

Adirondack Underground

Town of Long Lake
Clark J. Seaman, Supervisor
June 2017

Wow, it has been over a year since I last sent out the Underground and since I know some of you look forward to these periodic updates, here is the latest news fit to print.

This spring the old highway garage was demolished and the highway department has been working on reclaiming the site. The short-term plan is to create municipal parking there. One option for the site is to retain parking in front and create a park area in the back with benches, picnic tables and a pavilion as was proposed in the Hamlets 3 study. This would create a useful park area in the center of town for a variety of events and would complement the ballfield and nature trail. While the Board has not yet made a decision as to the final use of this property, this option seems to be most popular.

You may recall last year I shared that we were still working on acquiring all the necessary permits to repair the town boat dock. Finally, we now have them and we anticipate going out to bid for this project very soon. The boat dock project is part of the waterfront revitalization grant project which includes improvements to the town beach, boat dock and the nature trail from the ballfield to the town beach. This grant requires that we match the grant amount; however, we can utilize in kind services (labor and equipment) for our share to fulfill this requirement. Incorporating the Hamlets 3 proposal mentioned above will allow us to utilize all labor and equipment costs for that project to help meet this requirement.

This summer the highway department will again be doing road reclamation, completing Kickerville Lane from the intersection of Route 30 to where they left off in 2013, about 3800 feet. While the road is under construction, the water department is going to replace all service lines and curb stops as well as all fire hydrants. Consequently, if you live on this stretch of road, you may experience some water outages. While we understand construction of this nature is not always desirable, it is necessary to maintain and improve our local infrastructure and we thank you for your patience as we get this work done.

This past winter the town installed two new pellet boilers, one at the Town Hall and the other at the new Highway Garage. Both were purchased through Vincent's Heating under a NYSERDA grant. The grant paid 80% and the Town was responsible for the remaining 20%. The boiler at the Highway Garage was sized so that it could heat both the Town and County Highway Garages. (This is just another example of how we share services with the County without any State mandates, and since the County Garage is/was being heated with an older fuel oil boiler as opposed to our new energy efficient propane boiler in the new Town Garage, the County is paying for the pellets.) Our first-year savings in heating fuel costs from a partial heating year at the Town Hall was just over \$1400.

On May 22nd, I had the privilege of attending a ceremonial map signing with DEC Commissioner Seggos and others at the Adirondack Room in the NYS Museum. It was truly an historic occasion as it concluded the 100-year-old Township 40 property dispute. The affected property owners no longer have to worry about any claim against their property from the State. Many individuals have been involved in this lengthy process and have committed countless hours to seeing this to fruition. In particular, a committee consisting of Jim Blanchard, Michael Burke, Jim Colligan and Dean Pohl, chaired by Carolyn Gerdin have worked for 13 years to resolve this long standing dispute. Carolyn started this effort more than 20 years ago. All concerned owe Carolyn and the committee members a debt of gratitude for their tireless efforts to achieve this successful outcome!

Speed limits, speed limits, speed limits. Last year there was a great deal of discussion about them, both in Raquette and Long Lake. The bottom line is that the posted speed limits in Long Lake were reduced by the state and State Police patrols throughout town were increased. However, to date the state has made no changes in Raquette. So, in an effort to raise awareness of motorists in Raquette, the Board budgeted for and the Town has purchased and will be installing Radar Signs in Raquette Lake on Route 28 coming into town from both the north and the south. This of course requires permits from the DOT which should be finalized very soon. Regardless, these new radar signs should be up and operating in July.

If you haven't visited the doctor lately, you may not have seen the new automatic door openers on the entrance doors. Medical Staff requested, and the Board approved, the automatic door openers at the Doc and Janet Hosley Medical Building. These certainly make it much easier for mobility challenged individuals to access the building.

This year the Board approved the continuation of a property tax exemption for the installation of solar power by property owners. If you are considering installing solar panels, and have questions regarding this exemption, contact the assessor for more information.

Very recently, the Long Lake Fire District signed over their portion of the Town Hall building with a quit-claim-deed to the Town, and at the same time relinquished their 99-year lease on the property. We have contracted with an architect to explore the viability of converting the vacated fire hall into town offices. A preliminary plan has been drawn up but more study is being done of the grounds layout for parking and traffic.

This past year we have had several long-time employees retire.

- Steve Burch who started for the Town in 1991, retired in early 2016 after 25 years of dedicated, unwavering service. Matt LaPlant was hired to fill his vacancy.
- Michele Hoffman was hired in 2003 as Deputy Town clerk and has retired after 14 years of reliable service to the Town. Amber Wamback was hired as her replacement.
- Pat Gibbs was hired in 1990 for the highway department and retired in 2017 after 27 years of faithful service to the community. Justin Stephenson was hired to fill his vacancy.
- Garth Fisher was hired in 2004 and just retired this month after 11 years of reliable service. Dave Hunt was hired to fill that vacancy.

Please join me in wishing our most recent retirees the best as they embark on this next chapter in their lives.

On a related, but much more somber note, this past year we were deeply saddened with the passing of Abbie Verner. Abbie served as both a records management aide and Deputy Town Clerk. Abbie worked for us since 2009. She will be sorely missed. Brian Castler has been hired in her place.

Last year, following a permissive referendum, the Town successfully negotiated the sale of the 25-acre parcel of land off of Kickerville Lane to neighboring property owners for a price of \$15,000. The parcel had no deeded access. Now, this private ownership puts this land back on the town tax rolls.

Until my next newsletter, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about our community.

And remember "The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself."

Benjamin Franklin

Sincerely,



Clark J. Seaman,
Town Supervisor

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