

Town of Hinesburg

Celebrating 250 years

Weekly Update

1762-2012

January 16, 2013



Upcoming Meetings. . .

- **Vermont Gas Public Meeting:** *Wednesday, January 16th at 7:30 p.m. (Main Hall)*
- **Trails Committee:** *Wednesday, January 16th at 7:00 p.m. (1st floor conference room)*
- **Selectboard:** *Monday, January 21st at 7:00 p.m. (Main Hall)*
- **Conservation Commission:** *Monday, January 21st at 7:00 p.m. (3rd floor conference room)*
- **Planning Commission:** *Wednesday, January 23rd at 7:30 p.m. (1st floor conference room)*

Weekly Updates from Departments:

Hinesburg Community Police

- *Weapons Search* – On Wednesday, January 9th, officers responded to CVU for a report of weapons in several student vehicles. Three vehicles were searched with nothing found in one, ammunition found in another vehicle and in the third vehicle, a .22 rifle, a pellet rifle and ammunition was found. In questioning the students, it was determined that items were brought to school and left in the vehicles in conjunction with hunting before or after school. There are no charges anticipated and CVU will be handling the violations that occurred. Both students were 18 years of age or older.
- *Lost in Woods* – On Thursday, January 10th, police responded to the Hayden Hill area for a woman that was lost in the woods. She had a cell phone and was able to communicate with officers until she was subsequently found uninjured. The State Police and Hinesburg Fire had been notified and were standing by.
- *Road Rage* – On Friday, January 11th, police responded to Firehouse Plaza for a reported argument occurring in the parking lot. In what appeared to be a road rage incident, a 39 year old male from Hinesburg confronted a 17 year old female from Williston and her friend, a 17 year old male from Shelburne. The subject from Hinesburg allegedly yelled at the two and at one point, shoved the 17 year old male. Charges of simple assault will be filed.
- *Vehicle Break-ins* – On Saturday night through Sunday morning, several vehicles were entered and items taken. In one case, a rear window was broken and a purse taken. It is important to either lock your vehicle or make sure items of value are removed or hidden from view.

Town Clerk's Office

- *Dog Licenses* – Dog tags have finally arrived! Please come in at your earliest convenience (prior to April 1st) to obtain your 2013 dog tags. If your pet's rabies certificate has expired, we will need you to bring a copy of the new one. Fees are \$8.00 per license until April 1st, at which point they increase to \$10.00. Please remember that licensing is required annually between Jan. 1st and April 1st. This law is to enhance rabies vaccinations to protect both your pet and the public, and to help us locate the owner of strays that may go out for a jaunt and get picked up by animal control. Thanks for helping us in this important public health effort!
- *Petitions* – Petitions are due on January 28th at 5:00 p.m. for anyone wishing to run for office. Please stop by the Town Clerk's office to pick up a petition if you are interested in running for an elected position. There are also vacancies on various Boards and Committees. For information on those openings, please contact Joe Colangelo, Hinesburg Town Administrator.

Recreation Department

- *Meeting* – Bissonette Recreation Field meeting held on January 7th.
- *Piano Lessons* – New semester of piano lesson began this week. There are 33 children playing.
- *Afterschool Dance* – New session of Afterschool Dance began on Tuesday.
- *Arts and Crafts* – New session of Arts and Crafts began on Friday.
- *Youth Basketball Games* – Hosted a 3/4 girls and a 5/6 boys basketball game at HCS on 1/12. The 3/4 boys team played at Christ the King School and 5/6 girls played in Shelburne.

Carpenter-Carse Library

Special Events:

- **Wednesday, January 16 at 7 p.m., "Patagonia" a presentation by trekker Steve Conlon of Above the Clouds:** Steve Conlon has run *Above the Clouds*, an adventure travel company offering treks in the Himalaya, Patagonia and the Alps for over 30 years. He lived in Nepal for five years, dating back to 1972, and has trekked extensively throughout the Himalayan region and Patagonia. He first trekked in Patagonia in 1994, leading a group of trustees from Outward Bound, and has returned there regularly ever since, drawn by the dramatic peaks and wild weather. The event is free and open to the public.
- **Winter Photography Exhibit featuring works by Janice A. Bauch:** Janice's passion for photography is embodied in her stunning photographs. They capture the many wonders of nature, animals and birds. "My goal is to bring to those who view my work, the magic of the moment." The exhibit is open during regular library hours in January and February. This month our display case holds small art objects from the collection of Janice Bauch. There are sculptures, folk art etc. from Mexico, the Hopi and Navajo peoples, as well as soapstone Inuit sculptures.

Other News

- Thirty+ new adult books and 15 youth books were added to the collection this week, with more on the way!
- Another thank you is in order in the New Year to our faithful volunteers: Kelly Winter, Monte Stokes, Dani DeMag and Nicole Akiki. We also appreciated the anonymous volunteer who shoveled ½ of the sidewalk after the big January snow storm.
- We thank library patrons for making purchases from the library's Holiday book sale shelf. We sold about 50 like-new books. Proceeds from this sale will be used to buy new books!
- Library Board of Trustees Chair Kathy Kjelleren and Library Director Sue Barden presented the library budget for 2013-14 at the January 7th Selectboard meeting. There was a lively discussion about library services and the budget.
- Next Board of Trustees meeting: January 23rd, 7:30 @ the library.
- The library will be open January 21st, 2013, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We will feature books and other media related to MLK in his honor and in respect of his legacy.
- On December 21st Library Director Sue Barden brought books and other items from the library collection to the Mealsite for Seniors @ Osborne Hall. Diners were in a festive mood that day, and several seniors borrowed large print books and dvd's.
- *Keep up-to-date on the current events happening at the library—
http://www.carpentercarse.org/ccl_programs.html*

Planning & Zoning

- *DRB Meeting Preparation* – Completed staff reports and draft decisions for the DRB to consider ahead of their January 15 meeting. Assembled and mailed pre-meeting packets. Significant staff time spent reviewing revisions to the Fletcher Allen Health Care proposal based on discussions at the 12/4 DRB meeting. Lots of communication back and forth with project engineer to try to iron out design issues (building, site, and landscaping design) ahead of the DRB meeting. Staff working hard to ensure there is a coherent plan for the road, sidewalk, and a possible Shelburne Falls Road crosswalk, so that the Town doesn't end up with all the responsibility and cost for the necessary improvements. Especially important since this is the first development at the northern end of the future "West Side Road".
- *Planning Commission Meeting* – Staff worked with the PC at the 1/9 meeting to outline two new projects that the Commission will now start work on – 1) improving our storm water control/treatment standards; 2) updating zoning for the Shoreline and Rural Residential 1 districts. Staff now working to bring storm water speakers to future PC meetings to learn more about the State storm water permit system as well as the overall issue.
- *Dollar Store Update* – Updated the Selectboard on the status of a possible Dollar General Store coming to Hinesburg. In short... Dollar General is still in their due diligence phase. They are actively looking at a site on the west side of Route

116, north of Kinney Drugs, and just north of Patrick Brook. However, they have not made a decision yet, and have not submitted any permit applications.

- *Hannaford Update* – Staff sorting through the implications of the appeals of the DRB’s Hannaford decision to the Environmental Court. Two appeals filed by a citizen group opposed to Hannaford, and one “cross appeal” filed by Hannaford that challenges conditions in the DRB approval as well as several portions of the Town’s regulations. Prepared a brief update for the Selectboard on the Hannaford project - both on the appeals and on upcoming State-level review via Act 250.
- *Fire Safety & Development Review* – Met with the Fire Chief to discuss potential fire protection issues with the Hannaford project, and more broadly, how the P&Z Department and the Fire Department can work together to better ensure consistent and timely feedback on fire safety within the development review process.
- *Rural Zoning Proposal* – Tidied up and delivered the Planning Commission’s Rural Zoning proposal to the Selectboard along with a memo outlining next steps and timelines. Updated the Town website with the final proposal information. Working on a town-wide FYI letter about the proposed revisions.

Town Administrator

- *Public Meeting with Vermont Gas* – (TODAY!!) Wednesday, January 16th, at 7:30pm in Town Hall, Hinesburg residents are invited to attend a public meeting regarding the Addison Natural Gas Pipeline Project. This meeting will include representatives from Vermont Gas and will provide opportunities for community members to review the current pipeline route, weigh-in on route alternatives (i.e. Baldwin Road Town right-of-way or the VELCO right-of-way) within Hinesburg, and discuss how citizen feedback will be incorporated into the pipeline route.
- *Commissions, Boards, Committees* – There are 2 open seats on the Economic Development Commission and 2 seats open on the Agency Request Review Committee. If you are interested in service on either of these 2 groups, please contact the Town Administrator or submit an application to get on the Selectboard agenda for an interview ASAP. You can download an application form on the Town website at the following link:
http://www.hinesburg.org/documents/cbc_application_form_040212.pdf

Weekly Update from Boards, Committees, and Commissions:

Recreation Commission

- Recreation Commission met on January 8th. Approved December meeting minutes, discussed Bissonette Recreation Field progress, Winter Carnival, July 4th Committee, and fireworks contract.

Selectboard

- *Village North Sidewalk* – The Selectboard signed a cooperative agreement with the State of Vermont for the Hinesburg Village North Sidewalk project. With the \$211,500 from the State plus a combined \$23,500 from WindNRG and SB Collins, Inc., a 1100' sidewalk will be constructed on the east side of Rte 116 connecting Commerce Street to Riggs Road. Thanks to our WindNRG and SB Collins the Town has no financial responsibility for the project. In the future, we hope to find additional monies to connect the sidewalk on the east side of Rte 116 from Riggs Road to CVU Road.
- *Affordable Housing Grant* – A M.O.U was approved between the Town of Hinesburg and the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation awarding Hinesburg a \$7,500 grant for the purpose of implementing energy conservation/reduction measures in the mobile homes in the Mountain View Mobile Home Park. The \$7,500 will be coupled with \$3,000 from the Mountain View Mobile Home Park, \$600 from Riess Construction, and \$800 from Hinesburg's Affordable Housing Committee. The project will be completed during the 2013 calendar year.
- *July 4th Fireworks* – The Selectboard approved signing a contract with Northstar Fireworks for the 2013 July 4th celebrations. The newly formed sub-committee of the Recreation Commission – the 4th of July Committee – has taken over the fundraising and planning efforts for the annual 4th of July celebration in Hinesburg.
- *St. George Fire Protection Services* – The annual invoice to the Town of St. George was approved by the Selectboard for the Fire Protection Services Contract. St. George is charged 15% of the total operating budget of Hinesburg's fire/first response from the previous year. The invoice for FY2013, based on FY2012 totals, was \$23,644.
- *FY2014 Budget* – Since only three (3) Selectboard members were present discussion was mostly pushed to next Monday. Currently, the proposed FY2014 budget shows a \$38,544 increase in total expenditures from the current year and an approximately 0.50¢ tax rate increase. The Selectboard has just a few decision points left to consider: 1) should more fund balance be applied to help reduce the tax rate increase?; 2) should the highway paving budget be funded at the same level as the current year (an additional \$25,000); 3) last sweep of line-items to increase/decrease.
- *Public Safety Facility* – A final bond 20-year repayment schedule and legal language for the Town Meeting ballot were shared for the final design and construction of a new police station next to the existing fire station. The bond ballot article for voter consideration will ask for the authority to take out up to \$1,055,000 worth of bonds to complete the police station. The vision for the complete public safety facility project is to expand the fire station and create a town green on Lot 1 with non-property tax funding. This funding could include fire impact fees, grants, the sale of town owned land, and private fundraising. To that end, the Town plans to complete final design and engineering work for the fire station with the fire impact fees that have been collected thus far. Public

meetings are tentatively set for Wednesday, February 6th and Wednesday, February 27th at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall. We encourage community participation. The public safety facility link on the Town website is continuously updated with the most current information and Hinesburg residents should anticipate numerous Front Porch Forum postings and various other means of communication regarding this project between now and Town Meeting. You may access this information on the Town website at the following link: <http://www.hinesburg.org/public-safety-building-project/index.html>

- *Commission/Board/Committee Appointments* – Melissa Levy was appointed to a 2 year term on the Economic Development Commission. Alex Weinhagen was appointed Acting Zoning Administrator (enabling Alex to process zoning permits, etc. when the Zoning Administrator is away). Alex was also appointed to the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission’s Planning Advisory Committee. The Planning Advisory Committee is made up of professional planners from Chittenden County municipalities.



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