

LAKE PLEASANT NEWS

June 2015

518-548-3625



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From the Supervisor's Desk

Our Town Board and the forces of our Town have had a very productive year. Working to once again deliver a steady budget, that balances our peoples' needs with their desire for a Government that is efficient and economical....our 2015 plan kept Town taxes down while increasing service. This has been accomplished through a series of cost cutting and energy efficiencies, beginning with our talented Highway crew doing much of our roof, siding and insulation projects in house, compounding our long term savings with a timely Autumn flurry of activity that buttoned up our Town Hall nicely. Continued on page 2

Notes from the Highway Superintendent

The past 16 months have been very eventful for the Highway and Parks and Recreation crew. In February of 2014, the town purchased a new used groomer from a club in Vermont which has proven to be a great asset and upgrade to our grooming fleet. Not only has it cut the time it takes to groom all of Perkins clearing by 2/3rds, but it has cut fuel and repair costs down, also. We are also glad that the UTV has found a new home and apparently, no news is good news from its new owners.

Springtime 2014 was the start of construction season for our community and for the highway department, as well. We started out by removing the old insulation in the attic space. Next, we removed the metal from the roof in order to install a vapor barrier under the metal to stop a moisture and condensation problem. While doing this exhausting job, we also addressed several ventilation problems. From the roof to the ground we go... meaning that the guys turned their efforts to removing all of the steel siding and repairing the wall insulation and replacing doors and windows before installing all new siding on the building. Continued on page 3

Town Clerk Update

This is my first opportunity to contribute to the Town's newsletter. So, I would like to give you a brief walk through of all the hats that the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk wear and some of the challenges we face each day.

The Town Clerk's door is always open to those living in our Town and for those passing through. A day can go from issuing dog licenses to hunting licenses, marriage licenses to Lake Pleasant Court for traffic tickets and criminal matters. Our office also collects Town and County taxes, which brings additional spin to our already crazy days. Continued on page 3

*Don't forget to pick up you 2015
Collection Schedule for all the
important dates and information
about Recycling!*

Trail Committee Report

The 2015 snowmobile season was fantastic, just like our past seasons! Although we had some obstacles along the way, we worked hard and made our trails one of the best systems in the Adirondacks!

In early October, Randy LaVarnway finally received the long awaited DEC permit for the Mason Lake to Lewey Lake trail. The permit allowed our highway crew to cut trees and move rocks. This made the trail easy for us to maintain and more importantly these changes made the trail much safer for our riders. Continued on page 3

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From the Desk of the Supervisor Cont. from page 1

Winter came with its usual fury, and more than the usual cold. While Town forces worked through all manner of ice & snow removal on our Town and State roads, the cooperation with our two wonderful grooming partners, DRAG of Speculator and Pleasant Riders, was truly exceptional. The trails were noted for their excellent condition throughout our winter season, and were enjoyed by our resident outdoorsman, as well as our important "other season" visitors.

The snowmobile season does not begin with the first snowfall, but many months before, when Randy and our Rec. crew work with the DEC and our Lumber Company landowners to cut, grub and mark the way, while repairing bridges and hauling material deep into our woods. Last fall had us scrambling to secure a safe and enjoyable detour around a large timber harvest through our critical Perkins Clearing crossroads. Negotiations between our office, the DEC Regional Director and Lyme Timber resulted in the expedited permits required to open a long closed route, and with the approval of the APA, our crew made it happen! This detour will prove useful for many years to come, both in cooperative efforts with our private property owners, and to enhance our first rate trail system.

The last year had us working closely with our Village on a number of projects, as we try to improve our community. The acquisition of the Tunney Park parcel being joined to the Village's Osborne Point Park, has us all working to dress up the finest, most accessible Public space in the Adirondack Park. This open area includes the large lakefront piece, once the site of a legendary destination Hotel, a public boat dock, the iconic Village Beach, the Pavilion and ball field, the unique Sacandaga Pathway and now the quaint Rt. 66 cottages donated by Mr. & Mrs. John Van Buitten. These lovely additions to the park land will bring much enjoyment to children of all ages. Last Fall 3 of these handmade replicas of small town USA were carefully moved by Town, County and Village forces, with the donated assistance & equipment of Vogel Construction and the Lemon Tree. As the final four units get moved this Spring/Summer, this little marvel will be shared with us all.

The Town is also served well by our Community Garden, located at the town

tennis court property on Elm Lake Road, where our Town's people are encouraged to farm a plot of vegetables for their own use, or help raise some food for our Pantry & Senior Center. Managed nicely by Frank & Margaret Crisbacher, this Cooperative Extension project has been a success already, and is slated to grow bigger this year. With donations from the Lions Club and our Consolidated Health District, Frank welcomes new gardeners to join the fun/work and PRODUCE some big results!

There have been some exciting new developments in Town over the last year, a large Public Library expansion and improvement, a large Hotel project proposal on Lake Pleasant and the launching of a new Community event group in SPARC.

The Library Trustees, after pursuing and securing a series of grants from our Southern Adirondack Library System, requested Town Board approval to construct a substantial addition of space and improvements to our Town owned facility. After careful consideration, and a condition of not requiring any public funding for the capital project costs, the Board voted unanimously to support this endeavor. The plans include much needed space for future cultural programs, adult training, and community enrichments while placing the handicapped ramp inside, alleviating many winter maintenance issues, and efficiencies in HVAC and energy consumption. Recently, bids were let, contractors reviewed and construction has commenced. The cooperation between our Library Board and its important support network Friends of the Library has been and will continue to be, vital to bring both donations and volunteers required to complete and staff this great new asset. The Town Board thanks all who have worked to overcome differences and obstacles along this path and wish retiring Director, Debbie Desrochers, all the best, while recognizing her contributions to the Library's impact on our Town.

Recently, our Village Planning Board has completed a year-long review of an unfolding permit process for a proposed hotel on the site of the Lake Pleasant Lodge. The large project, would involve razing the existing motel buildings, to construct an 80 room, four

story property with a pool, restaurant & lounge. Given the scope, and proximity to neighboring residences, a thorough review was taken to consider the landowners application and local concerns. The area's dire need for lodging beds has been long since established in both Regional and County plans, and the location of this Lakefront Hotel fits all these Destination Planning criteria for economic growth in the Adirondacks. As the project has now been approved for this permit, and the applicant is in the development phase, we are confident that all will work together to sculpt an attractive tourist spot that fits well on our Main Street and in the community.

Last but not least, our extended region of concerned residents has come together to launch SPARC...Speculator-Piseco Area Regional Council....a new civic group concentrating on the Economic and Cultural well being of our Community. With a focus on sustaining our successful local events, reinvigorating those that have faltered, and beginning some new BRANDED events, this energetic & positive organization is just getting started. The first effort in 2015 will be the Speculator Pilots Reunion on June 19-21, to revisit the popular Fly In of days gone by. Going forward SPARC will be looking for members who can give small amounts of time, during any time of year, to assist our Towns & Chamber, as a schedule of fun and interesting events form committees to better our corner of God's Country!

Please feel free to contact us at Town Hall to join SPARC, with questions or concerns, or share ideas. Great communities flourish when more are engaged. As always, please shop locally, and support the fine array of services we are uniquely blessed to have in Speculator & Lake Pleasant. Let's have a FUN, SAFE & PROSPEROUS Summer!

Respectfully,

Neil McGovern



Notes from the Highway Superintendent Cont. pg 1

The crew did such good work in such a timely manner we were able to also change out all of the overhead doors to button up any air gaps and keep the cold temps out. This saved us 836 gallons of fuel in just one heating season, which means saving money for years to come.

Next the building got an energy boost with a national grid lighting upgrade. The lighting can't get any better than what we have now and we are saving electricity and that means we are saving tax dollars.

Last summer was busy on the roads, with a one mile paving job on Page Street and 300 feet of complete rebuild of the base of the road. Also, Old Indian Lake road received a chip seal coating to seal the existing top coating.

The fall came with another building job but this time we picked up "little buildings" and moved them to a new spot several miles away, so people can enjoy them when they visit Speculator.

The snowmobile trail, so called two miles of hell, was fixed and leveled. We also dealt with upgrading an existing trail that last year became the main thoroughfare to Indian Lake.... Thanks to all that helped: DEC, APA, Lyme Timber, local politicians and any others who pushed for us in Albany.

Winter began in December, soon followed by a week of rain and then winter started again and boy did it come back hard and colddd.. The crew kept marching through it and even though we were one man short all winter, they did a great job and kept the repair bills down. Great job men!!

Spring finally came and the first of many power outages proved to be too much for our 35 plus year old generator. So we purchased an almost new one that had only 250 hours on it. We installed automatic transfer switches to bring our backup power supply into the 21st century, just in time for

many power outages this spring!

The last week of March the highway crew started this year's big project...the refurbishing of two dump trucks from the ground up. We started with the newest one and as you can see in the photos it's done! What an improvement this will be to our fleet. When they are both done, we will be set for many good years with these trucks to service our community and keep our roads free from old man winter.

The future will bring many good things, also. The second truck will be completed, more roads to be resurfaced, more "little buildings" to be moved, a large culvert project is expected this fall and more than likely we will deal with a few unexpected surprises! Whether it be weather related or just helping out neighboring communities, we will be ready!!

Randy LaVarnway



Town Clerk Update Continued from page 1

In the Springtime, our Town Cemeteries become a priority. The Highway Superintendent and I have been very busy gathering all the cemetery maps and info and downloading it all in a new Cemetery computer program that the Town purchased.

Deborah O'Rourke,
Town Clerk
Faith Cleveland, Deputy
Town Clerk

Trail Committee Report continued from page 1

Mid-October gave us another hurdle. Lyme Timber contacted us to advise that they would be logging 900 acres of Perkins Clearing. This meant closing 4.7 miles of snowmobile trails for the entire winter—something we didn't want to do. Immediately the new trail permits were in hand and our highway crew was once again hard at work cutting trees, clearing brush, and building bridges (all paid for by Lyme Timber) in order to re-route the trail. Within a week the trail was re-routed and we were back in business!

Every season has its issues but the hard work and dedication of so many people made it possible to provide a great riding experience. Thank you so much to our Highway Department crew and our local snowmobile clubs for doing such a great job on our trails. The season started late but stayed long, bringing lots of snowmobilers to our community.



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Route 66 Buildings on the move!