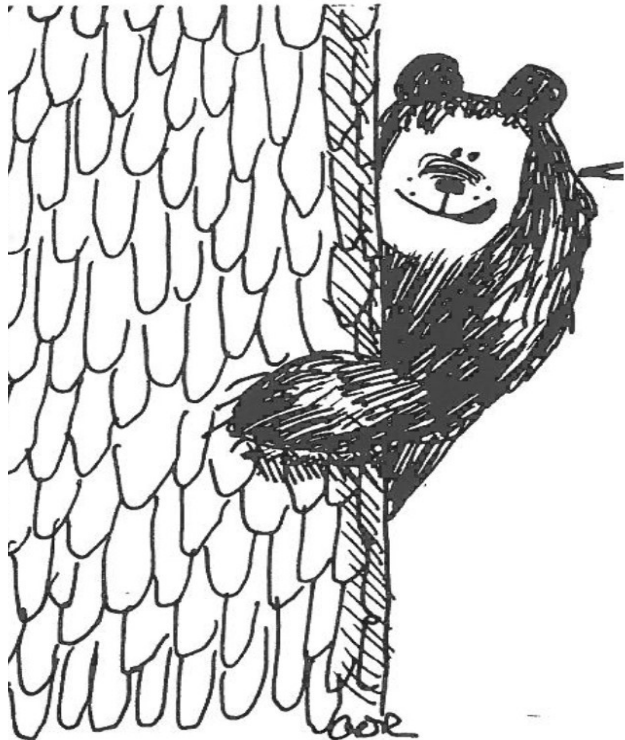
About Town.....

DORSET FIRE DISTRICT # 1: has a new website: www.dorsetfiredistrict.org

TOWN BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING:

The Selectboard will hold a Public Hearing on the FY2017 Town Budget on **January 30th at 6:45pm**. Once approved on January 30th, the budget will then go to the Town Report for printing in preparation for a **Town Meeting vote March 6th**.

Reminder to Dorset Taxpayers:



Property taxes are due:

Tuesday March 14th

Mail payments to Town Manager's Office:

PO Box 715 East Dorset, VT 05253

Or in person at the Town Offices:

112 Mad Tom Rd. East Dorset, VT

PAY TAXES ONLINE AT (fees apply):

www.dorsetvt.org

Late Payment subject to 8% penalty & 1% interest on March 18th.

Also, if you live in VT full time you must file a homestead declaration online at: www.state.vt.us/tax, by April 15th

Call 362-4571 x 4 with questions.

JISP- Junior Instruct. Skating/Sport Program

JISP (Junior Instructional Skating/Sport Program) is skating program designed for all skaters ages 5yrs-13yrs. It is a structured curriculum for all levels. Northshire Skating Academy's basic skills instructors will evaluate every student to assure appropriate level placement based on your child's ability. **JISP Fee \$129.00 (nine weeks) The fee includes rental skates, 30 min lesson and 75 free skate (Town of Dorset offers 25% discount to this program!)**

Dates for JISP 2017 Semester TUESDAY:

January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, February, 7, 14, 28

WEDNESDAY: January 4, 11, 18, 25, February 1, 8, 15, March 1

THURSDAY: January 5, 12, 19, 26, February 2, 9, 16 March 2

FRIDAY: January 6, 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17, March 3



State Board Approves Taconic and Green Merger Proposal

(East Montpelier) - On December 20, the Vermont State Board of Education unanimously approved the Northshire Merger Study Committee's proposal to merge into the Taconic and Green Regional School District. Chairman Jon Wilson, Vice-Chair Richard Grip, and committee consultant Dan French presented the merger proposal to the board on Tuesday morning at U-32 Middle & High School.

With this vote, the State Board of Education followed the guidance of the Secretary of Education's recommendations and determined that the proposed merger is "in the best interests of the State, the students, and the school districts." The board also provided "preliminary support for a waiver regarding supervisory union board composition" if the merger is passed by the voters. After the meeting, Chairman Jon Wilson said, "We are very pleased with how things went today. Not only was the board very complementary of the report we put together, but they also indicated that they would work in good faith to grant us adequate representation on a future supervisory union board." The current statutory default mechanism for determining supervisory board composition says that each district that operates a schools receives three representatives regardless of its population. With the knowledge that the state has final say in drawing a supervisory union's boundaries, the Northshire Committee modeled out the most likely scenarios of which other districts would likely coexist in an SU with Taconic & Green. "Based on our models we developed this fall, we operated on the assumption that our proposed district would have about 60% of the population of the entire SU," Vice-Chair Richard Grip said after the meeting. "We were very clear with the state board that this proposed merger would lose a lot of popular support in our electorates if the proposed merged district did not receive at least half of the representation on a future SU Board. They listened, responded, and capped off the end of a very pleasant meeting."

Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe was also pleased with the hard work of the Northshire committee. A few minutes before the board approved her recommended actions (see actions listed at bottom), the Secretary said "I want to say a special thank you for taking such a regional approach because we do need regional solutions. I appreciate your willingness to take a long view, and have a broad vision because I think that is going to be critical to getting good solutions in your area."

While Wilson breathed a sigh of relief once the meeting was over, he acknowledged some of the hardest work is yet to come: "We have a lot of outreach to do in the coming weeks and months before voters cast their ballots on this merger and new prospective board members on Town Meeting Day. Our work will now shift from seeking out feedback and developing merger recommendations, to educating the public on the details of the proposed merger. As I emphasized to the board today, there are many complexities inherent to this merger and our region, but I am more than confident that this peerless study committee will continue to tackle any obstacle in exemplary fashion." Wilson urges voters to begin educating themselves by reading the report presented to State Board of Ed. It can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/northshiremergerstudy/> .

Community members can also reach out to Wilson at Jon.wilson@brsu.org.

The Dorset School:



Dorset Community Supply Request

The Dorset School is in need of "packing peanuts". If you have any of these materials on hand that you would be willing to donate, please contact Kelly Leggett at 362-2606 or by email: kleggett@brsu.org. Thank you!

The Dorset After School Program Newsletter January 2017

Greetings from the Dorset After School Program and Happy New Year! As always, I have some reminders for you—Please remember we do not offer care during JISP on Tuesdays.

- Please remember to sign out your afterschooler(s) with both your signature and the time you pick them up. It determines your billing rate so please, please include the time or I will have to bill you for the full amount. Please be honest in recording your time.
- Please make sure all checks are made out to Dorset ASP.
- We go outside every day it is possible. Please send your afterschooler(s) dressed accordingly.
- As with last year, we do not allow the use of any electronics or technology from home during the after-school program. This includes any video games systems, cell phones, tablets, and non-school issued computers. Please help us with this.

Items we are looking for-

Cold weather gear - We would love any hats, gloves, mittens and scarves you might not have use for anymore. They would be a big help for our sometimes forgetful afterschoolers this winter and winters to come. Contact Info—Sarena Barausky - Site Coordinator sarenabarausky@gmail.com 802 362 2606 ext. 111

Discover Girl Scouts

A Free Information Session for Girls and Their parents/Caregivers



- Meet local Girl Scouts and volunteers
- Enjoy fun, girl-led activities
- Explore our many Girl Scout programs
- Make new friends
- Learn about volunteer opportunities
- Register
- Receive a FREE Discover Girl Scouts embroidered patch



BASKETBALL OPEN GYM

Come play hoops with your friends!

Where: The Dorset School Gym
Who: Girls and Boys 5th & 6th grade
When: Tues & Thurs Evenings
Time: Tues 5:30-7PM & Thurs 6:30-7:45PM
Starting January 5th-February 9th

(No session on 1/26)

Monday, January 9th, 2017 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The Dorset School, Dorset, VT

This is not a school-sponsored event.

For further information or to register, contact:

Customer Care (888) 474-9686
customer-care@girlscoutsgwm.org

Fun Pickup games each session

Parents Drop off/Pick Up or stay and play!

NO REGISTRATION FEES

Come ready to play & practice shooting



The Dorset Village Library

Library Hours: Monday-Friday 11am-5pm, Saturday 10am-3pm.

Please visit the new library website www.dorsetvillagelibrary.org and “like” Dorset Village Library on Facebook for up-to-date news and access to our digital services. Contact the library if you would like to receive our monthly newsletter by email.



January artist of the month: Dorset Library Knitters

The featured artist at the Dorset Public Library during the month of January will be The Dorset Knitters. The public is invited to meet members of the group at the opening reception on Saturday, January 7 from 11-1pm. Refreshments will be served. There will be a variety of items, most are knitted, and all are hand crafted by members of the Dorset Knitters. Hats, cowls, mittens, scarves, skirts, jewelry, bookmarks and more! Please stop by to find a new, snugly piece to add to your winter attire. Most, but not all, items will be for sale. A portion of sales will benefit the library.



Upcoming Artists (please check our website for updates, bios and sneak peaks at the images)

February the library will feature photographer Henry Kornaros
March is Women's History Month and we will be showcasing illustrations by Robert Birbeck of famous women authors. This showing will coordinate with other displays and programs at the library.

The Lego Club meets on the third Thursday of every month. Ages 6+ welcome. The Lego Club is very popular, donations of Legos are always appreciated.

New books, audio books and dvds arriving monthly. Please stop in and see us!

Contact us: dorsetvillagelibrary@gmail.com or 802-867-5774.





The Bennington County Solid Waste Alliance (BCSWA) represents the Towns of Arlington, Bennington, Dorset, Glastebury, Manchester, Pownal, Rupert, Sandgate, Searsburg, Shaftsbury, Stamford, Sunderland and Woodford, with a total, combined population of just over 35,000 people. The Alliance completed and adopted a solid waste implementation plan (or "SWIP") in December of 2015. The mission of Alliance "...is to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills, by incineration or similar means by reducing the amount of waste generated, conserving resources and promoting recycling and reuse." You can read our SWIP by visiting <http://www.bcswavt.org/about-us/>.

Fall Activities: This past fall, the Alliance held a household hazardous waste (HHW) event for residents of the 13 towns at the Dorset School in Dorset. The Alliance will hold the next household hazardous waste event for residents and small businesses on Saturday, May 13, 2017 at the Bennington Transfer Station. Details will be posted at the Alliance website at www.bcswavt.org. The Alliance now has a Facebook page as well as the website, so follow us on Facebook for periodic ideas on how to recycle.

Paint: You don't have to wait for our household hazardous waste events to dispose of latex and oil based paint. Visit our website, or www.paintcare.com to find locations that will accept used paint for FREE!

Outreach: The Alliance also continued outreach to schools and businesses, working with both the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA) and the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC). After contacting all 25 schools and 300 of our businesses, the Alliance provided on-site assistance to three schools and 80 businesses. We are planning a business workshop this spring (2017) in partnership with the Bennington Chamber of Commerce. If your school, business or institution is interested in having someone visit to discuss better ways to handle solid waste, organics, recyclables and other materials, please contact Michael Batcher at 802-442-0713 x 2 or mbatcher@bcrcvt.org.

Batteries and Fluorescent Bulbs and Paint: Many retail stores are accepting alkaline and rechargeable batteries, fluorescent bulbs, including both tubes and CFLs for FREE! Visit www.bcswavt.org or <http://www.call2recycle.org/what-can-i-recycle/> to find those establishments.

Wondering How to Recycle? Visit www.bcswavt.org and look at our Programs and Projects drop down. The A to Z list provides ideas on how to recycle and dispose of a number of items. There is also information on composting, donating clothing (textiles), construction and demolition debris, biosolids and disposing of prescription drugs. Talk to your hauler about recycling and how you may be able to save money by disposing of materials properly. Check with your town hall to find out how you can access your town transfer station and what materials they accept.

Compost Bin Sales and Workshop: Interested in composting in your backyard and learning more about composting? The Alliance will be selling both backyard compost bins and kitchen compost pails in early 2017. The latter will come in handy when transfer stations in the area begin accepting food scraps on July 1, 2017. We should have an announcement on our website and Facebook pages in early 2017 with more details.

Need More Information? Visit the Alliance website at www.bcswavt.org or contact Michael Batcher at 802-442-0713 x 2 or mbatcher@bcrcvt.org.





NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

To learn more about our winter events, call the Visitor Center at 802-394-7836. For outdoor events, please dress for the weather: sturdy shoes/boots, layered clothing, raingear, flashlight, snacks and water. All outdoor events are held weather permitting: if there's any question please call the Visitor Center to confirm that an event will be held.

- **Thoreau Cabin Re-Creation Project**
- Board Feathering, Shingle & Peg-Making,
- January 14/15, 2017, \$50 tuition.
- Overflow/Catchup, February 11/12, 2017
- **Film Screening: "America's First Forest"**.
- Dt/Tm: January or February (TENTATIVE), Free.
- **Owl Walk. Dt/Tm:**
- February 24 (TENTATIVE - Confirm closer to the date), \$5 pp fee.
- **Pancake Breakfast and Maple Syrup Celebration.**
- Dt/Tm: March 25/26, Fee
- **Apple-Tree Pruning.**
- Dt/Tm: March 2017, Fee.



3270 Rte. 315 Rupert, VT
www.merckforest.org

It's a Full Wolf Moon!
Join us for a Full Moon Hike / Snowshoe
at
Merck Forest
January 14, 2017
6:00 - 8:00, meet at the Visitor Center

Dress warm, bring a flashlight or headlamp.
 \$5 includes guided hike and refreshments
 to warm up with afterwards.

For more information, call 802-394-7836 or
 email us at info@merckforest.org





CommunityEnergyDashboard

BUILDING A BETTER ENERGY FUTURE. TODAY.

THE COMMUNITY ENERGY DASHBOARD IS ABOUT SHAPING YOUR COMMUNITY'S ENERGY FUTURE...SUSTAINABLY.

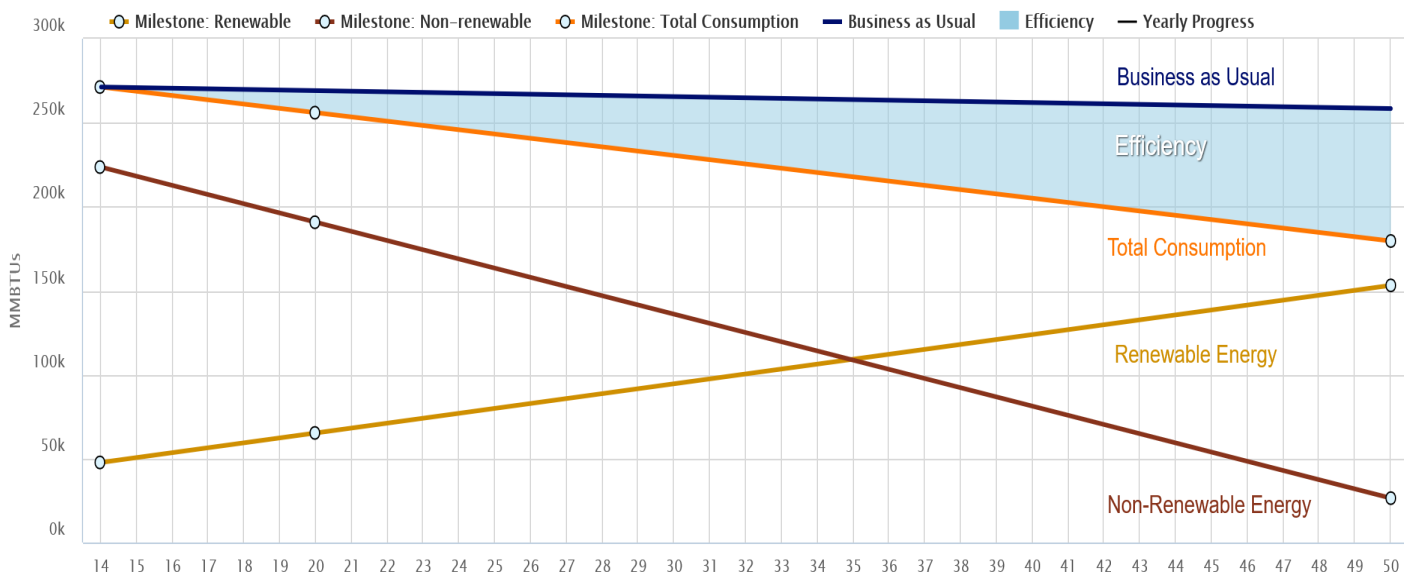
The State of Vermont has a bold goal: to meet 90% of its energy needs through increased efficiency and renewable sources by 2050. The Community Energy Dashboard helps your community shape its energy future at the local level with a powerful suite of interactive tools to set goals, track progress, map actions, share stories, and hear from trusted neighbors. The Dashboard helps translate Vermont's goal of **90% by 2050** into achievable local action across all energy sectors - efficiency, heat, electricity and transportation.

WHAT DOES THE DASHBOARD DO? SEVEN TOOLS:

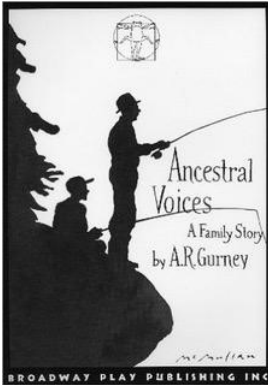
- **Timeline:** Track your community's progress towards meeting 90% of local energy needs through efficiency and renewables by 2050.
- **Actions:** Add your individual, business, municipal, school and farm actions through fun tiles and watch collective impact build in your community.
- **Analysis:** Keep track of and share your key local energy data and analyses. Reach a broader audience and help other towns avoid reinventing the wheel.
- **Stories:** Learn from your neighbors and inspire others to action.
- **Energy Atlas:** Map your town's existing renewable energy and efficiency sites, identify new potential sites based on environmental resources and constraints.
- **Statistics:** Track local renewable energy sites and production data, see how you rank against other towns, crowdsource data on efficiency projects.

Resources: Links to important resources, energy information and partners to help towns accelerate their progress towards a sustainable energy future!

<http://www.vtenergydashboard.org/>



Dorset Players Winter Lineup!



Ancestral Voices by A.R. Gurney Directed by Kevin O'Toole

It's the late 30's and into the war years. Young Eddie finds his safe, privileged world rocked by the unexpected split-up of his grandparents. And he's not alone. When grandpa's oldest friend horns in on grandma, precipitating a divorce and remarriage, pretty much all of Old Buffalo, NY is talking about it.

This performance is for one night only on Friday, February 10 at 7:30 pm at the Playhouse. Donations are welcome at the door.

Alice in Wonderland

presented by The Missoula Children's Theater

January 21, 2017 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm



Bus Stop by William Inge Directed by Paul Michael Brinker

The play takes place in a diner outside Kansas City where bus drivers stop to let their passengers stretch their legs and grab a bite to eat. A blizzard forces this motley group of travelers to remain in the diner overnight until the storm subsides.

Performances are **March 3, 4, 10 & 11 at 7:30 pm and March 5 & 12 at 2 pm.** Tickets can be purchased online at dorsetplayers.org or call the office 802-867-5570, 10 am-2

pm, M-F.

Fourteenth Annual One Act Festival Produced by Lynne Worth



Each year, the Dorset Players offers its members an opportunity to try their hand at directing or acting without committing themselves to a "big" production. Performances are March 31 & April 1 at 7:30pm & April 2 at 2 pm.

Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change Book and lyrics by Joe DiPietro and music by Jimmy Roberts Directed by Suzi Dorgeloh with Musical Director, Gary Schmidt and Choreographer, Erica Schmidt. This hilarious revue is presented in the form of a series of vignettes connected by the central theme of love and relationships. The scenes stand independent of the others, but progress in a way designed to suggest overall relationships through the course of one's life.

**I LOVE YOU,
YOU'RE PERFECT,
NOW CHANGE**

Performance dates are May 19, 20, 26, 27 at 7:30 pm and May 21 and 28 at 2:00 pm.

The Dorset Players, Inc. — 104 Cheney Road Dorset, Vermont 05251 — 802.867.5570

Town Clerk's Corner

The Town Clerk's Office is responsible for the recording of all land records, maintaining all vital records, supervising elections, issuing fish & wildlife licenses, dog licenses, and renewal of motor vehicle registrations.

Recent Property Transfers (Oct. 2016 to present)

Seller	Buyer:	Address:	Price:	Assessed Value:
Olarhu	330 Foote Rd LLC	330 Foote Rd	\$1,284,000	\$813,360
Kendrick	Abernethy	631 Dorset Orchard	\$245,000	\$376,800
Taylor	Banahan	229 Green Peak Orchard	\$370,000	\$548,700
Groeneveld	Bannester	2744 Danby Mtn Rd	\$200,000	\$359,800
Applejack	Battenkill Prop	154 Hills Court	\$330,000	\$572,700
Elephant Hill	Beaty	207 Maple Hill Ln	\$1,580,000	\$1,700,300
Eastman	Carey	94 East View Ln	\$163,000	\$235,700
Molloy	Comar	1161 Route 30	\$100,000	\$208,300
Edgeton	DeVries	437 Danby Mtn Rd	\$280,000	\$392,700
Trzebuki	Grotto	257 Havoc Hill	\$285,000	\$319,200
Melton	Kelly	74-76 Dorset Orchard	\$750,000	\$1,154,800
Bardin	Leu	126 Foote Rod	\$130,000	\$176,000
Fed. Bank	Stewart	331 Benedict Rd	\$345,000	\$452,040
Fannie Mae	Lombardo	2614 Danby Mtn Rd	\$120,000	\$234,100
Cotter	Marino	199 Morse Hill Rd	\$220,000	\$306,600
Karhu	May	o Dusty Hollow (land)	\$25,000	
Bendixen	Welch	127 Birchstone	\$145,000	\$177,100

Questions? Call 362-4571 x 2 , Sandra Pinsonault, Town Clerk, CMC, CVC

DOG LICENSES ARE DUE APRIL 1, 2017



Dorset Farmer's Market Sundays: 10am to 2pm at JK ADAMS in Dorset.

Town of Dorset

112 Mad Tom Road
PO Box 715
East Dorset, VT 05253

Phone: 802-362-4571
Fax: 802-362-5156
Email: townmanager@gmail.com
Website: www.dorsetvt.org



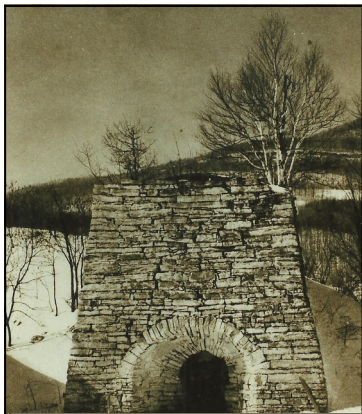
Visit Dorset's Museum!

On Display Until Early 2017

Heavy Metal: Blacksmiths and Foundries of Dorset



Foundries and blacksmith shops once dotted the landscape, and were a necessary part of everyday life. Some blacksmiths plied their trade for decades, while others were not so successful. Some blacksmiths had their own shops, and some worked repairing equipment in Dorset's marble mills and quarries. This exhibit explores the three foundries and dozens of blacksmiths who made Dorset their home over the years.



Images of Prentiss Pond

The small pond on Church Street has an interesting history, documented here in photographs and paintings by local artists.

Conference Room

The Dorset Trail

This exhibit explores the hiking trail's creation, development, decline, and recent rediscovery.



Jessica Bond (1908 – 2001): Reverse Painting on Glass

The Dorset Historical Society is blessed with a large collection of Jessica Bond's work. This exhibit includes her stencils, theorems, toleware and her examples of reverse painting on glass. Some of these pieces are exhibited for the first time. Also included in this exhibit are samples of her theorems and toleware.

