



# **Town Report of Norwich, Vermont**

*Fiscal Year 2008*

*July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008*

This report is dedicated to the memory of Elsie Sniffin  
of Beaver Meadow who passed away February 6th, 2008.

### **Elsie Sniffin**



Elsie became a resident of Norwich in 1959 when she and her friend Ruth Peet moved up from Norwalk, Connecticut to live in the Meadow. She wasted no time after her arrival and became an active member of both the Norwich and Beaver Meadow communities. She and Ruth worked closely with the Wallaces, Ray and Anna Royce, and many others to make the Beaver Meadow Union Chapel Association the thriving, preservation and community worship center it is today. In 1995, the Beaver Meadow Union Chapel was placed on the National Register of Historic Places due in large measure to Elsie's efforts. Elsie and Ruth worked tirelessly with many others, including Shirley and Arthur Owen, to make the Beaver Meadow School House a place to gather and celebrate Beaver Meadow, and Norwich, community events over many decades. Many who moved into the Meadow in the

intervening years will recall fondly that their first introduction, and welcome, to the Meadow was Elsie and Ruth's open hand and hearts, as well as gifts of food and directions (and regular invitations) to the Chapel and Schoolhouse!

When they moved permanently to Beaver Meadow in 1959, the road to Norwich was still mostly dirt. Old Charlie Hodgdon (who had lived just off Beaver Meadow Road most of his life) was convinced that the "girls," as they were affectionately known, would not last that first winter! With Ruth Peet's trusty jeep they not only survived that first winter, they were clearly destined to become central members of the Beaver Meadow, and Norwich, communities. From the annual Nearly New Sale and Christmas Bazaar to the regular community gatherings in the Norwich Grange, Norwich Churches, and many, many other locales, Elsie and Ruth were the first to volunteer and help out. They were also steadfast friends and correspondents, even to many who had lived in Norwich but moved away.

Elsie was born on August 25th, 1915 in Norwalk, Connecticut, the daughter of David and Edith Sniffin. She was very proud of her Abenaki, Irish, and English ancestry. She attended school in Norwalk, and went to work for the H.L. Green Company in Connecticut. She worked from 1959 to the 1970's as the secretary of the Sociology Department at Dartmouth before her retirement. She was a Lister in Norwich (1973-1990), an active member of the Norwich Historical Society, a Board member and supporter of Norwich Senior Housing, the Norwich Public Library, the Norwich Grange, Eastern Star, and many other community organizations and efforts.

In 1991, Elsie worked with many community members to pen the *Beaver Meadow Bicentennial Calendar*. In 2003 she published a pictorial history of Beaver Meadow, *The Good Men Do, A Tribute to the Folks of the Beaver Meadow Community*, and was planning a longer history of Beaver Meadow as well. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 she was awarded a Vermont Public Service Award by the Vermont Secretary of State for her life-long service to the Norwich community.

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of  
Norwich, Vermont

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## **Warning of Annual Town & School District Meeting March 3, 2009**

The legal voters of the Town of Norwich, Vermont and the Norwich Town School District are hereby notified and warned to meet in Tracy Memorial Hall, Norwich, Vermont at 7:00 pm on Monday, March 2, 2009, to transact business not requiring a vote by Australian ballot. Voting for Town Officers and for all articles on the Warning will be by Australian ballot. The polls will be open Tuesday, March 3, 2009 from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

This meeting is called to determine if the Town will:

**Article 1.** Elect a Moderator of the Town and School District meeting for one year.

**Article 2.** Elect Town and School District Officers for terms starting in 2009.

**Article 3.** Hear and act on the reports of the Officers of the Town and Town School District.

**Article 4.** Authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(9).

**Article 5.** Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District determine and fix the salaries of the School Board members in the sum of \$500 each per year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(5)?

**Article 6.** Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District appropriate \$4,676,506, necessary for the support of its school for the year beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2010?

**Article 7.** Transact any other business that may legally come before the annual meeting of the Norwich Town School Board.

**Article 8.** Approve a gross spending General Town Budget of \$3,989,623 plus unanticipated state and federal grants and gifts consistent with budgeted programs for the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

**Article 9.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich vote to eliminate the office of Town Auditor pursuant to Title 17 VSA § 2651b?

**Article 10.** If the Town votes to eliminate the office of auditor in accordance with 17 V.S.A. § 2651b, shall the Selectboard appoint three members to the Norwich Finance Committee to replace the three elected auditors: one to serve for a term of one year, one to serve for a term of two years, and one to serve for a term of three years and after the expiration of each original term, the successor shall be appointed for a three-year term? The current Norwich Finance Committee has seven members consisting of three elected auditors, three elected finance committee members and the elected treasurer.

**Article 11.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich retire the Fire Training Facility Designated Fund and add those revenues to the Tracy Hall Designated Fund?

**Article 12.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich retire the Town Manager Vehicle Designated Fund and add those revenues to the Tracy Hall Designated Fund?

**Article 13.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$500 to the Senior Action Council?

**Article 14.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$1,500 to the Norwich American Legion?

**Article 15.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$162,114 for the operating expenses of the Norwich Public Library Association?

- Article 16.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$2,000 to ACORN (A Community Resource Network)?
- Article 17.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$9,536 to Advance Transit to provide public transportation services?
- Article 18.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to be paid to The Family Place to help support programs which benefit Norwich children?
- Article 19.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$2,500 to Headrest?
- Article 20.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$1,750 to SEVCA (Southeastern Vermont Community Action)?
- Article 21.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$5,300 to the White River Council on Aging?
- Article 22.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$1,000 to Windsor County Partners?
- Article 23.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$2,500 to WISE (Women's Information Service)?
- Article 24.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$6,000 to Youth-In-Action?
- Article 25.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$15,000 to the Cemetery Commission under 18 VSA § 5361 to supplement the interest from the Perpetual Care Trust Fund for maintenance of the Town Cemeteries?
- Article 26.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$2,000 to the Upper Valley Trails Alliance?
- Article 27.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$8,000 to the Norwich Historical Society and Community Center to assist with general operations?
- Article 28.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate the sum of \$13,600 to help support the home health, maternal and child health and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of VT and NH?
- Article 29.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$3,093 to the Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeast Vermont in support of community services provided to Norwich?, Norwich Board of School Directors
- Article 30.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$4,348 to The Child Care Center of Norwich to be used for one year income sensitive scholarships to Norwich children?
- Article 31.** Shall the voters of the Town of Norwich appropriate \$500 to the Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community through volunteer service?
- Article 32.** Require that taxes be paid in U.S. funds in two installments. The first installment will be due and accepted at the Town of Norwich Finance Office on or before 4:30 pm August 14, 2009 and the balance will be due at the same location on or before 4:30 pm February 12, 2010. Property tax adjustments from the State of Vermont will be applied to tax installments in order. An official United States Post Office postmark/cancellation (not a postage machine date) will determine the payment date for all mailed payments. Interest on overdue taxes will be charged at 1% per month for the first three months and 1\_ % per month thereafter. All delinquent taxes will be subject to an 8% collection fee in accordance with Vermont Statutes after February 12, 2010. All taxes, interest and collection fees will be paid into the Town Treasury.

**Article 33.** Transact any other business that may legally come before the annual Norwich Town Meeting.

**Norwich Selectboard**  
Gerard Chapdelaine  
Edwin Childs  
Suzanne Lupien  
Alison M. May  
Sarah Nunan

**Norwich School Board**  
Linda Addante  
Carey Callaghan  
Jim Mackall  
Mary Sachsse  
Geoffrey Vitt

### **Voter Information**

**Registration:** To be eligible to vote in this election, people must register to vote and applications to the checklist must be received by the Town Clerk by 4:30 pm on Wednesday, February 25, 2009.

**Absentee Ballots:** All requests for absentee voter ballots must be made prior to 4:30 pm on Monday, March 2, 2009. There are three ways you may vote by absentee ballot:

1. Voters may vote in person in the Town Clerk's Office. 17 VSA §2537.
2. Ballots may be delivered by teams of Justices of the Peace to voters who are absent due to illness or physical disability. The Town Clerk must receive notice no later than three days in advance. 17 VSA §2538.
3. Ballots may be mailed to absent voters if a valid application has been filed with the Town Clerk. 17 VSA §2539.

**Curbside Voting:** Election Officials are permitted "to carry a ballot to a handicapped or elderly person in order to permit that person to mark his ballot while in a motor vehicle adjacent to the polling place." 17 VSA, §2502(b).

Tracy Hall is handicapped accessible. Any person needing additional assistance should contact the Town Clerk at least four days before Town Meeting.

## Candidates for Office • March 3, 2009

### For MODERATOR

For one year

Vote for not more than ONE

- THAYER, WARREN

### For Dresden-Norwich SCHOOL DIRECTOR

For three years

Vote for not more than ONE

- MACKALL, JAMES

### For Norwich SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Unexpired term

For one year

Vote for not more than ONE

### For LISTER

For three years

Vote for not more than ONE

- CHAPDELAINE, GERARD

### For SELECTMAN

For three years

Vote for not more than ONE

- CICCOTELLI, ERNIE
- MCGREW, LYNN S.

### For SELECTMAN

For two years

Vote for not more than ONE

- MAY, ALISON
- RACUSIN, SHARON

### For AUDITOR

For three years

Vote for not more than ONE

### For AUDITOR

Unexpired term

For two years

Vote for not more than ONE

### For AUDITOR

Unexpired term

For one year

Vote for not more than ONE

### For GRAND JUROR

For one year

Vote for not more than ONE

### For FINANCE COMMITTEE

For three years

Vote for not more than ONE

### For FINANCE COMMITTEE

Unexpired term

For two years

- FLANDERS, STEPHEN N.

### For FINANCE COMMITTEE

Unexpired term

For one year

- LAJOIE, STEPHEN

### For AGENT TO PROSECUTE & DEFEND SUIT

For one year

Vote for not more than ONE

### For CEMETERY COMMISSIONER

For five years

Vote for not more than ONE

- SOFRONAS, DEMO (DEMOSTHENES)

### For TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS

For three years

Vote for not more than ONE

- HALL, DEBORAH J.

### For TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS

Unexpired term

For two years

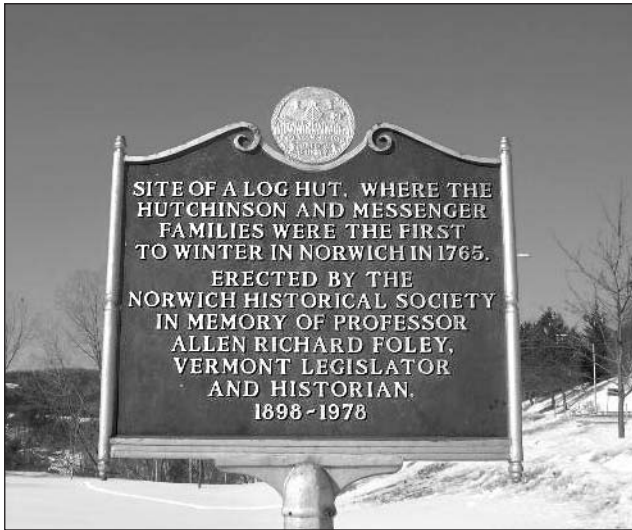
Vote for not more than one

- YOUNG, MARIE ELISE

## Foley Park

Foley Park, on the Connecticut River at the Ledyard Bridge, was named for Allen Richard Foley (1898-1978), a distinguished Dartmouth professor, Vermont Legislator, and a 20-year Norwich Town Moderator. The park is near the site where the Hutchinson and Messenger families huddled together in the Messengers' log cabin during the winter of 1765-66. They were the first settlers to spend the winter in Norwich, sustained in part by fish, deer, and corn planted earlier on an island now inundated by the Wilder Dam.

The site of Foley Park once bustled with activity as ferries, roads, and rail helped spur Norwich's growth. Eventually the small but vibrant community of Lewiston, named for Dr. Joseph Lewis, another 18th century settler, lined the shoreline. Ice and coal companies, a cider mill, and creamery once stood here, as did several residences. In 1967, after the Interstate was built, many of the buildings of Lewiston were razed. Now, walkers and bikers may pause at the park to admire the peaceful beauty of the river.



Sign at Foley Park. Photo by Terry Boone