

Town of Johnsburg Newsletter

Supervisor's Report

Town Beach Closure

The Town Beach was closed by order of the New York State Department of Health on Wednesday, August 4, after a series of onsite inspections and water clarity tests.

In a word, the facility's future can best be described as "uncertain."

While a pipeline connection upstream, created by the efforts of a volunteer group, brought some water to the pond, the result of the enhancement has been mixed. The pipeline has not consistently brought enough flow to increase pond water levels and the pipeline release area is, according to the Department of Health, too far removed from the swimming area to replenish and re-circulate the area with fresh water.

Over the next several months the Town Board will engage in a series of discussions over the future of the facility.

In the meantime, the Department of Health officials have asked all town employees to keep watch over access to the area. If you or a friend were asked to leave the beach in August, we apologize for the inconvenience. However, a violation of the Department of Health permit by citizen beach access results in a \$2000 fine per incident.

Front Street Update

The Town Board and Planning Board continue weekly to grapple with issues associated with this project. At the August 3 meeting of the Town Board, the Board agreed to permit the project to extend into the water district.

The Town is continuing to review issues associated with waste water management, design and infrastructure generally.

The developer had requested permission on August 3rd for a "hold and haul" tank system which would be a temporary waste water solution permitting another building to be constructed.

The Board, and its engineering firm (Delaware Systems, Inc.) indicated it would not act on the request until three areas were resolved:

1. Preliminarily town engineers will determine whether the area is suitable for conventional septic system designs if the development fails or if the waste water system for this phase of the project is not completed by the developer.
2. The developer will be required to post a bond sufficient to protect the Town's interest in all regards.

(cont. on back page)

Short Takes

Sales Tax

Amid all the press articles regarding negative or flat sales tax numbers in Warren County, one point went unreported. The Johnsburg numbers during this time period were up 15%.

Interconnect Progressing

Lift construction and lift line work continues in the Ski Bowl with the new interconnect chairlift still slated for a December opening. The steep, black diamond trail emerging where the old cable T-bar once ran has been dubbed 46er in dual honor of the original T-bar's 1946 completion date and the Adirondack high peaks.

New ZEO

The Town Board has appointed John Dwyer to serve as the town's new Zoning Enforcement Officer. More information will follow regarding John's office hours.

Retirement Budget Crunch

Each year New York towns contribute a sum to the New York State Retirement Fund. This coming budget cycle will be stressful because the State has advised all towns that it will reduce its contribution and require by law the local governments to make up the difference. We are working hard to mitigate the impact of this issue by carefully conserving the current budget's contingency line and by taking other steps. More on this in the future.

Kellogg/Waddell Buildings

It is quite possible that by publication of this newsletter the Town will have ownership of the historic site known as the Kellogg/Waddell complex. The Town Board has approved the conveyance to the Town from the Open Space Institute. This transaction is for no cost and during the winter season the Town will contract with Barton Mines Corp. to use the buildings for the colder months as a storage facility. The revenue stream created by this lease will be placed in a capital account to offset expenses associated with the buildings and eliminate taxpayer impact.

New Furnace For EMS

The EMS building in Sodom has recently gained a new furnace after the failure of the historic one. Local contractor Steve Barilli was awarded the bid on the project and was assisted in installation by Matt Olden of the Park's Department.

(Front Street, Cont)

3. The Town will be provided proof that waste water infrastructure design is complete or near complete on the part of the developer's engineers.

The developer also sought to convey the privately owned trails proposed at the north-east of the lift line. The Town refused to move forward on this issue as well since it remains unclear whether ORDA is prepared to cut and maintain the trails.

Garbage Win - Win

By getting out of the garbage business in late July, the Town is permitting citizen's to take advantage of private sector pricing competition that in most situations will actually cost citizens less than the sticker purchase system.

At the same time, there will be substantial savings to the Town budget as residents move to private vendors.

At least one of those private vendors offers recycling services as part of the package, without any sorting requirement.

For now, dump hours will continue on the same schedule as always with those not contracting with private companies still able to use the sticker system.

The net result is more service at a lower cost to residents and significant savings in the Town budget.

Harrington Road Bridge

The Town Board is actively at work trying to seek both an immediate and temporary solution to the bridge outage as well as a long term fix.

The Town is seeking federal FEMA funds to help with financing the spring storm repairs and is also working with an engineer who had previously done design work at the site about 7 years ago.

Second Opinion on Beaver Dams

The Town has engaged a Glens Falls law firm for a second opinion on available options for privately owned land that contains a beaver dam on when such dams create a risk to the public welfare. The attorney working on this is Mark Schachner of the Glens Falls firm of Miller, Mannix and Schachner.

Cemetery Concerns

A group of concerned citizens presented the Johnsbury Town Board with a petition in early August highly critical of the Town's care of cemeteries. Under state law, when a cemetery association ceases to exist, care of the facility passes to the town. With more than a dozen cemeteries to maintain, it has been difficult for the Town to keep up and volunteers have emerged to care for some of the cemeteries. As we approach next spring we will look at more effective ways to manage cemeteries but will seek ways to do so without impacting taxpayers or the town budget.

September Town Board Meetings

September 7—Wevertown Hall

September 21, - Johnsbury Library