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2017-18 VALA President Goals

by Camilla Roberts

The assessment officials who are the core VALA members are realists with our feet on the ground, doing the day to day work that brings equity to the property taxpayers of Vermont. When we do our work well there is a general recognition in our towns that the levies property owners pay are FAIRLY distributed. We are guardians for each property's portion of the pie of public funds, allocated to provide the public services (agreed upon by due public process). On some level, we are working to keep the peace. In a volatile time, trying to keep the peace is a challenge, and of the utmost importance. Achieving some corner of fairness in the world can get tense...we are not always popular... but we roll up our sleeves and get the work done. VALA operates in the big picture on behalf of our work, a growing advocate!

I pledge to sustain and enhance the VALA advocacy for the assessment community, as the VALA vision states:

"to continue the advancement of fair and equitable property assessment standards through continuing education and member support for all property valuation professionals, in conjunction with advocating for fair and equitable taxation practices as it relates to property assessment."



2017 LOTY

Sandra Clark: A nomination letter describing her contribution to the town of Londonderry and the Lister community

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2017 State Mapping Project

Where is your town on the process? Should your town get involved? What is required of Towns? These questions address along with many others.

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Continuing Education State of Vermont

See the up and coming Listers Status & goal of the program

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Here are specific priorities towards that vision going forward:

- A. Develop informative materials to spread awareness of our work in VT to raise the bar of respect, recognition and best practices in the property tax system in which assessment officials function.
- B. Cultivate and activate the next wave of VALA members that will sustain this dynamic organization.
- C. Support the VALA education team in making training courses as accessible as possible. Help with the reorganization of the funding and teamwork to implement the courses.
- D. Streamline the meetings and communications among all VALA participants to be simple, informative, and dynamically focused as changes are developing.
- E. Continue the forward momentum of VALA input in the statehouse for legislation, putting together a crackerjack team to work with Randy Viens before he retires next November.
- F. Maintain a financially robust VALA organization.
- G. Work with the VALA partners in the state to enhance coordination and functions. As changes continually develop VALA is a clearinghouse and advisory resource in a network of statewide groups.





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2017 LOTY

by Teri Gildersleeve

I would like to nominate Sandra Clark for 2017 Lister of the year.

Sandra has been a lister since 2001. Sandra has worn many hats for the town to include Junior Instructional Ski Program Coordinator, Member of the School Club, Event Floral designer, Avid Golfer, proud grandmother, UConn Women's basketball biggest fan and Chef & party planner extraordinaire. Although she wanted to retire a few times as lister, many years later she couldn't leave the town without a well-functioning Lister's office. Maybe next election, or **not!** She wants to make sure the town is going to be in good hands when she retires.

Sandra has always been great when it comes to hosting trainings at the town office building. PVR uses her files as examples during many trainings. Sandra has always gone beyond what is expected making new and seasoned Listers feel welcomed from all towns. She is very creative in her decorative handouts to the listers as they leave. She always decorates something to take home, from cupcakes with tiny Vermont flags on it, to a tiny house sketch on a little piece of graph paper and a little ruler glued to it. Her desserts are always very tasty too! She takes very good care of her fellow listers when hosting trainings in Londonderry. I think "Creative" is her middle name.

Her office is well organized and always up to date. VLCT visited her office for great ideas and examples



to help with the Lister destruction list. She has perfect examples of how a file should look and be organized from property info files to Current use files. She has also gone to other town lister's offices to help them when they need assistance.

She gives credit to all around her and little to herself.

When anyone comes into the Listers Office for any kind of assistance she is always willing, friendly and welcoming no matter how difficult the question or **property owner** may be. Sandra knows her market and defends the Londonderry values with confidence. She is very knowledgeable in the lister world and if she doesn't know the answer she knows where to go to get it! After all – her husband was "Peter Clark" (known and beloved district advisor who is now deceased)!

One of her pastime activities is decorations with flowers or crafts. She is always helping someone with decorating someplace or something. Her **favorite** pastime events have been watching her granddaughters at their basketball games and she is very proud of who they are

becoming and will tell you how great they are!

I feel Sandra Clark is a great example of a Lister in today's complicated listing office.

WORDS FROM SANDRA

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO BE THE 2017 LISTER OF THE YEAR. OVER THE YEARS MY HUSBAND PETER CLARK TAUGHT ME A GREAT DEAL ABOUT MUNICIPAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT. THE FOREMOST LESSON: **WAS YOU CAN'T MAKE SOMEONE A GOOD LISTER THEY HAVE TO WANT TO BE ONE!!**



VT Statewide Parcel Mapping Project

by [Article Author]

The Statewide parcel mapping project has begun to pick up speed with towns beginning work with their designated mappers. The main objective of the project seems to be to get towns up to date with their towns parcel data. This project aims to get a 99% match rate, matching parcel GIS data with the Grand List. This additional information will be used to make the current ANR Atlas and Eg11 Viewer more accurate and the information that resides in your town better as well. This project is currently volunteer, with towns signing up on what appears to be a first come basis. The town's that sign up will not be required to budget any additional funds as are available to cover updates and standardization. This may be an appropriate time to work in a new tax

map update with the new data if any changes to the parcel map are made during this process. Funding of this statewide project does not include updates to your tax maps this could be included in your current towns budget or additional recourses may be needed to cover this expense. These details should be reviewed by the Listers and other town offices to see what would be in your towns best interest. Currently there are 3 phases to the mapping project listed as follows.

PHASE 1:

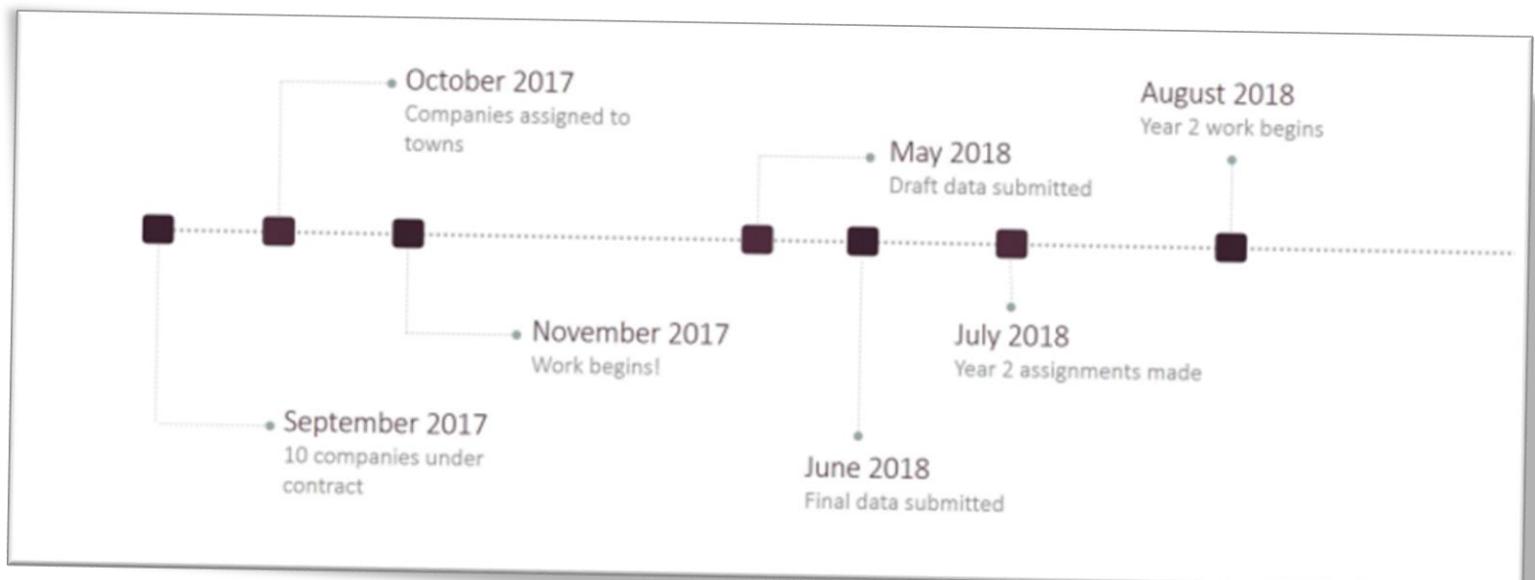
Has begun, companies are currently in the process of being assigned towns throughout the state. Towns should be looking at beginning work with selected mapping right now.

PHASE 2:

If you are currently not in phase 1 towns should be looking to sign-up for phase 2. The best way to get started is to email Leslie Pelch (Outreach Coordinator leslie.pelch@vermont) to indicate that you are interested. The email should contain the following information about your maps **1)** Date (year maps were last updated) **2)** Format (what does your town currently have GIS data, Hand drawn maps, or Digital maps) **3)** Mapping Company (if you are currently working with a mapping company please identify who they are).

PHASE 3

Is projected to start in 2019 with details becoming finalized.



Mapping Project continued pg5

VGCI is hold several informational meetings throughout the state describing the project in greater detail and answering questions

November 5, 2017 - 5:00 pm [Northeast Arc Users Group Conference](#)

November 29, 2017 - 1:00 pm [Parcel Mapping Project Information Meeting - Rutland Region](#)

December 4, 2017 - 12:00 pm [Parcel Mapping Project Information Meeting - Southeastern Vermont](#)

December 6, 2017 - 5:00 pm [Parcel Mapping Project Information Meeting - Lamoille County](#)

April 24, 2018 - 9:00 am [GIS for Cultural Resources: An Introduction](#)

April 26, 2018 - 9:00 am [GIS for Cultural Resources: Advanced Techniques](#)

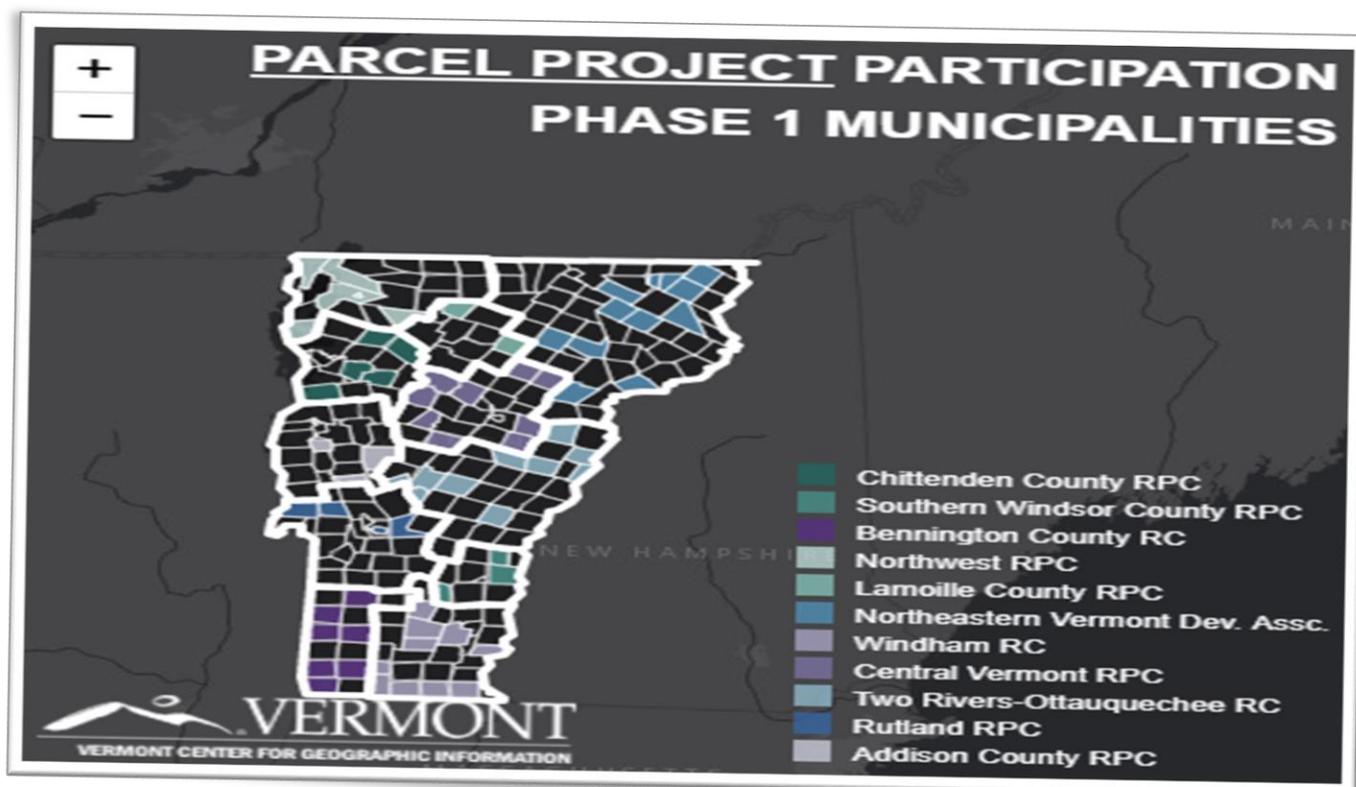
April 27, 2018 - 9:00 am [Emerging Technologies for Cultural Resources](#)

SUMMER 2018

1. Provide additional information to mapping contractors as they prepare to bid for towns
2. Contractor is assigned to your town by VTrans
3. Funded project will cover creation or updating of digital parcel data to ensure 99% match between the Grand List and parcel data
4. Decide whether additional services/products are desired, which would be obtained outside of the contract from the mapping company at the expense of your town

WINTER 2019

1. Data is finalized and delivered
2. Reap the benefits!



State of Vermont Continuing Education Status

VPA I

25%

Rohleder, Juile
Wiley, Lawrence
Scholes, Richard

Folger, Karen
Mosle, Douglas C
Diggins, Caroline (Kitty)

Knott, Dorthy

VPA II

50%

Tudhope, Cheryl

VPA III

75%

Teetor, Mary Jo
Coonradt, Al

Merrill, Nancy
Trenn, Lois

VMPA

100%

Truchon, Lisa

Vermont Property Assessor I (VPA I)—Level 1

- Currently elected or appointment
- Complete course requirements
- Submit completed application /supporting documents

Vermont Property Assessor II (VPA II)—Level 2

- VPA I status or equivalent
- Complete Level 1 course requirements
- Minimum of two years or equivalent
- Submit completed application /supporting documents

Vermont Property Assessor III (VPA III)—Level 3

- VPA II status or equivalent
- Complete Level 2 course requirements
- Three additional years experience or equivalent
- Submit completed application /supporting documents

Vermont Master Property Assessor (VMPA)—Level 4

- VPA III status or equivalent
- Complete Master Level designee course requirements
- Three additional years experience or equivalent
- Submit completed application /supporting documents

Vermont Property Assessor Certification Program for Listers and Assessors

Program Mission Statement The mission of the Vermont Property Assessor Certification Program is to encourage, promote, and provide educational opportunity and advancement for listers and assessors throughout the state. PVR accomplishes this mission by the following guidelines and steps for advancement:

- seeking and promoting new and relevant educational opportunities
- developing cooperative relationships with assessment education entities
- clearly communicating with Vermont officials and the public
- applying fair and equitable standards VPACP strives to provide a structure that will improve appraisal skills and administrative practices for the Vermont assessment community.

More info at:

<http://tax.vermont.gov/sites/tax/files/documents/VPACPHandbookMarch2017WEB.pdf>

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Hard Drive: Getting home during mud season

Microchips: What are left in the bag when the big chips are gone

Download: Getting the firewood off the pickup

Megahertz: What you get when you're not careful downloading