

Welcome to Weathersfield

Welcome to Weathersfield, Vermont!

Nestled in south-central Vermont, the beautiful Town of Weathersfield is a great place to visit, and an even greater place to live.

Located in Windsor County, our Town is comprised of several small villages and hamlets, including Perkinsville on the west side of Town and Ascutney on the east. We are bordered on the east by the Connecticut River, on the north by Mount Ascutney, on the west by the Town of Cavendish, and on the south by the Town of Springfield.

A short drive from Boston, New York and Montreal, Weathersfield's natural beauty and historic nature make it a great place to visit on a day trip or weekend. Weathersfield is a haven for recreational activities. You can enjoy hiking, canoeing, swimming, camping, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, cross-county skiing, snowmobiling, and other outdoor activities. Immerse yourself in history or explore the beauty of nature at some of Weathersfield's <u>Sites and Attractions.</u> Have a picnic at a covered bridge, tour local artists' studios, pick your own apples at a hilltop orchard, or enjoy a meal at a five star country inn - it's all right here in Weathersfield!



2018 Community Events

Town Festivals Potlucks Free Movie Nights Free Concerts Touch-a-Truck Trunk or Treat Easter Egg Hunt And more

Inside this welcome package:

- Weathersfield at a Glance
- Town Office
- Elections
- Tax Billing
- Homestead Information
- DMV Renewals
- Dog Licenses
- Green Mountain Passports
- Bike and Hike
- Weathersfield History
- Important Contact Numbers

History of Weathersfield

The town of Weathersfield was chartered as part of the Province of New Hampshire by Benning Wentworth, Governor and Commander-in-Chief August 20th, 1761. Settlement began in the town of Weathersfield before 1765 and organization took place in 1768.

Many of the grantees lived around New Haven, Connecticut, so the town's name probably derives from Wethersfield, one of the smaller communities in that area. Originally the name of the Vermont town was spelled the same way as is in England and Connecticut, but the "a" slipped into the Vermont spelling very early.

The Connecticut town was named in 1637 for Wethersfield, Essex, England, where the name originally referred to a field associated with a wether (from the Old English wither), or castrated ram. Wethers often were trained to lead a fiock of ewes to and from pasture. When the Vermonters put the "a" into their town's name, they lost its old pastoral meaning, which would have been appropriate in view of the sheep boom that later made Weathersfield one of the most prosperous towns in the state.

One Jonathan Allen, an early settler in town, was a veteran of Bunker Hill and had the scar to prove it. One of his ears was lopped off by his own commander because he had fired on the British before the order was given.

In 1830 a post office was opened at the village which is now known as Ascutney. The office was named just Corners (not Weathersfield Corners, as was intended). When the application forms were made out for the post office, Weathersfield's name was put in the proper place for the town's name and Corners was put in for the village name, the assumption apparently that any fool could see the village name was Weathersfield Corners. But the postal authorities weren't just any fools: they took the name exactly as they read it, and for twenty years the office was just Corners.

At some point it occurred to someone that Corners lay in the shadow of Mount Ascutney, so in 1851 the name of the post office was changed to Ascutneyville. In 1924, during one of Washington's periods of trying to tidy up postal names, the -ville was dropped, and the village has been Ascutney ever since. Ascutney is a very old Abnaki name for the mountain, possibly meaning a place "at the end of the river fork." Although Weathersfield has the village of Ascutney and Little Ascutney Mountain, the main peak of Mount Ascutney is over the line in the towns of Windsor and West Windsor.

Ascutney Mountain, a detached peak 3,144 feet high, is partly in the town and has a ski resort area [located in the adjoining town of West Windsor). According to other sources, the word Ascutney is said to come from the Indian word cascadnac, meaning a peak with steep sides.

At the southeast, the Connecticut River makes a queer bend, long called Weathersfield Bow.

Broadcloth, cassimere and satinet were formerly made in great quantities here. In 1811 William Jarvis, then Consul to Portugal, brought to Weathersfield from Spain, a world-famous herd of 3,500 Merino sheep. They were some of the first of this breed to be introduced into the United States, and in 1840 over 10,000 were owned in Weathersfield alone.

Weathersfield is also noted for its fine Holstein cattle and English-bred horses. Paint, soapstone products and printing ink were formerly made here. [The Vermont Soapstone Company was re-organized in the 1970s and today, again, produces soapstone products in Perkinsville.]

There were 136 Weathersfield men who served in the Civil War, and it is believed to be the highest proportion of any town in the Union states.

Welcome!

Below you will find some vital information about our Town, from information about Town Meetings to census data to whom to call for burn permits.

The Town is governed by a five-member Selectboard. Meetings first and third Monday of each month at 7 pm at Martin Hall.

Town Commissions are Planning Commission and Conservation Commission. There is also a Zoning Board of Adjustment. Residents must apply to the Planning Commission for all permits for subdivision of land and to the Zoning Board for all permits for building or altering dwellings or businesses. Copies of the Town Plan, zoning regulations, and subdivisions regulations are available at the Town Office.

New residents should come to the Town Office to register to vote, to receive a town report, and to secure permits for the trash and recycling center. Necessary tokens for the trash may be purchased at the Town Office, at Downer's Corner Store and Ascutney Sunoco Gas Station.

Permits are needed for septic systems and are available from the State offices located in Springfield, VT. Other applications may be found at the Town website <u>www.weathersfieldvt.org</u>

Demographics of the Weathersfield Town

Miles of road		
state roads: 31.05		
town roads: 69.12		
class 4 (unmaintained): 4.06	Employment:	
	Percent of residents working in community: 18.0%	
Land area: 44 square miles	Unemployment rate: 3.1%	
Percent private and public conserved lands: 13.9	1 5	
1 1	Top five occupations in which residents work:	
Population:	1. Management	
1	2. Production/Manufacturing	
2010: 2,825	3. Construction	
,,,	4. Health services	
2005: 2,703	5. Educational services	
2000: 2,788		
1990: 2,674	Housing Units: 1,418	
Number of families: 831	Owner occupied: 1,104	
Average family size: 2.77	Renter occupied: 123	
Trefuge fulling size. 2.77	Vacant: 191	
Income:	vuount. 191	
Median per worker: \$32,161	Full-time police department: Yes	
Median family income: \$74,087	Full-time fire department: No	
Median household income: \$61,625	i un unie me department. No	
field in household income. \$01,025		



Weathersfield Municipal Office

Town Clerk's Office: Provides various services to the public including free notary service, registering voters, registering dogs, issuing marriage licenses, certifying copies of vital records, recording and storing land records. Other services provided include: issuing land postings, DMV registration renewals and Green Mountain Passports.

Administration Office: Responsible for the Town's general operation and serves as the liaison to the Selectboard and the Town road crews. Contact the Administration office with concerns regarding roads and sidewalks, the annual budget, tax questions or general Selectboard questions. The Selectboard meets every first and third Monday at 7:00PM at Memorial Hall.

Listers' Office: Assesses all personal and real properties subject to taxation in Weathersfield, prepares the grand list and conducts grievance hearings. Weathersfield properties were reappraised in 2008 and before that in 1994. The CLA as of January 1, 2018 was 96.45%.

Zoning & Planning Office: Manages all permitting, zoning, development and planning issues in Weathersfield. Permits are required for all structures, changes of use and land subdivisions.

Fire Department: The Ascutney and West Weathersfield Fire Departments serve the community with dedicated members that protects lives and property.

Police Department: Is responsible for all safety & emergencies in the Town.

OFFICE HOU	RS	Ν	IUNICIPAL EMAILS
ADMINISTRATION Monday-Thursday	7:30-5:30	Administration	weathersfield@weathersfield.org
TOWN CLERK Monday-Wednesday Thursday	9:00-4:00 9:00-5:30	Lister Finance Town Clerk	lister@weathersfield.org accountant@weathersfield.org townclerk@weathersfield.org
LISTERS Monday & Wednesday 4:00 Tuesday & Thursday 5:30	11:00- 9:00-	Zoning Highway Treasurer Payroll	landuse@weathersfield.org highway@weathersfield.org treasurer@weathersfield.org payroll@weathersfield.org
ZONING Monday & Thursday 5:30 Wednesday & Thursday 12:00	1:30- 10:00-		

Schools Weathersfield School Grades K thru 8 Jean Marie K. Oakman, Principal Ascutney, Vermont 674-5400

http://www.wsesu.net/ws-home/

The schools are governed by a five-member School Board. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm. There is no High school; students have the choice of attending other community high schools.

Fire Wardens

Ascutney Fire Warden, Darrin Spaulding	802-263-5377
West Weathersfield Fire Warden, Joshua Dauphin	802-356-0623

For burn permits, call either of the following:

Darrin Spaulding	802-263-5377
Tom Heiser	802-674-6664
Joshua Dauphin	802-356-0623
Mychael Spaulding	802-356-0038

Post Offices

Weathersfield is served by six separate post offices:

Ascutney 674-5308	Reading 484-5994	Perkinsville 263-9298
Cavendish 226-7238	Springfield 885-4103	Windsor 674-5822

For more information call the Town Office.

Hospitals

Mt Ascutney Hospital, Windsor, VT Springfield Hospital, Springfield, VT Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH Valley Regional Hospital, Claremont, NH

Utilities Electricity 1-888-835-4672 (Green Mountain Power)

Telephone

263-9911 TDS Telecom 1-800-585-4466 Verizon

Recycling Center and Transfer Station

Route 106, north of Downer's Corner Hours: Wednesday - 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Saturday - 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Sunday - 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Residents use the Weathersfield Transfer Station, located at the intersection of VT Rt. 106 and Amsden School Road in Weathersfield for recycling and trash disposal. Details of recycling and refuse regulations and associated fees are available at the Town office. Tokens can be purchased at Downers Corner Store, The Weathersfield Town Offices, and Ascutney Sunoco Gas Station and Store in Ascutney. A vehicle identification sticker is required and is available at the town office with proof of eligibility.

Tokens \$ 3.50 per punch 5 punch \$17.50 10 punch \$35.00

Quality in Town Government depends on our citizens. Your time and talent as a volunteer in serving on boards and commissions make it possible for decisions to be made by the people for the people. For information of openings and job responsibilities, contact the Town Office. We hope you will participate.

Transportation

Claremont Municipal Airport Hartness State Airport Lebanon Municipal Airport Vermont Transit Lines Dartmouth Coach Advance Transit Amtrak's Vermonter

Media Outlets

NEW! Weathersfield in the News (Be sure to also search "Ascutney" and "Perkinsville")

Radio	Television
Vermont Radio Stations	WCAX Ch. 3
New Hampshire Radio	WNNE Ch. 31
Stations	WVNY Ch. 22
	Vermont Public Television
	Springfield Area Public Access
	TV
	Vermont Radio Stations New Hampshire Radio

Annual Meetings/Elections



Vermont State Primary: *Weathersfield Memorial Hall, Downstairs, 5259 Route 5, every year on the 2nd Tuesday in August to* vote for party nominations for State officials.

General Election: Weathersfield Memorial Hall, Downstairs, 5259 Route 5 to vote for State officials and Justices of the Peace.

To learn more about elections in Vermont go online to: <u>https://www.sec.state.vt.us/elections</u>

If you have any questions, please call the Weathersfield Town Clerk's Office at 674-9500.

REGISTER TO VOTE:

There were new changes to Vermont Election Laws that went into effect on January 1, 2017. As of that date:

- Eligible residents are able to register to vote on any day up to and including Election Day;
- Registration is available at the Town Clerk's Office on any day prior to the election during normal business hours;
- Registration is available on Election Day during the hours the polls are open. To register to vote you can come to the Town Clerk's Office at 5259 Route 5. You may also register to vote online at: <u>https://mvp.sec.state.vt.us/</u>.



Proctor Library, Ascutney



2018-2019 Tax Billing

By law, taxes are levied on property as it exists for the owner of record on April 1st prior to the start of the tax year. Tax bills are mailed to the April 1st owner of record at the address on file with the Lister's Office. If all or a part of the taxed property is sold, it is the seller's responsibility to forward the tax bill to the new owner. Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve any taxpayer of responsibility to pay the property taxes, interest or penalties when they become due to the Town of Weathersfield.

Installment Dates

Due dates, deadlines to pay, interest and penalty fees are all voted on at the Annual Town Meeting. ONE BILL will be sent at least 30 days prior to the first due date. <u>This is the only bill you will receive</u> and also includes applicable Village taxes. You will <u>NOT</u> receive a notice of payment due for the final installment. This bill includes four installment coupons attached to the bottom and you may pay it in full or in installments as follows:

- FIRST installment due and payable at the Town Office by 5:30 PM on August 8, 2018
- SECOND installment due and payable at the Town Office by 5:30 PM on November 7, 2018
- THIRD installment due and payable at the Town Office by 5:30 PM on February 13, 2019
- FINAL installment due and payable at the Town Office by 5:30 PM on May 8, 2019

Any installment not paid on or before the close of business at 5:30 PM on the due date will be subject to interest on the unpaid principal at the rate of 1% per month for the first three months and 1.5% thereafter per 32 V.S.A. §4873. An 8% penalty on the unpaid principal will be charged if payment is not received in full on or before the close of business at 5:30 PM on the final installment due date as provided by 32 V.S.A. §5136.

You can pay property taxes more frequently than the four installments.

Property Owners Responsibilities

• By law, taxes are levied on property as it exists for the owner of record on April 1st prior to the start of the tax year. Tax bills are mailed to the April 1st owner of record to the address on file with the Lister's Office.

• If your property is sold after April 1st it your responsibility to forward the tax bill to the new owner and the new owner's responsibility to take notice of the due dates. This office does not know what arrangements have been made regarding who is to pay the taxes at the time of transfer.

• If your property is subdivided after April 1st your bill contains taxes due on the entire parcel. It is your responsibility to make sure the entire tax bill is paid in full for the year. You must contact your attorney for prorated taxes or funds being held in escrow on the sale and division of the property.

• If your taxes are held in escrow by a mortgage company you are responsible for providing your escrow company with all the current information included on your property tax bill.

Payment Methods

The Town of Weathersfield offers choices for paying your property tax bill. Contact us for more information at 674-2626 or <u>weathersfield@weathersfield.org</u>.

- * Direct Debit
- * Check
- * Cash

See the notice printed on the back of your tax bill for more important information provided by the

Vermont Department of Taxes

Escrow

If a property owner has his/her property taxes held in escrow by a mortgage company, the Town will no longer forward a copy to the institution without a written request. The property taxpayer must contact the escrow service with all the information included on the property tax bills.

2018 Homestead Information



By Vermont law, property owners whose homes meet the definition of a Vermont homestead must file a Homestead Declaration **annually** by the April 18, 2019 filing deadline. A late filing fee will apply after that date. A homestead is the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by the resident as the person's domicile. All property is considered *non-residential*, unless it is declared as a *homestead*. It is your responsibility as the property owner to claim the property as a homestead if you meet, or expect to meet, the following requirements: you are a Vermont resident and you own and occupy a homestead more than 182 days as your domicile as of April 1, 2019. Declare your homestead with the Vermont Tax Department by filing Form HS-122.

Property Tax Adjustment Claim

The Vermont Property Tax Adjustment assists many Vermont homeowners with paying their property taxes. You may be eligible for a property tax adjustment on your property taxes if your property qualifies as a homestead and you meet *all* of the following eligibility requirements:

- Your property qualifies as a homestead, and you have filed a Homestead Declaration for the 2019 grand list
- You were <u>domiciled</u> in Vermont for the full prior calendar year
- You were not claimed as a dependent of another taxpayer
- You have the property as your homestead as of April 1; and
- You meet the household income criteria (see form for current year income limit).

Property Tax Adjustment Claims are made to the Department of Taxes by filing Form HS-122, Section B. Visit the Department of Taxes website at **www.tax.vermont.gov** or call 1-866-828-2865 for more information.

Vermont Current Use Value Appraisal Program

Owners of agricultural and forest land may be eligible to have land taxed at the lower "use value" rate by enrolling in the Current Use Program. To qualify, parcels must be managed according to a forest or conservation management plan approved by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Applications are due by Sept 1 in order to enroll for the following tax year. For additional information, see http://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/current-use

Veterans Exemption

In Weathersfield, the first \$40,000 of appraised value of the established residence of a qualifying veteran, his or her surviving spouse or child is exempt if:

- the residence is owned in fee simple by one or jointly and;
- written application for the exemption is filed with the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs (VOVA) before May 1.

For questions regarding the application process and eligibility contact the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs at (802) 828-3379.



Grievances

Property owners may grieve the assessed value of their property by submitting a

written notice of appeal to the Board of Listers on or before the date that grievance hearings are held - sometime after April 1st. Call 802-674-2626 for the specific date. If your property has been improved (with an addition, for example) or if the town has conducted a town-wide reappraisal, you will receive a "change of appraisal" notice. The date for grievance hearings will be specified in the notice.

Address Changes

Please notify us at (802) 674-2626 or <u>weathersfield@weathersfield.org</u> of any address changes so that you may receive timely information from our office regarding your tax bills, voting, dog licensing, or other Town business





Dog Licensing/ DMV Renewals/Green Mountain Passports

Dog Licensing

By law, all dogs and wolf hybrids six months of age (if first rabies vaccine 3 months) or older must be licensed by April 1st each year in the town where the dog resides. Licenses are only available through the Town Clerk's Office and may be purchased in person or by mail if there is a current rabies certificate on file. Licenses are available after mid January each year. Weathersfield does not currently license cats.

In order to license your dog you must present the following items:

- A copy of a valid rabies certificate (unless one is already on file).
- Proof of Spay/Neuter certificate (if applicable)
- Cash or a check made payable to "Town of Weathersfield"

FEES:

Before April 1st:Neutered/ Spayed:\$5.Male/ Female:\$9.April 1st:Neutered/ Spayed:\$7Male/ Female:\$13

\$5.00 + \$5.00 state = \$10.00 \$9.00 + \$5.00 state = \$14.00 \$7.00 + \$5.00 state = \$12.00 \$13.00 + \$5.00 state = \$18.00



DMV Renewals

Our office is able to issue temporary vehicle registration renewals. The receipt and sticker that are given out at the Clerk's office are only temporary and within a few weeks after paying, the state will send the appropriate stickers to you. You can also renew your registration online at:

https://secure.vermont.gov/dmv/express



In order to renew your registration you need the following:

- \Box A preprinted renewal form from the DMV.
- □ The renewal form must be for current month or the previous two month period.
- A check or money order made payable to DMV.
 (NO cash or credit cards accepted)
- A separate \$3.00 processing fee paid directly to the Town for each renewal.
 (Cash or check accepted)

Green Mountain Passports

The Green Mountain Passport Program was started in 1973 by an Act of the Vermont General Assembly. Use your passport for free admission to Vermont State Parks (overnight camping and other fees are excluded), Vermont State Historical Sites and events which are fully State sponsored.

To be eligible for a passport you must be a resident of Vermont<u>AND</u>:

- 62 years old or older <u>or</u>
- A veteran of the uniformed services



Come to the Town Clerks office and pick your card up today!

Volunteer Opportunities with the Town

• Budget Committee (Five Openings) - Works with Town Manager and Selectboard to give citizen input on the proposed budget.

• Connecticut River Joint Commission (CRJC) – Works to engage local leadership and focus resources to benefit the Connecticut River and the people of its valley.

• CRJC Mt Ascutney Subcommittee – A subcommittee of the CRJC

• Conservation Commission (Two Openings) – The conservation commission is an advisory body that exist to help Weathersfield protect and enhance their natural resources.

• Emergency Management Coordinator – The Emergency Management Coordinator is an essential part of the state's emergency management effort and is responsible for the organization, administration, and operation of local emergency management in the Town.

• Energy Coordinator - The Energy Coordinator is responsible for coordinating existing energy resources in the town and cooperating with the municipal planning commissions as well as other state, regional and federal government agencies responsible for energy matters. The Energy Coordinator may study and evaluate alternative sources of energy with a view toward the more efficient and economical utilization of existing and potential energy resources.

• Fence Viewer (Three Openings) - Fence viewers played an active role in Vermont in the last century. Today, however, fence viewers are called upon to act only in limited situations. On occasion, the Selectboard will call upon the fence viewers to examine a fence line between adjoining properties to determine what portion of the fence must be made, repaired, or maintained by each party. Fence viewers may also be asked to determine where a fence must be placed when it cannot be placed squarely on a property line.

• Fire Commission (Two Openings) – It is made up of two citizens, a Selectboard representative and the two fire chiefs who work together to maintain communication between the two departments and the Town. The commission is also charged with helping the departments with town wide long-term fire service planning.

• Martin Memorial Hall Trustees (Three Openings) – The trustees are charged with maintaining Martin Memorial Hall. They also schedule and maintain the downstairs meeting space.

• Parks and Recreation Commission (Three Openings) – This commission oversees and plans recreation activities for the Town.

• **Planning Commission (Two Openings)** – The Planning Commission is a five-member board that is charged with rewriting the Town Plan (every eight years), reviewing and updating the Zoning Bylaws, and reviewing, updating and enforcing the Subdivision Regulations.

Southern Windsor County Regional Planning

Commissioner – Helps Regional Planning advocate for the needs of member towns and seek collaborative strategies to address local, regional, and state opportunities and concerns.

• Southern Windsor County Transportation Advisory Committee – Helps advise Regional Planning on regional transportation issues.

• Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District – Represents the Town of Weathersfield as a voting member of the Solid Waste Management District which is a municipal district dedicated to providing solid waste

management authority, services, and planning to its member towns.

• **Surveyor of Wood and Lumber** – The Surveyor of Wood and Lumber is a historic position that used to measure wood and bark to ensure that a full cord was being delivered upon a sale. We still appoint this position for historical purposes.

• Veterans' Memorial Committee - Initially organized to fund, design, construct, and maintain the Perkinsville Veterans Memorial Monument, the Veterans Committee is a group of motivated volunteers focused on promoting patriotism, honoring those that have served, and organizing activities to remind people of the sacrifice Veterans have made to keep our homes free and safe.

• Weigher of Coal – The Weigher of Coal is another historic position who, when asked, would weigh the coal being delivered to make sure the amount was what was agreed upon. The Weigher would be paid by the requesting party. We continue to appoint this position for historic purposes.

• Zoning Board of Adjustment (Five Openings) – The Zoning Board acts as a "quasi-judicial" board; it considers applications for variances and conditional use permits using criteria established in the Zoning Regulations and decides on appeals from decisions made by the Zoning Administrator. The Zoning Board also conducts site plan reviews.



Important Contacts

Department	Phone	Address	Fax	
Animal Control	603-477-1229			
Ascutney Post Office	802-674-5308			
AVFD	802-674-6869 Station	P O Box 91 Ascutney, VT 05030	Same	
Game Warden	802-722-4600			
Greenmountain Power	1-888-835-4672			
Highway	802-263-5272 Shop	highway@weathersfield.org Stoughton Pond Road Perkinsville, VT 05151	263-5273	
Land Use		landuse@weathersfield.org		
Listers		lister@weathersfield.org		
Police	802-674-2185 Dispatch			
Proctor Library Wednesday 10 am to 8 pm Thursday 10 am to 6 pm Friday 10 am to 6 pm Saturday 9 am to 3 pm	802-674-2863	weathersfieldproctorlibrary@gmail.com 5181 Route 5 P O Box 519 Ascutney, VT 05030	674-9876	
Town Clerk	802-674-9500	townclerk@weathersfield.org		
Town Office	802-674-2626	weathersfield@weathersfield.org	674-2117	
Wednesday - 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Saturday - 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Sunday - 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.	802-263-5861	Route 106 Perkinsville, VT		
Treasurer		treasurer@weathersfield.org	885-8169	
Weathersfield School	802-674-5400	P O Box 279 Ascutney, VT 05030	674-9963	
WWVFD	802-263-5655 Station	P O Box 196 Perkinsville, VT 05151		