

BOARD MEMBERS UP FOR RE-ELECTION

Kevin Ellis

Lara Lonon

Pegeen Mulhern

NEW BOARD MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED

Rubin Bennett

Polly Nichol

DOWNSTREET 2022 NEW BOARD MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

Rubin Bennett, CISSP

Owner/ Senior Engineer, rbTechnologies

Rubin Bennett is the Chief High Commander and Janitor at rbTechnologies. He has worked as an Information Technology professional since 1995. Since founding rbTechnologies in 1997, he has provided support and built servers for agencies of the Vermont State government, ISPs, and small businesses around the state and beyond.

Rubin has been awarded many industry certifications, including the Linux Professional Institute LPIC-1, Cisco SMB Select certified partner, and many more from Industry leading companies such as VMware, Veeam, Digium, RedHat, HP, Acer and more. In the spring of 2021, Rubin earned the CISSP designation from ISC2, demonstrating his knowledge and background in Information Security.

He was hooked on computers by the time he was 10, learning TRS-basic on his Tandy Color Computer II and TRS-80 Model 1. His early programming in TRS-Basic was saved to cassette tapes and he fondly recalls countless hours spent ‘listening’ to those programs as they were saved and retrieved.

In the intervening years, Rubin has mastered many aspects of networking, computer and network security, programming (PHP, Perl, Linux shell and windows scripting), routing, firewalling and Server systems. He continues to learn and eat humble pie on a daily basis, as new technologies come up and new ways of doing things supplant the old.

In keeping with a family tradition of civic mindedness, Rubin serves on several non-profit Boards in the area. He was elected as School Director to the East Montpelier Elementary School Board in 2008, and elected by the Board as Chair in 2009 (a position he proudly served for over a decade). He was appointed to the Capstone (formerly Central Vermont Community Action Council) Board of Directors in 2007, elected Vice Chair several years later, and Chair in 2016. He remains an “Ex Officio” member of the Capstone Board. He also served as a Prudential Committee member

for the East Montpelier Fire District, from forming the committee to create the Fire District through it's ultimate annexation by the Town.

A dedicated father and husband, Rubin spends as much time as possible with his amazing wife and three awesome kids. When he's not working or spending time with his family, Rubin enjoys working with his hands, either on the endless home renovation projects he undertakes (eternal optimism is a double-edged sword) or working on his collection of old vehicles. He can often be found at home on the weekend with a hammer or power tool in hand. In addition he enjoys downhill and cross-country skiing, whitewater kayaking, playing Irish and Old-Time fiddle with friends, long trail hiking, and motorcycle touring.

Polly Nichol

Retired Non-Profit Housing Professional

Polly Nichol retired 5 years ago from her position as Director of Housing Programs for the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board, a position that she held for 28 years. Prior to VHCB she worked as Director of Multi-Family Housing for Vermont Housing Finance Agency, was Community Development Director for the Town of Randolph, an energy planner and grant writer for Capstone, a land use planner for the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission, and a private consultant. During her short stint at Capstone she wrote a grant application that resulted in a NeighborWorks charter for Central Vt. as well as a grant application that resulted in the seed capital to start CVCLT (now Downstreet).

Since retirement Polly has done some part-time consulting for various housing organizations and continued a number of housing related volunteer activities including serving on the board of the Cathedral Square Corporation and as chair of the Montpelier Housing Task Force. She spent 15 years on the board of a national rural housing organization, the Housing Assistance Council, including 4 years as president and board chair. She also served for many years on the board of Vt. Works for Women and was a founder of the Vt. Community Loan Fund and the New England Housing Network. Polly lives in Montpelier with her husband, Cy Jordan. She loves spending time with her 3 granddaughters and their parents, along with cross country skiing, hiking, walking, meeting friends, cooking, and gardening. She has been a steadfast financial supporter of Downstreet for many years.