

Regular Selectboard Meeting  
22 June 2023  
6:00 PM  
Town Office at Isle La Motte School and via Zoom

In Attendance: Mary-Catherine Graziano, Rusty Spaulding, Cary Sandvig, Debbie Spaulding, Joyce Tuck, Terrance Tuck, Barbara Callahan, Sylvia Jensen, Michael Frett, Gail Rafferty, David Beckett, Anne Jobin-Picard, Molly Varner (via Zoom), Daniel Woodhouse (via Zoom), Andrea Carbone

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Board Chair Mary-Catherine Graziano.

1. **Additions to agenda:** The Public Library requested time to make a clarification to a previous request. Changes to the agenda as scheduled were discussed, then dismissed upon arrival of the first guest speaker via Zoom.
2. **Grand Isle County Natural Resources Conservation District (GICNRCD):** Molly Varner, District Manager of the GICNRCD, gave an overview of the group which was established to promote the conservation, development, and use of land in Vermont while protecting and promoting the health, safety, and general welfare of its people. There are four major categories of focus: agricultural programming, education and outreach, stormwater management, and natural resources. Sylvia Jensen indicated that the Isle La Motte Community Organization (ILMCO) may be interested in educational programs for the community, while Gail Rafferty inquired about resources available to alert residents of cyanobacteria blooms which significantly impact the safety of lake water for drinking and bathing. The Selectboard will review the materials and begin a discussion to create a partnership with the GICNRCD in the coming months. **A copy of Ms. Varner's presentation will be attached to the minutes.**
3. **Energy Storage Access Program:** Furthering the discussion held on June 15<sup>th</sup>, Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC) clarified a fee structure for the backup battery generator grant being pursued. Cary Sandvig will take the lead with additional VEC representatives to wrap up open items related to the technical side of the project. Daniel Woodhouse, VEC's representative for this initiative, advised that some of the more detailed inquiries, such as Sylvia Jensen's question regarding the charging of the battery from the solar array when the power is out, can be discussed once the grant status is confirmed. A motion to provisionally approve the commitment to participating in the program was made by Rusty Spaulding, seconded by Cary Sandvig, all in favor.
4. **Administration:**
  - a. Approve minutes from 6/7 and 6/15 Selectboard meetings:
    - 7 June 2023 - Working Selectboard Meeting with Town Clerk and Treasurer, motioned by Rusty Spaulding, seconded by Cary Sandvig, all in favor.
    - 7 June 2023 - Liquor Control Board Meeting, motioned by Cary Sandvig, seconded by Rusty Spaulding, all in favor.
    - 7 June 2023 - Regular Select Board Meeting, motioned by Rusty Spaulding, seconded by Cary Sandvig, all in favor.
    - 15 June 2023 - Liquor Control Board Meeting, motioned by Rusty Spaulding, seconded by Cary Sandvig, all in favor.
    - 15 June 2023 - Special Select Board Meeting, motioned by Cary Sandvig, seconded by Rusty Spaulding, all in favor.
  - b. Warrants for payroll & payables:
    - 22 June 2023 expenses in the amount of \$39,031.11, the majority of which were County Taxes and Roadworks expenses for grading, culverts, and shoulders. A Payroll Transfer for Vermont Taxes was questioned; after the meeting, the Assistant Treasurer confirmed that the quarterly Vermont payroll tax is coded to the general fund. Motion to approve was made by Rusty Spaulding, seconded by Carry Sandvig, all in favor.

- 20 June 2023 payroll for \$2,535.86, ratification of Rusty Spaulding's signature. Cary Sandvig motioned to ratify, seconded by Mary-Catherine Graziano, all in favor.
  - 20 June 2023 Payroll Transfer for \$546.12 for the Internal Revenue Service. Motion to approve was made by Rusty Spaulding, seconded by Cary Sandvig, all in favor.
  - 22 June 2023 expenses in the amount of \$600.00 for the final payment to Rural Solutions to assess information technology needs at the new Town Office. Motion to approve was made by Rusty Spaulding, seconded by Cary Sandvig, all in favor.
- c. Emergency Management Director recruitment: The Selectboard Clerk will draft notice of recruitment for posting in *The Islander* and on social media.

**5. Community Business:**

- a. Paul Zera Memorial - Deborah Spaulding presented to the Selectboard a draft of a plaque to honor Paul Zera; the memorial will be placed in the Town Office. The cost of the plaque will be less than \$100.00 and both the Public Library and Masons have volunteered to provide the funds. Board Chair Mary-Catherine Graziano recognized all involved for their time and commitment to honoring Paul Zera's memory.

**6. ILM School Building:**

- a. Update on building purchase - There has been no update since the meeting held on June 15th, 2023.
- b. School building inspection update - Rusty Spaulding participated in the building walk-through, which was conducted earlier this week. An extensive report with photos will be submitted, but notable items included the need for additional handicapped parking, directional lines in the parking lot, possible water seepage under kitchen tile, and the recommendation to convert the furnace to gas. The full report will be circulated once issued.
- c. Access/Key Transfer - Review of access will be moved to the July 5th, 2023 agenda.

**7. Contract Reviews + Approvals:**

- a. Popular Removal at Sea Wall Bid Review - A review of the scope of work has led to the determination that the most cost-effective solution is to cut down the trees annually. In light of this decision, a revised scope of work will be prepared and the job will be re-bid. A motion to re-bid was made by Rusty Spaulding, seconded by Cary Sandvig, all in favor.
- b. Roadside Mowing - John Yaratzt brought to the attention of the Selectboard that during his work on roadside mowing he has encountered a number of locations on the Island where brush growth is encroaching onto the roads. He has been chopping back some of the growth, where possible.
- c. Tree Stand ordinance motion to contact lawyer - The lawyer responsible for the review is currently on vacation.
- d. Sunset View Lot 7a - As there are three new offers on the property, Sylvia Jensen suggested letting the potential buyers know there are competing bids. Mary-Catherine Graziano will contact the agent and discuss the potential for increasing the sale price of the property.

**8. Animal Control:**

- a. Update on activity - Due to issues in the town of Alburgh, the Animal Control Officer (ACO) has resigned effective June 30th, 2023. Deborah Spaulding indicated that the ACOs in neighboring towns and islands were contacted within the past year and none are willing to take on Isle La Motte. Advertising for a new ACO will begin in the coming days.
- b. Dog license review - There are currently six households with dogs unregistered since 2022, all of whom have been called with no response. The Selectboard will issue certified letters to the households in the next two weeks.
- c. Humane Society Contract - The lawyer responsible for the review is currently on vacation.
- d. Recent Incidents - The dog who recently bit a resident on Shrine Road is now registered and the owner is considering an electric fence for the property.

9. **Road commissioner report:**

- a. Commissioner Report - The Commissioner was unavailable for the meeting.
  - b. Excessive Speed Signage - A citizen has requested that the digital speed sign be installed on Main Street beginning the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Professional installation of the unit is required in order to secure it from theft. The Selectboard may also consider conducting a speed study in the area, following up on one performed several years prior. Public Library volunteer Terrance Tuck noted his concern over the speeds of some travelers on Main Street; a solution needs to be determined before someone is injured.
  - c. Paul Carson Hidden Driveway - As discussed at the meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>, the hidden driveway sign can be posted at a distance of 450 feet which would fall on a property line and not impact the yard of any single resident. In addition to the purchase of the driveway sign, stop signs and a speed limit sign are needed on New Road; John Yartz has agreed to install the signs and will embed them in concrete to deter future vandalism. Mr. Yartz noted that District 8 is in the process of upgrading signage, so surplus signage may be available from them immediately. Rusty Spaulding advised Mary-Catherine Graziano to relay the information to Selby Turner for follow-up, as he will have the District 8 contact information.
10. **Town Planning Commission + American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee update:** There are currently eleven ARPA and twelve Town Planning candidates who will be emailed in the coming week to re-confirm their interest and asked to attend the July 5<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting for a final presentation and question/answer session. Selections for the two initiatives will be made and announced by the Selectboard at the end of the same meeting.
11. **Other business:** Joyce and Terrance Tuck were present to clarify the Library's prior request for use of a bike rack; the rack they are requesting is from the Old Town Hall, not from the Isle La Motte School. The correction will be made to the minutes from May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, and a copy of the amended minutes will be sent to Joyce Tuck to memorialize the approval.
12. **Executive Session:** An executive session was not required for this meeting.
13. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn at 7:30 PM by Rusty Spaulding, seconded by Cary Sandvig, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted on 24 June 2023 -  
Andrea Carbone

---

Mary-Catherine Graziano

---

Rusty Spaulding

---

Cary Sandvig

A group of about ten kayakers are scattered across a calm lake. They are wearing life jackets and using paddles. The kayakers are in various colored kayaks, including green, orange, blue, and yellow. The background shows a dense line of trees under a grey, overcast sky. The water is still, reflecting the light from the sky.

# GRAND ISLE COUNTY

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ISLE LA MOTTE SELECTBOARD MEETING  
JUNE 22, 2023



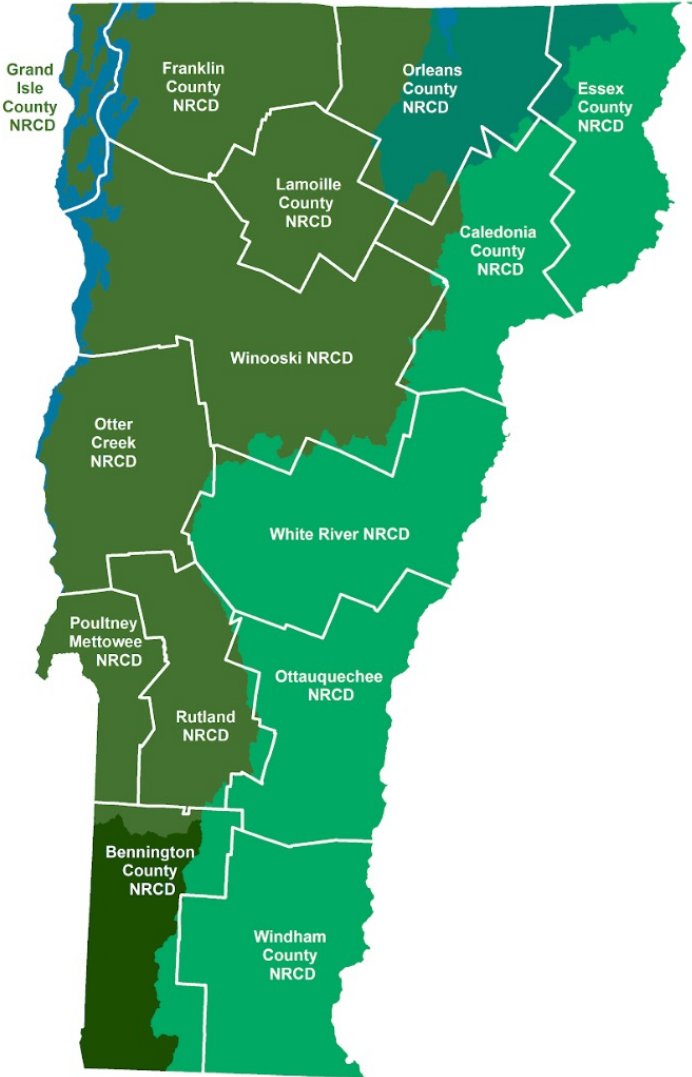








***We were created to lead local efforts to protect soil health, water quality, and other natural resources.***

Created by the Vermont Soil Conservation Act of 1939, Vermont's Natural Resources Conservation Districts (NRCDs) operate in recognition that *"the lands, water, forests, and wildlife of the State of Vermont are among the basic assets of the state, and that the preservation of these lands, water, forests, and wildlife by conservation, development, and use is necessary to protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of its people."*

10 V.S.A. § 701

*We serve the entire state and are foundational to the state's agricultural and conservation communities.*



-  Conservation District Boundary
-  Connecticut River Basin
-  Hudson River Basin
-  Lake Champlain Basin
-  Lake Memphremagog Basin
-  Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog

- Bennington County NRCD
- Caledonia County NRCD
- Essex County NRCD
- Franklin County NRCD
- Grand Isle County NRCD
- Lamoille County NRCD
- Orleans County NRCD
- Ottawaquechee NRCD
- Otter Creek NRCD
- Poultney Mettowee NRCD
- Rutland NRCD
- White River NRCD
- Windham County NRCD
- Winooski NRCD



# *We connect people, organizations and resources to steward our land and water resources for the future.*

Our goal is to:

- Provide non-regulatory services that are tailored to meet the needs of local people, local properties, and natural resources.
- Identify and refine the natural resource conservation priorities of the population of Grand Isle County.
- Be a local source and navigator of information about regional, statewide, or national programs and other financial assistance available for conservation work
- Act as pathway for local voices to impact all levels of government into action at the local level.
- Educate and provide public outreach to the community and academic institutions, focusing on environmental concerns and natural resource conservation in a manner that encourages appreciation and a stewardship ethic.
- Provide assistance to units of government and related agencies on priority resources.







*We help landowners make management and conservation decisions that improve the landscape for people and the planet.*

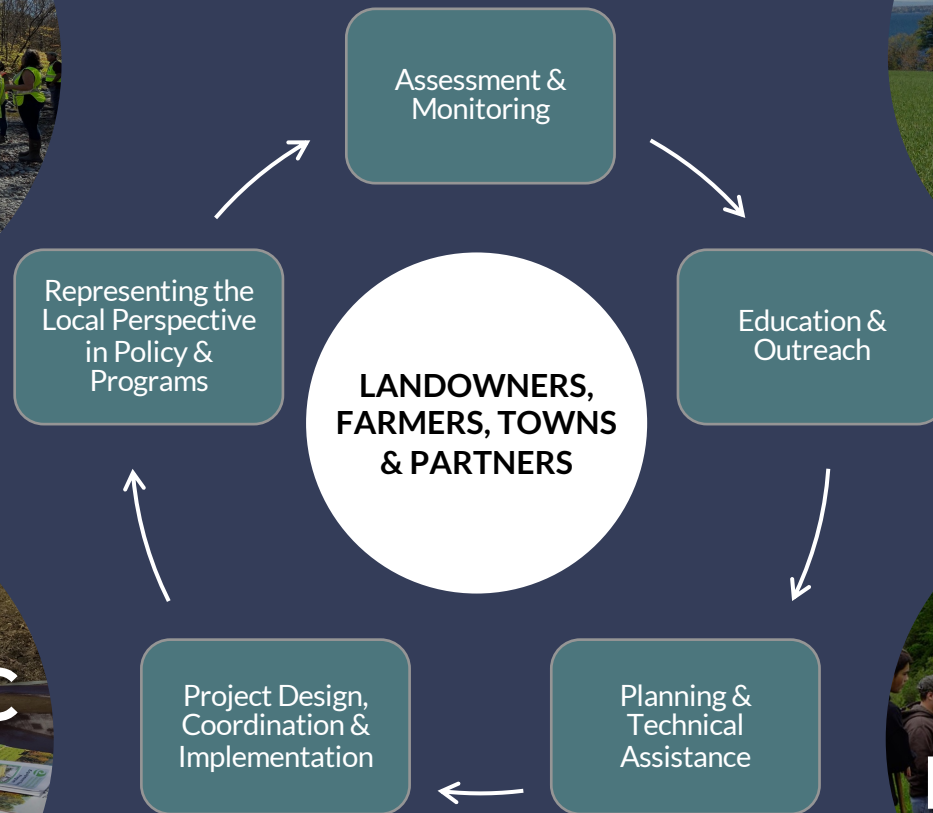
Our services include:

- Habitat restoration and enhancement
- Watershed or parcel-based assessments
- Technical and financial assistance
- Workshops, education, and outreach events
- Livestock and nutrient management
- Grant assistance
- Stormwater management
- Soil, manure, and water quality sampling
- Project development, planning, permitting, and implementation





# CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROGRAMS & METHODOLOGIES





# DISCUSSION

- What do you see as the greatest opportunity to make a positive change on the landscape?
- What are your greatest natural resource concerns in Isle La Motte?
- Are there unique challenges or concerns on your property, your street, your neighborhood, town, etc.?
- Where would you like to see more resources like technical assistance, financial assistance, resources, education, etc. be put to work?



MOLLY VARNER, DISTRICT MANAGER  
molly.gicnrcd@gmail.com | 845-323-2153