

# **All Roads Lead to Berlin**

## **A brief history of Town efforts to re-establish a Post Office in Berlin**

Currently mail in Berlin is handled by three different post offices (Montpelier which is closed, Barre City, and Northfield). The Town has had several post offices in the past. One of the earliest post offices located at Berlin Corner existed from 1825 to 1908. West Berlin also had a post office from 1884 to 1918 when the name of the village was changed to Riverton. The Riverton post office, with its own zip code, continued operation for the village until 1988.

Since then several efforts have been made by the town a summary includes:

March 24, 2000 Joint Senate Resolution JRS83 urging the Vermont Congressional Delegation to encourage the US Postal Service to re-establish a post office in Berlin.

April 3, 2006 Select Board letter to the US Postal Service requesting re-establishment of a post office in Berlin

May 15, 2006 Congressman Bernie Sanders letter to the USPS District Manager requesting re-establishment of a post office in Berlin.

September 23, 2008 Letter from the Select Board and Berlin Post Office Committee to the USPS District Manager requesting re-establishment of a post office. This letter included several letters of support.

September 30, 2008 Joint letter from Vermont's Congressional Delegation to the US Postmaster regarding re-establishment of a post office in Berlin

December 3, 2008 Joint letter from Vermont's Congressional Delegation following up on their 9/30/08 letter.

January 12, 2011 Selectboard letter to the Postmaster General requesting re-establishment of a post office in Berlin

February 4, 2011 Response from the USPS.

August 17, 2023 Town letter to the Postmaster General again requesting a post office in Berlin due to the service disruptions due to the closure of the Montpelier post office.

### **Why is a post office necessary for Berlin?**

Berlin is the commercial hub for Central Vermont. Berlin hosts many state offices, the hospital (the region's largest employer), Central Vermont Marketplace (Berlin Mall) a hotel (soon to be expanded), grocery stores, fast food outlets along with the Barre-Montpelier Road commercial businesses. People travel to Berlin from all over the area to work and shop in Berlin. Plus the newly designated Berlin Common, town center with additional retail and housing being developed as we speak.

Currently mail in Berlin is handled by three different post offices (Northfield, Barre and Montpelier-with its own problems). This create problems being:

On line order packages lost/mis-directed (including a refrigerator!)

GPS routing often incorrect (routing to the same address in Orange)

Computerized mailing and tax reporting systems for business (Berlin business in the 05641 incorrectly charging the Barre options tax).

There are many similar sounding road names in Berlin and the surrounding post office service areas. Without the +4 usage, this worsen the problem.

Many Berlin business advertise they are in Montpelier or Barre which also creates confusion when trying to drive to these locations.

With the current, extended closure of the Montpelier post office due to flooding, this situation is even worse. Since the flood Montpelier operations have been housed at two outdoor lots (without facilities), several rumored locations which never worked out, and now currently in the Barre post office. This has resulted in wasted fuel, and increased emissions due to travelling to the extended location, plus wasted trips when the Montpelier personnel were not available and the Barre postal employees not able to assist Berlin residents.

With limited postal operations now located in the Berlin Mall, this is a great time to examine the postal service of entire Central Vermont, and fix this long running injustice to Berlin and establish a post office in Berlin.