



Director Report February 2022

Personnel / Administrative

- I hired Will Harris to do part-time program scheduling. This will free up some of my time and a lot of Rebekah's time, doing the daily schedules. As part of her scheduling work, Rebekah will shift to doing more long range planning and publicity. That will then free me up to work on other strategic and administrative tasks.
- We still have a need for a part-time field producer— I posted the position on the homepage of the website and also linked to it in our most recent e-news. I received one applicant so far

Programming & Production

- Town Meeting coverage: we begin our Town Meeting Coverage next Saturday (Feb. 26) with a live hybrid meeting in Andover. We then have 2 to cover (also live hybrids) the following Monday (Feb. 28) in Mt. Holly & Plymouth. We could use some help on that night, since running 2 of these meetings simultaneously is quite a challenge. Then, we have the Cavendish Town Meeting (also a live hybrid) March 28th, & Ludlow's on April 4th. The Ludlow Village Annual Meeting is March 21st.
- Annual School Meetings: Next week, we are covering the annual meetings for both the Ludlow-Mt. Holly and Green Mountain Unified School Districts, on the 22nd & 24th, respectively.
- State Rep. Charlie Kimbell Updates: I continue to record weekly updates with Rep. Kimbell, who joins remotely each Friday. I have been trying to solicit questions ahead of time from his constituents. You can help spread the word to any contacts you have in Woodstock, Reading, & Plymouth.
- Legislative Roundtable: We are teaming up with the Chamber of Commerce on Monday Feb. 21 at 5pm. The Chamber has invited all 3 Windsor Co. Senators and the local State Reps. The legislators and any attendees will join remotely, with Carol Lighthall from the Chamber and our very own George Thomson from the studio. George is moderating the discussion. Information and registration is being handled through the Chamber website: yourplaceinvermont.com. So this is yet another opportunity to spread the word and get people to participate (with or by joining or submitting a question ahead of time).
- Innkeepers' Ski Races: Thanks to Pat Moore for continuing to cover the races this season!
- School sports coverage: As I mentioned last month, I subscribed to the NFHS Network video streaming service. NFHS is providing coverage of all Green Mt. & Mill River HS basketball games, as well as for many other schools throughout the country. Tso, we are now able to televise the games for both schools. It takes some work on our end (though not as much if we were producing the game coverage ourselves), The quality could certainly use some improvement, and I believe this is where we can come in, to help provide a "value added" service to the schools, the A.D's, and perhaps on a larger scale (through our work with VAN), the Vermont Principals' Association ("VPA"). The VPA has established the relationship with NFHS.
- Thanks to a simple editing job we did with a Zoom recording from the Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Planning Commission (on the Lake Amherst dam situation), we are now partnering with them on the production of a short series of flood mitigation videos. That work will likely be conducted this Spring.

Community Engagement

- Underwriting: Thanks to a collaborative effort in December & January, we have had some success with the program. In the last month, we have added Heritage Family Credit Union, and have a verbal commitment from The Killarney.
- Rotary Club presentation: I was invited to speak at the Ludlow Rotary Club this week, to give an update on our operations. There is a follow-up news release going out to the usual outlets for next week's editions.

Facility & Equipment

- Building Project: As I mentioned last month, the cost estimate is done and now is the time to reconvene with our Building Committee to go over next steps, if we want to move the project forward this year.
- Energy Efficiency: I have reached out to Efficiency Vermont to see how they can assist with the final phase of the project. We are on their radar and I expect more detail to follow soon.
- Exterior site work: I have had a brief follow-up conversation with Town Manager Scott Murphy about the needs for drainage & paving. I asked him to come by to do another tour, since this is the time of year when the most significant problems are prevalent. More to come on this.
- Streaming Server: The River Valley Technical Center IT class is putting together a server for us so that we will be able to soon stream the Education / Gov. channel 24/7, as we've been doing for the past year with the Community Channel. This is a great partnership.

VAN

- FY22 Budget Adjustment Requests: The \$300,000 request has been included in the State's FY2022 Budget Adjustment, and it's anticipated that the funds will be available to us in the very near future. They will need to be used by the end of the FY (June 30). For simplicity purposes, the VAN Board decided to make this funding available in equal sums to each member. (there are 24 VAN members, so $\$300K / 24 = \$12,500$ each).
- FY23 Request: The \$600,000 request has been made; there has been growing support for it. The House & Senate Appropriations Committee recently held 2 public hearings (Feb. 8 & 9) on FY23 requests & VAN was well represented with testimony in favor of the request. You can watch the Feb. 9th hearing here: <https://youtu.be/AQMJPiIL2kk> and the Feb. 8th hearing here: <https://youtu.be/z9LG4H7NbX4>
- Advocacy Work: I continue to participate to the extent possible in the VAN Advocacy work, including recently joining 2 other colleagues for a presentation to the Rural Economic Development Working Group (which is co-chaired by Rep. Charlie Kimbell)