



# Town of Bennington

Communications Coordinator Report — January 23, 2023

## A Warm Welcome to 2023

I am delighted to be writing my first report for a new year! The warm weather however, is certainly odd. I don't recall ever getting rain in January growing up in Shaftsbury, and certainly not week after week of rain. Our energy usage will be lower, but our snow dependent activities have certainly been curtailed!

## Midterms, Select Board, and School Boards

A reminder that the deadline to be on the ballot for the Select Board and School Boards is January 30. To run for a seat on the Select Board or a School Board, you should start by visiting the Town Clerk. To be on the ballot you need to fill out a "Consent of Candidate" form and have a petition signed by 30 registered voters in the Town that is specific to the position you are seeking. The Town Clerk will guide you on how to properly fill out the form and petition to ensure there are no problems. The form is available by the secretary of state on the Vermont.gov website, but it is highly recommended that you pick it up at the Town Clerk's office so they can assist you and prevent errors that could jeopardize a candidacy.

## Community Outreach

In addition to continued outreach about the elections, I attended the monthly Continuum of Care meeting, the A.T. Community meeting, worked with CPARB on a communication plan, and attended the Friends of the Bennington Battlefield meeting. I had a meeting on planning for improvements at the Y woods with RJ Joly, director of Public Works, Cory Creagan, county forester, and Eric Bishop, forestry teacher at Southwest Tech.

## Citizen Outreach and Public Record Requests:

I met with citizens nine times over this past month on a variety of issues, ideas, and concerns. There were two public record requests to my office.

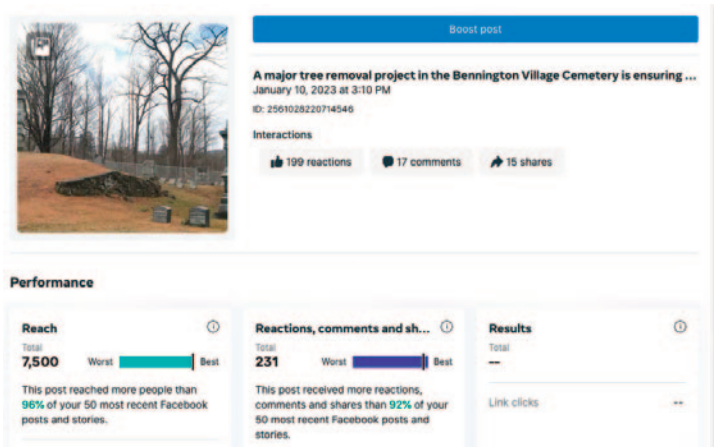
## 250th Anniversary Planning:

This past month I facilitated a meeting on 250th col-

laboration with the states of NY, MA, CT, RI, and VT. I was elected chair of the state 250th education committee, and I attended a local fundraising task force meeting for the Bennington 250th planning effort. I will have led a meeting for the full Bennington 250th committee quarterly meeting by the time you read this! Plans are starting to emerge and it's very exciting that we are less than two years out from our start in 2025.

## Website Development

Work on the new unified town website has been the major focus for this past month. I have met several times with members of the community for "beta testing" for the new website. Each session brought new insights and found details that needed fixing or improving. Our hope is that the new site will be as easy as possible for visitors to find the information they need. This process included working with a blind individual to learn from their experience navigating the site. This beta testing effort was extremely valuable and I appreciate the time that these folks donated!



## Facebook POST OF THE MONTH:

Numerous historic monuments and gravestones had been endangered by three old trees. A fallen limb or tree could have caused damage to what Tom Giffin of the VT Old Cemeteries Association called "priceless" monuments. The town contracted with Greater Heights Tree and Land Management to safely remove the trees.