

Town of Hinesburg

Celebrating 250 years

Weekly Update

1762-2012

July 18, 2012



Upcoming Meetings...

- **Selectboard:** *Monday, July 23rd at 7:00 p.m. (Main Hall)*
- **Planning Commission:** *Wednesday, July 25th at 7:30 p.m. (1st floor conference room)*

Weekly Updates From Departments:

Hinesburg Community Police

- Two individuals were cited into court this week. A Ferrisburg resident following her boyfriend rear ended his vehicle when he slowed to turn onto Tyler Bridge Rd. A check of her DMV record showed her license to be criminally suspended. The second citation was for a bad check written to a local business from a Charlotte resident.
- On Friday, officers were called to 447 Mechanicsville for the strong smell of marijuana entering an apartment from an adjacent apartment. Upon arrival, the officers also smelled marijuana and they saw a person slam a window shut. They contacted the tenant and he denied smoking marijuana and declined to allow officers in the apartment. An officer applied for and was granted a search warrant. A search found drug paraphernalia only and the tenant was not arrested.

Hinesburg Fire Department

- The Fire Department volunteers have been quite active since July 1st. The volunteers have responded to 12 medical calls and fire 4 calls, of which 2 were mutual aid calls. July 4 prior to the storms arriving, we were dispatched to Charlotte's Wings Point Rd for a structure fire with a tanker, at nearly the same time the storms arrived and we were busy responding to reports of down tree and power lines for approximately 2 hours. On July 7 we responded to Williston with an engine and manpower for the residential inn fire. Our crew was there for over 5 hours getting back at midnight.
- The Fire Department will be hosting a basic EMS training course in September, meeting Monday and Wednesday evenings. Please contact us at Info@Hinesburgfd.org if you are interested in taking the class. If you have been thinking about joining the department to help your community now is an

excellent time as we are in need of members especially EMS members. Come join this dedicated group to help support others in our community.

- The Fireman's Association would like to especially thank the community members which supported the July 4 BBQ.

Other activities:

- Clean up from July 4 activities
- Office's meeting last Tuesday
- Operations/business meeting tonight
- Chief reviewed dry hydrant specs for Hannaford's
- Chief reviewed Division of Fire Safety finding for next phase of Thistle Hill Development
- Chief attended meeting with VIA around next phase of Fire Station design
- Chief attended VT Homeland Security Training & Exercise planning meeting in Berlin

Buildings and Facilities

- *Rec Path project:* Work continues on CVU Rd, sub base installed from 116 to Pond Rd, large culvert near CVU ball field installed, concrete wing walls soon. Crew will be working at the 116 intersection and on Merchants Bank side next week. Unfortunately, second crew did not start this week, hopefully next week. Federal/State inspection of the project last Thursday went smoothly.
- Annual employee evaluations completed.
- Prep for annual Town Hall carpet/vinyl cleaning over weekend-moving items out of way and then moving everything back Monday-good time to recycle lots of outdated/unnecessary material.

Town Administrator

- *116 Traffic Lights* – Town Planner, Alex Weinhagen and I met again with representatives of VTRANS regarding traffic flow on 116; specifically the signalization at the Lantmans, 116, Charlotte Rd intersection. As a result of the meeting, VTRANS will tweak the signals slightly. They will add more green light time for traffic on 116 and take a little bit of time away from the connecting roads. This will have only a minor impact on the rolling queue. The change that would yield the greatest benefit would be to synchronize Lantman's exit with Charlotte Rd. Traffic engineers do not favor the synchronization plan until some site modifications can be made to the Lantman's side of the intersection: move the sidewalk, move up the stop-bar, remove a tree, etc. These changes are part of the 'Hannaford' solution to the intersection. Of course, if Hannaford is permitted it will still be a number of years until this change would actually occur and the traffic pattern at the intersection would be altered; furthermore, this is creating a problem now and waiting for Hannaford could be a long wait. Alex and I are scheduled to meet with the Regional Planning Commission this week to further explore how to make these changes in the near future.

- *Natural Gas Service* – Selectboard member Phil Pouech and I met with Steve Wark of VT Natural Gas on July 9th regarding the possibility of extending natural gas service east on CVU Road towards the intersection of Richmond Rd, North Rd, and Texas Hill Rd. The impetus for examining this line extension stemmed from a presentation from VT Gas to the Selectboard when they presented their plans to extend their gas line from Burlington to Middlebury through Hinesburg along the VELCO right of way. The Town and VT Gas have agreed to analyze the potential of extending the existing natural gas service infrastructure.
- *NRG Wind Turbine* – NRG has decided not to erect a Northwind 100 wind turbine on their property. The goal of the turbine was to generate 25% of their total power which would have allowed their products to carry the WindMade label. The turbine would have been of similar size to the one at visible at Dynapower along Rte 116 in South Burlington.
- *Public Safety Facility*-- The Town's consultant architects, Vermont Integrated Architects, met with Town staff members to review information in order to complete the Master Planning Phase of the project. Specifically, they toured the police station with (police) Chief Koss to examine how the current facility might be rehabilitated and expanded so it could continue to function as the future police station. They also met with (fire) Chief Barber to review the fire department needs again. Alex Weinhagen (Town Planner), Rocky Martin (Buildings & Facilities Director) and Joe Colangelo (Town Administrator) took part in the discussion to further the project. The consultant architects will supply the Selectboard drawings and cost estimates at the August 20th Selectboard meeting on the three different options the Town is exploring.

The three options include:

- 1) a co-located police and fire station at the site of the current fire station
- 2) a new police department structure and an expansion of the current fire station
- 3) a rehabilitation of the current police station and an expansion of the current fire station.

All of the three options could be done as one project or as a phased project, completed over time. The Selectboard will be expected to push a preferred alternative forward at the September 10th Selectboard meeting.

Town Clerk & Treasurer

- The ballots for the primary election have arrived. You are welcome to come in to vote anytime between now and August 28th, the actual day of the election, or to request that the ballots be mailed to you. Remember that in the primary election, you will be mailed all 3 ballots (Democrat, Republican and Progressive). You may vote on ONE BALLOT ONLY but you must return all 3 ballots in the envelopes provided. Be sure to follow the instructions on the envelope.
- Tax bills will be mailed out in the beginning of August. Please look for them and if you have not received one by August 15th, give us a call and we will print

you another one. Keep a copy for your records as you will need it for your income tax return.

Highway Department

- Replaced culvert on Leavensworth Road
- Preparing North Road for culvert replacements. A portion of North Road will be closed the week of July 23-26 from 8:00 am-4:00 pm. Closure between 1884 North Road on south to Hayden Hill West. Culverts are being replaced now in preparation for North Road to be paved in September.
- Shelburne Falls culvert located just east of O'Neil Road is scheduled to be replaced July 31-Aug 2. Shelburne Falls Rd will be closed to thru traffic during that time.
- Ditching, brush clearing, grading, and dust control on multiple Town roads
- Clearing trees from storms and repairing minor wash outs

Recreation Dept./Commission

- New session of Driver Education class began.
- First Hart & Mead Concert in the Park of the season brought Matt Francis' band "Something with Strings", which was a hit!! Church St. performer wowed the audience, balancing on stacked chairs and juggling fire. Lantman's sold popcorn and cold drinks. *Enjoy music each Wednesday starting at 6:30 pm behind HCS.* Check out the new playground. Bring a racquet and play tennis. Raindates are Thursdays. Garrett Brown and Company will perform on 7/18.
- Track & Field program had their first casual meet at SBHS.
- Registration deadline for the VT State Track Meet on 7/21 in St. Johnsbury.

Planning & Zoning

- DRB public hearings on Hannaford supermarket application closed on 7/17 (a total of 12 hearings, first one was on 1/4/2011) after a large dose of final submissions and public comment. The DRB now has 45 days to deliberate and issue a written decision. Deliberations expected to be done in closed sessions. Decision expected by August 31.
- In preliminary discussions with several different developers regarding possible future projects in the village growth area - for the areas west of Kinney Drugs and south of Shelburne Falls Road. No formal applications to announce yet.
- Working with the Trails Committee to create new and updated trail maps for Geprags Park, LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest (and surrounding public lands), and Russell Trails (to add adjacent Thistle Hill trails). Designing maps for website use and larger format for new trailhead kiosks.
- Considering a partnership with Town of Williston planning staff and the Lake Iroquois Association to explore better shoreline zoning provisions. The Town of Williston is hosting a public brainstorming session on this topic at the Williston Town Hall on July 26 at 7pm.

- Zoning permits are significantly down compared to last year at this time. Total zoning permits issued to date in 2012 = 27 (including 6 for new homes). Total zoning permits issued by this date in 2011 = 64 (including 12 for new homes). There appear to be a lot fewer Hinesburgers making significant home improvements/additions so far this year.

Water/Wastewater Department

- Finished quarterly meter readings and responded to several customer billing questions regarding readings
- Investigated brown water complaints. There was a localized brown water issue in buildings near school. There is a buildup of iron and manganese in the pipes. Much of the build-up is simply due to our local water supply (this is not dangerous) and some of the build-up is due to a malfunctioning flushing hydrant. This problem should be fixed over the next two months. Until the problem is fixed, the water department will be doing localized flushing to alleviate the problem. So far this seems to have helped.
- Coordinate with state for fluoride inspection. The state does annual fluoride inspections. During this process, the state will inspect the Town's inspecting lab, equipment, and treatment system. Inspection is planned for this upcoming week.
- Monitor Progress on Thistle Hill project. The contractor for Thistle Hill is preparing to install new water lines and sewer services. All of Thistle Hill will connect to the Town's water and sewer system. Town staff will ensure that all equipment and infrastructure is properly installed and meets all Town specifications.
- Worked with Rocky locating water lines by CVU/116 intersection in preparation for the installation of a storm water collection system being built along with the Rec Path project.

Weekly Updates from Boards, Committees, and Commissions:

Trails Committee

- Discussed proposed sidewalk on the eastern side of 116 from Commerce Street to CVU Road. This project will be brought to the Selectboard on July 23rd when NRG and the Trails Committee present their plans to apply for grant funding for project completion.
- A small trail was relocated in the Russell Trail network. This project was completed by a Vermont Youth Conservation Core group.
- Part of the Eagle Trail in the Old Town Forest was closed and relocated on the Homestead Trail.



**Congratulations to Mike Anthony for 30 years of service
to the Town of Hinesburg**

THANK YOU MIKE!!!

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