

Town of Johnsburg Newsletter

Supervisor's Report

Short Takes

Insurance Refund

After a decade long dispute the Town of Johnsburg has secured an insurance holdback in the amount of \$31,000.00 related to the Ski Hut fire. The funds will be used to assist the cooperative renovation project at the enclosed pavilion in Ski Bowl Park. The building will serve as a ski lodge in the winter and serve the Town in the summer season for various activities including Summer Youth Program.

Take Out Progress

A combined project between Johnsburg, Indian Lake and New York State DOT to expand the primary rafting take out area along the Hudson River is moving forward. The proposal will re-design parking at the area making removal from the river safer for rafters and guides. The project has now received an APA permit.

Graffiti in the Park

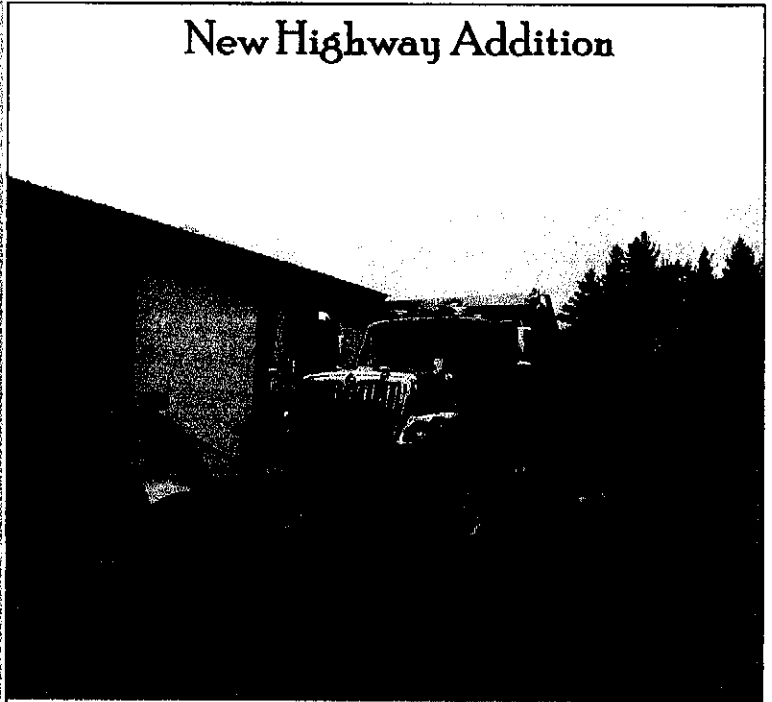
Another wave of graffiti has hit various areas of Town with the Carol Thomas Trail suffering the greatest damage. The graffiti is particularly disturbing because of its several anti-Semitic references and inappropriate sexual and racial content. An investigation is pending with the Warren County Sheriff's Dept.

Budget Approval

The Town Board approved a budget for 2010 at its meeting on November 5, 2009.

The budget lowers the Town tax slightly while creating more funding for the highway Department. The budget also attempts to address significant issues with solid waste by increasing dump sticker fees by \$1 and eliminating curb side pick up of recyclables. One position has been eliminated. Contrary to rumor, curbside trash pick-up will continue as usual.

New Highway Addition



According to Highway Superintendent Dan Hitchcock, the new plow/dump truck is a 2010 International 6x4 with a gross vehicle weight of 66,000 lbs.

Front Street Front & Center

Public sentiment regarding Front Street Mountain Development Company, the business group now in early construction of housing units, a proposed bed and breakfast, ski club house and potential motel near the historic Ski Bowl, likely falls into one of three categories.

Some residents view the developer as a threat to the way of life long enjoyed here, wishing largely that Town would remain the quaint community it has always been.

Others view Front Street as a vital portion of the long term economic solution for the Adirondacks, adding jobs, tax base and an additional consumer population.

Still others take a more hands off approach, feeling the developers can do what they want with their own land and it shouldn't affect resident's daily lives.

Regardless of where your view of the proposed development falls, town officials have an obligation to families, tax payers and existing business entities to take necessary steps to protect town assets as the project moves forward.

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Big Dig Scoop—Beach Project Update

Work continues on construction of an underground pipeline between the Town Beach and the upper portion of North Creek to establish better water flow into the beach area. It is hoped that when completed the project will raise water levels at the Town Beach thus permitting more use of the beach and potential installation of a new raft system.

The work on the project is being completed by a volunteer work crew led by Bob Nessle in cooperation with the Town.

Unseasonably warm weather has provided some advantage to the continuing work efforts and it is hoped that the project will be completed before the ground freezes for the winter.

Happy Holidays from everyone at Town Hall.

Front Street, cont. from page 1

Several of those important steps have already been taken. Initially, Woody Widlund worked hard on behalf of the Town to establish a master agreement defining the Town's relationship with the developer. About three years ago the Town passed a local law moving legal expenses incurred by the Town back to the developer and away from the taxpayers. At the same time the Town updated the North Creek Water District code. A series of agreements have already been negotiated defining the Town's relationship with Front Street on issues from fire protection to water and septic matters.

Protecting the Town's assets in anticipation of the proposed development remains a challenging and often moving target. The Town interfaces with the developer an average of several times a week on issues ranging from zoning compliance within the existing permits to accounting functions. Acknowledging the complexity of the ongoing matters a meeting was organized in early November to include Front Street, their engineers and local counsel as well as Town officials including Supervisor Goodspeed, Councilman Vanselow, Planning Board Chairperson Dottie Osterhout, Town Engineer Jim Hutchins and Town Attorney Tony Jordan.

The meeting was an opportunity to go through a checklist of pending items to develop proposed courses of action.

Discussion points included zoning approval status in light of changes to the proposal. Issues associated with water fees, septic status and recreation fees were also addressed.

Attendees also reviewed the status of de-mapping with the State, a process required to re-designate parkland. De-mapping may be required legally to address an inadvertent encroachment on Town land.

Discussion also involved reference to the negotiated master agreement which contemplates at some phase in the project the relocation of the Town Highway Garage. The developer is interested in accelerating the relocation while the Town wants to maintain control over all issues associated with timing and location.

The project contains a 3 unit building proposal and counsel for each party was to review whether the Town zoning ordinance permits such buildings.

It is expected that Town officials and Front Street will meet again after progress has been made on these issues.

Fire Company Challenges

Fire chiefs from hamlets across town met with Town officials recently to discuss budget issues and challenges created by New York State mandates effecting local fire companies.

Among the requirements imposed on local companies is a mandatory change of radio frequency for companies that will require new radio purchases by 2013. Strict compliance requirements to properly outfit fire fighters is also creating substantial financial pressure with local companies.

While North Creek Fire Company is its own taxing district, the other companies rely significantly on the Town's payments under service contracts with the companies.

The recent discussions concluded with the Town committing to find \$9000-\$10,000 in immediate funds to assist with fire fighting gear. Long term, expenses associated with State requirements will have to be anticipated and built into future budget presentations.

As several of the chiefs explained, "We have no choice, we have to make these changes."

The Town will secure the immediate financial assistance for the companies shortly and is committed to providing future assistance.

Main Street Snow

Concerns over business accessibility and aesthetics have led to a number of discussions between the North Creek Business Alliance and the Town Board aimed at better coordination of road and sidewalk snow removal. County DPW head Bill Lamy met recently with the Alliance and the Town is considering a number of options. One option includes passing a Town Law to permit the Town to fine private property owners who fail to clean their sidewalks. If you have an opinion, please contact us at Town Hall.

Shuttle Service Launch

Members of the North Creek Business Alliance announced to the Town Board on November 5, 2009 the establishment of a shuttle service for the upcoming ski season. The service will link Gore Mountain to the North Creek Business District and the Ski Bowl. The shuttle will run weekends and holidays beginning Dec. 18. The shuttle service will be provided free of charge.