

Town of Hinesburg

celebrating 250 years

Weekly Update

1762-2012

August 8, 2012



Upcoming Meetings...

- **Planning Commission:** *Wednesday, August 8th at 7:30 p.m. (1st floor conference room)*
- **Trails Committee:** *Wednesday, August 8th at 7:00 p.m. (3rd floor conference room)*
- **Village Steering Committee:** *Monday, August 13th at 7:00 p.m. (1st floor conference room)*
- **Recreation Commission:** *Tuesday, August 14th at 7:00 p.m. (1st floor conference room)*

Weekly Updates from Departments:

Hinesburg Community Police

- A woman came into the police station to report that she had received a call from her grandson in the middle of the night and that he had been arrested and needed money. Although she said that it sounded like her grandson, this might have worked better if she had not seen her grandson that evening.
- *Facebook* is the number one method for thieves to get information about family. Using this information, one phone call can result in thousands of dollars lost. There is never a true-life event that would be so time critical that a call to the local police could not be made to verify the emergency. Hinesburg Community Police can be contacted 24 hours a day to assist *anytime* there is a question about the authenticity of a call.
- Out of a number of calls this week, the department responded to eight medical calls. This continues to be a positive service to the community, not only in providing trained medical personnel but also reducing the response time for when the first person is on the scene.

Buildings and Facilities/Water & Wastewater

- Monthly Water and Wastewater sampling; monthly reports for both systems.
- Fixed a pipe blockage at wastewater plant.
- Routed water supply to the Ballard's Corner Rd area through the new line across the Bissonette property.
- Marked out water and wastewater lines for VT Gas service connection work and Rec Path project.
- *Rec Path Project*- work continued on CVU Rd, backfill finished at large culvert by CVU ball field, prep for paving, finish grading, topsoil and seeding. With

Mechanicsville Rd closed and traffic routed around CVU Rd and Commerce St, contractor was able to easily install catch basins and storm water piping. A different section of Mechanicsville Rd, from Patrick Brook north to the CVU Rd intersection, will be closed both this week and next Tuesday through Friday. Closure will be for the same reason- more storm water work and will allow much of the work to be completed before school starts. Met with some property owners on Mechanicsville Rd.

- *Well #3 and Municipal Water Issues* – Held a meeting last week with the Chairman of the Selectboard to discuss the results of the Well #3 ‘cleaning’ performed a few months ago. Before the cleaning, the flow from Well #3 was around 110 gal/min; now the flow is closer to 120 gal/min while the ‘optimal’ flow level is 140 gal/min. The less than optimal flows we are experiencing increase the amount of time the pumps need to operate which in turn increases electrical costs. This month we will attempt to use a stronger compound to try and further clean Well #3. There is a possibility that the Town could apply for grant funding to analyze alternative possibilities in order to increase flow. After this month’s cleaning we will report back on the results.

Highway Department

- *Shelburne Falls Road* – Installation of the new box culvert on Shelburne Falls Road was completed during the week. The road was closed July 31st and reopened at the end of the day on August 2nd.
- The highway crew is busy grading all the gravel roads in Town.

Recreation Dept./Commission

- *Youth Soccer registration begins--Please register!!* All info and registration forms are available online or on table outside of Rec. Dept. Office. Self-serve option is available with secure drop box. Town Hall building is open M-F from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm.
- Fall Brochure will be available online this week.
- Vermont Voltage Soccer Camp will run August 6-10 at Lyman Park. To register, contact Voltage directly at 802-527-1077, voltagecamps@gmail.com
- Recreation Office will be closed August 6-10.

Planning & Zoning

- *The DRB met on August 7th.* They did a site visit at 6pm for a proposed 13,000 square foot building at Burnett's Scrap Metal on Route 116. The meeting was to focus on the Burnett Scrap Metal proposal and a site plan review for three multi-family residential buildings on Farmall Drive as part of the Hinesburg Center LLC project build out. The new wrinkle in the Hinesburg Center LLC project is a proposal to add eight on-street parking spaces along Farmall Drive. Hannaford deliberations continued (in closed session) at this meeting.
- *The Planning Commission meets on August 8th.* They will be wrapping up the rural area zoning draft language in preparation for a now planned September 12 public hearing.

- Met with a family who is evaluating the LaFreniere Farm on Route 116 (approximately 300 acres of prime farmland for sale for the last 2-3 years) to discuss possible agricultural and agri-tourism uses. Very apropos given the PC's rural area zoning efforts to expand allowed uses along these lines.

Carpenter-Carse Library

- Selected, ordered, and catalogued 40 new books for the adult collection - fiction and nonfiction; many great new youth books were also added!
- Two new easy chairs purchased earlier this summer were delivered by volunteer Steve Lidle; thanks, Steve!
- Worked on plans for a new fire alarm in the Community Room restroom and dealt with minor alarm system issues and continued research on replacement of rooftop HVAC units.
- Continued with the training of the newest student clerk on staff – Charlie Yarwood. Well done Charlie, and thanks to Judy, Jane, Richard and Courtney!
- Trustees Jane Starkweather and Heather Roberts attacked the weeds @ the front of the library building.
- Returned many large print books to the VT Dept. of Libraries Special Services Unit and ordered several more boxes. These will be available to library patrons over a period of 3 months.
- Prepared and submitted library news to the Hinesburg Record News
- Circulated the library's popular passes: ECHO Pass, State Parks Pass, Shelburne Farms Pass & VT History Museum Pass
- Library patrons are enjoying Gerry DeGraff's beautiful model boats exhibited in our display case.
- *Library programs held:* Congratulations to Youth Librarian Janet Soutiere and her assistant Judy Curtis who wrapped up a super fun Summer Reading Program season with the 6th weekly event – *Campfire Pajamarama*. On August 4th, Janet celebrated summer reading achievements at a melodious event featuring Rik Palieri's considerable talents. Janet also offered morning toddler and preschool story hours, and a YA Book Group session. Adult Services Librarian Jane Racer and assistant Beth Buttles-Miller are busy planning Fall programs and an art exhibit.
- And much, much more!
- *Keep up-to-date on current events happening at the library--* http://www.carpentercarse.org/ccl_programs.html.

Town Administrator

- *Public Safety Building* - Held a meeting with our consultant architect on August 2nd in order to review some of the initial work they have done to look at the feasibility of three alternative projects. Our original goal was to present the Selectboard and public with the alternative cost and site plan alternatives at the August 20th Selectboard meeting but now see the September 10th Selectboard meeting as a more likely showcase for this work.

- *Rte 116 Traffic Lights* – Town Planner, Alex Weinhagen and I are actively working with traffic engineers at the Regional Planning Commission to further alleviate traffic problems on 116. As I reported last week in the *Weekly Update*, the State of Vermont, who controls the lights on 116, increased the green light time on 116. However, we have received feedback for some time now that the duration of the green light for the Lantman’s exit is so short that people are frequently running the light making an illegal right turn on red. We are going to look at minor adjustments that may add green light time to the Lantman’s exit. We are also continuing our efforts to determine how we might be able to make the necessary site improvements at the Lantman’s exit that would allow for the safe synchronization of the Charlotte Road and Lantman’s lights.
- Secondly, our police chief and several residents have commented on their frustrations making left turns off of Route 116 on to Commerce Street (when going south) and Farmall Drive (when going north). This light is set up with an advance left turn green turn arrow (a good thing) that turns to a red arrow when the regular green is on for Route 116 through traffic. The frustration comes when someone is in the left turn lane looking at a red arrow and a green light for through traffic, and there are no oncoming cars in sight. Folks want to know why the light can’t be set up to simply go to a regular green for all lanes after the advance green arrow. This would allow cars to make the turn after the green arrow ends when there is no oncoming traffic, but still wait safely when that traffic is there. We will continue to investigate this issue and report back to the community.

Weekly Updates from Boards, Committees, and Commissions:

Selectboard

- *Draft Town Forest Management Plan* – The Selectboard reviewed the Town Forest Management Plan with the Town Forest Committee and members of the community. The Management Plan will be discussed again at the August 20th Selectboard meeting. If the plan seems to be in good shape at that time, the Selectboard will plan a Public Hearing before adopting the plan at the September 10th Selectboard meeting. The plan is available for review at www.hinesburg.org
- *Shelburne Falls Road Speed Limit* - The Selectboard passed a Motion reducing the speed limit on Shelburne Falls Road – from 45 mph to 35 mph – starting at the entrance to Geprag’s Park to the intersection of 116.
- *Ecosystem Restoration Grant* – The Selectboard authorized the Town to apply for an Ecosystem Restoration Program Grant study to look at the potential of a municipal storm water treatment plan at the Redstone/former Saputo site in Hinesburg Village. The Town is working in collaboration with the LaPlatte Watershed Partnership and Redstone Redevelopment (property owner) on this project. The grant would provide 100% funding for a feasibility study.
- *Committee, Boards, and Commission (CBC) Reappointments* – The Selectboard reappointed a number of current CBC members to additional three or four year

terms. All open seats will be advertised to the entire community on September 1st. Applications from those interested in serving on a Town CBC will be due by October 1st and appointments will be made before October 31st. A list of vacant seats will be posted on *Front Porch Forum*, *Facebook*, *The Citizen* and the Town Website.

- *Economic Development Commission* – The Selectboard approved an updated mission and organizational structure for the new Economic Development Commission. Seven open seats will be available for appointment. These openings will be advertised starting September 1st. The two main tasks of the Economic Development Commission will be to develop a five-year economic development plan (a requirement of the 2016 Town Plan) and to safeguard and manage the Town’s revolving loan fund.

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