

# Town of Hinesburg

*Celebrating 250 years*

## *Weekly Update*

1762-2012

### January 30, 2013



#### Upcoming Meetings. . .

- **Conservation Commission:** *Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. (3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room)*
- **Development Review Board:** *Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. (Main Hall)*
- **Town Forest Committee:** *Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. (1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room)*
- **Affordable Housing:** *Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. (Main Hall)*
- **Selectboard:** *Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (Main Hall)*
- **Public Meeting:** *Public Safety Facility - Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. (Main Hall)*

#### Weekly Updates from Departments:

##### **Hinesburg Community Police**

- *Domestic Assault* - On Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, police responded to Oscar's Lane for a reported Domestic Assault. The 34-year-old male Hinesburg resident was arrested and taken to jail for the physical assault.
- *Head-on Collision* - On Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, Hinesburg police, fire and first response responded to Pond Rd. at White Tail Ridge Rd. for a head on collision. The two vehicles involved were both totaled but due to seatbelts and airbags; no one was transported to the hospital.
- *Family Dispute* - On Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, a call was received regarding a family dispute on Jourdan St. Upon arrival, it was determined that it was a verbal altercation and no action was necessary.

##### **Town Clerk's Office**

- *Dog Licenses* – Dog tags have finally arrived! Please come in at your earliest convenience (prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>) 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 1<sup>st</sup>, at which point they increase to \$10.00. Please remember that licensing is required annually between Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. 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!

## **Recreation Department**

- *Lacrosse Meeting* - Hosted lacrosse planning meeting on Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> with Hinesburg and Charlotte coaches to prepare for upcoming season.
- *Lacrosse Coaching Certifications* - US Lacrosse will offer Level 1 and 2 coaching certification at UVM March 9<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup> for \$10. Register online at <http://www.uslacrosse.org/TopNav2Right/ProgramsGrants/FastBreakInitiative/Vermont2013.aspx>
- *Driver's Education Classes* - Finalized 3 Driver Education courses available this summer. Dates/info is posted on town website.
- *Spring Rec Programs* - Began Spring/Summer program planning.
- *Rec. Basketball Games* - 3/4 girls basketball team hosted Burlington and 5/6 boys hosted Colchester on Sat. January 26<sup>th</sup>.
- *Family Swim* - Offered Family Swim on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Sports & Fitness Edge in Williston.
- *Smuggs Discounted Tickets* - First Smuggs group on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> for discounted lift tickets, rentals, and lessons for skiers and riders.
- Posted Smuggs info on Front Porch Forum to increase numbers for Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Register at HRD by noon on Thursday. Forms available at office or town website.

## **Carpenter-Carse Library**

### *Special Events:*

- Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., Heartfire Henna Program presented by professional henna artist Rebecca Freedner: Join us on Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for a special program on an ancient art form. Start off Winter Carnival weekend with a fun activity for yourself and a friend! This program for adults includes a solid overview of the henna plant's rich history, traditions, art and science. Rebecca will use a hands-on approach. Attendees will be provided with all they need to create their own henna designs on paper and on themselves. Class size is limited, so please call the library to register: 482-2878. The program is free.
- The February selection for the Carpenter-Carse book discussion group is *The Tin Ticket* by Deborah Swiss. The meeting will be @ 7 p.m. on February 13<sup>th</sup>. The March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting selection is *March* by Geraldine Brooks. Please call Carol @ 482-3193 for the location of meetings and other information.
- Winter Photography Exhibit featuring works by Janice A. Bauch: Janice's photos capture the many wonders of nature – animals, birds and landscapes. Her exhibit is open during regular library hours in January and February.
- We extend a special thank you to trekker Steve Conlon, whose "Patagonia" presentation entertained and educated library patrons on a stormy night last week. We are so glad Steve prevailed in spite of challenging road conditions; the 31 people who attended had a great evening!

#### *Other News:*

- Assistant Director and IT Specialist Richard Pritsky attended the American Library Association's Midwinter Meeting in Seattle, Washington January 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. Exciting events, discussions and exhibits abound at this national winter ALA conference.
- A Library Board of Trustees meeting was held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:30 @ the library. Please note that monthly meetings are reverting to the former 7:00 p.m. start time. The next meeting is scheduled for February 20.
- Library Treasurer Darcelene Lewis/Wedge and Director Sue Barden are reviewing balances of expenditure & income 7/1/12 – 12/31/12 before passing reports on to the library accountant, David Lavallee. This review is done quarterly, to insure the accuracy of our records.
- *Keep up-to-date on the current events happening at the library—*  
[http://www.carpentercarse.org/ccl\\_programs.html](http://www.carpentercarse.org/ccl_programs.html).

#### **Planning & Zoning**

- *Planning Commission Meeting* – Staff worked with the Planning Commission at their 1/23 meeting on an overview of the Rural Residential 1 Zoning District. Staff shared a series of maps that showed development patterns, parcel distribution, road networks, water features (streams and wetlands), core forest areas, topography and steep slopes, etc. Over the course of 2013, the PC will consider changes to the RR1 district – e.g., dividing into multiple districts, assessment of allowed uses, development design standards, and development densities.
- *Developer Meeting* – Met with a developer of small-scale “cottage homes” who has expressed interest in Hinesburg. This developer presented at the 2012 Housing Conference in Burlington regarding an in-fill project he did on Kirby Road in South Burlington – “Kirby Cottage” project. Really interesting and well-done in-fill project – project info at <http://www.kirbycottages.com>.
- *Hinesburg Family Health Project* – Staff had a productive meeting with Fletcher Allen Health Care representatives to iron out details of their proposal to build a new facility for the Hinesburg Family Health practice on Shelburne Falls Road (south side, opposite Jiffy Mart). FAHC is making plan revisions to address DRB compliance concerns. Staff is drafting approval language to be reviewed by the DRB and the Applicant at the Feb 5 DRB meeting.
- *Rural Area Zoning* – Staff met with the Town Administrator and Tom Ayer (Selectboard) to discuss the Rural Area Zoning proposal that the Planning Commission forwarded at the beginning of the year. Decided on a timeline for Selectboard review – to begin in March, after Town Meeting.
- *Hannaford Act 250 Review* – Staff drafted a memo to the Selectboard regarding the Act 250 review for the Hannaford project. This project was approved by the DRB late last year, and is about to begin the State-level Act 250 review.
- *DRB Meeting Preparation* – Back to back DRB meetings this week (1/29) and next (2/5). Staff preparing materials for pre-meeting Board packets, and attending these meetings to help with review process. Three relatively minor

applications on the 1/29 DRB agenda. Three very significant applications on the 2/5 DRB agenda – 1) Fletcher Allen Health Care (as noted above); 2) Bristol Bakery – to locate in 1<sup>st</sup> floor of building next to Kinney Drugs; 3) Aubuchon Realty – to revise/improve site plan for Firehouse Plaza.

### **Town Administrator**

- *VT Gas/Addison Natural Gas Pipeline* – Selectboard member Phil Pouech and I attended the Public Service Board’s (PSB) Pre Conference Hearing today (January 30) in Montpelier. The main purpose of the Pre Conference Hearing was to set a schedule for the proceedings. The following important dates were decided: 1) February 28 – Anticipated amended pipeline route thru Hinesburg and Monkton to be filed by Vermont Gas; 2) March 21 – Tentatively scheduled Public Service Board’s 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing on the Addison Natural Gas Pipeline; 3) March 29<sup>th</sup> – Final date to file a Motion to Intervene. Like always, please stay abreast on the very latest by visiting the Town webpage: <http://www.hinesburg.org/vt-gas-project/index.html>
- *Hannaford Act 250 Questionnaire & Local Permit Applications* – The advisory firm of White & Burke, contracted by Hannaford as real estate and permitting consultants, have submitted applications for the following: 1) Town of Hinesburg Buried Utility Permit and Stormwater Utility Agreement; 2) Driveway Road Cut-Permit; 3) Water/Wastewater Connection Permit; 4) Wastewater Allocation Permit; 5) ACT 250 Municipal Impact Questionnaire. Our original intent was to have full staff review of these completed for the February 4<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting; however, in order to properly review all items more time is needed and these items will be presented to the Selectboard for consideration at the February 18<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting. As a result the February 4<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting has been cancelled.
- *Public Safety Facility* – If you have not viewed the article in the January 29 Burlington Free Press on the plans for the police station I would encourage you do so. If you are able to access the online edition (as a subscriber or as someone who has not used up their free monthly allotment of articles) you might find the short video tour of the current police station on-line interesting. Voters will be asked to consider an Australian ballot item on Tuesday, March 5 (polls open from 7am to 7pm at Town Hall) to authorize \$1,055,200 of general obligation bonds for the final design and construction of a public safety building. This proposed project for voter consideration is roughly \$1,900,000 less than the proposal voters rebuffed at last year’s Town Meeting for a \$2.9million Public Safety Facility and Community Park which included a joint police, fire, and community room facility along with a park at the adjacent green space at Lot  
1. This year’s project has been developed as a ‘public safety campus’ and includes plans for a future expansion of the fire station and future improvements to Lot 1 when alternative funding, such as private fundraising, grants and/or proceeds from the sale of Town owned land, can be obtained as a

significant funding source. On Tuesday, March 5 Hinesburg voters will consider approving a \$1,055,200 bond (with a 20-yr payback schedule) for the design, permitting, and site work costs for only the new police station portion of the plan. The annual payback for this project is estimated to increase the tax rate by 1.2¢ in FY2015 and an average of 1¢ each year for the next 20. Two (2) Public Meetings are scheduled prior to Town Meeting for discussion on the bond proposal. The first is set for Wednesday, February 6 and the second Wednesday, February 27. Both meetings will start at 7:30PM in Town Hall. We hope the public comes out to discuss the proposal on both occasions. Please visit the Public Safety Facility webpage at: <http://www.hinesburg.org/public-safety-building-project/index.html>. Also included with this week's Weekly Update is a short presentation on the proposed public safety building for voter consideration and the entire master plan vision for the expanded fire station and upgrades to Lot 1.

- *FY2014 Budget* – The proposed FY2014 Hinesburg town budget for voter consideration at Town Meeting was approved by the Selectboard on January 28. The total spending plan was set at \$3,025,960 which is a \$58,039 increase from the current year budget and will result in an anticipated increase of 0.37¢ on the Hinesburg property tax rate. That proposed tax rate increase will increase the tax bill on each \$100,000 of assessed homestead value by roughly \$4. You can review the entire budget on the Town webpage by visiting: <http://www.hinesburg.org/budget/index.html>

## Weekly Updates from Boards, Committees, and Commissions:

### **Selectboard**

- *FY2014 Budget* – See write-up in Town Administrator's Report above. You can review the entire budget on the Town webpage by visiting: <http://www.hinesburg.org/budget/index.html>
- *PACE Financing* – The Selectboard agreed to place an article on the Town Meeting Warning asking voters to consider designating Hinesburg as a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) District. PACE allows residents the ability to make energy efficiency upgrades to their homes and payback the cost of those upgrades via their property tax bill. Voters will have the opportunity to 'designate' the Town as a PACE district; 'implementation' would be a decision of the Selectboard at a later date, if voters approve to 'designate' Hinesburg. At least one (1) public meeting will be scheduled on PACE prior to Town Meeting.
- *Tar Sands* – The Selectboard approved placing a citizen petition asking voters to approve a resolution.

- *Public Safety Facility* – The Selectboard signed a resolution to place an article on the Town Meeting Warning asking voters if general obligation bonds of the Town of Hinesburg in an amount not to exceed One Million Fifty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$1,055,200), subject to reduction from the receipt of available state and federal grants-in-aid, and other financial assistance, be issued for the purpose of a proposed public safety building, at an estimated cost of One Million Fifty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$1,055,200). See write-up in Town Administrator’s Report above, review the Public Safety Facility presentation at the end of this Weekly Update and visit the Town’s Public Safety Facility webpage for further information: <http://www.hinesburg.org/public-safety-building-project/index.html>. Please make a special point to attend our two (2) public meetings: 1) Wednesday, February 6 at 7:30PM in Town Hall; 2) Wednesday, February 27 at 7:30PM in Town Hall. Voting on this will take place at the voting polls in Town Hall on March 6 between 7AM – 7PM.
- *Town Meeting 2013* – The Warning for Town Meeting was approved and signed by the Selectboard Monday evening. The Warning for consideration will consist of sixteen (16) articles 13 of which will be considered on the floor at CVU on Monday evening, March 4, 2013 starting at 7:30PM. We have attached the Warning to the end of this Weekly Update for your convenience and will also make it available on the Town Website ASAP.
- *CBC Appointments* – Heidi Simpkins was appointed to a 2-yr term on Hinesburg’s Economic Development Committee.



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