



August 15, 2025

William Sheets
Village Manager
Swanton Village
120 First St.
Swanton, VT 05488



Dear Bill:

On June 25th, the Franklin Grand Isle Tobacco Prevention Coalition picked up tobacco litter in collaboration with community volunteers and the campers at Swanton Public Library. We cleaned up in the Village Green, Merchant's Row, near Swanton School Apartments, in and around Marble Mill, and along sidewalks and curbsides near and around. We did this for several reasons:

1. Cigarette butts are made of a plastic material. Because they are plastic, they do not biodegrade and can remain present in the environment for 20-25 years.
2. Cigarette filters can release toxins back into the environment, especially into our waterways. Because the river runs right through Swanton, any trash, not to mention unsafe tobacco litter, is easily blown or washed into waterways directly or through storm drains, etc.
3. We want to document and track how much tobacco litter exists in community gathering spaces and where it might be concentrated.
4. We want to raise awareness throughout the community about litter and quitting.

During this 2-hour event, 31 volunteers (22 youth and 9 youth) picked up cigarette litter.

- **In 2 hours, we picked up 870 cigarette butts, however, the Village Green was fairly litter-free.**
- **A large percentage of butts were picked up in front of Merchant's Row businesses, in the parking lot of Swanton School Apartments, and along curbsides/sidewalks.**
- **Last year, we picked up 637 cigarette butts in a similar event.**

We are available to help you implement additional strategies that might help reduce tobacco litter in these areas, including signage, smoke free recreation area ordinances, and awareness raising initiatives throughout the community. We will also continue the conversation about what litter means for our environment and our community. Thank you for allowing us to clean up butt litter in Swanton. Feel free to contact me with any ideas or requests you might have. We are happy to help. (524-1296/abrewer@nmcinc.org)

In good health,

Amy M. Brewer, MPH
Coordinator

Cc: Brian Savage, Abigael Gaudette