

Celebrating 250 years

Town of Hinesburg

Weekly Update

November 20, 2013

1762-2012



Upcoming Meetings. . .

- **Trails Committee:** *Wednesday, November 20th at 7:00 p.m. (1st floor conference room)*
- **Economic Development Committee:** *Thursday, November 21st at 7:00 p.m. (3rd floor conference room)*
- **Lion's Club Winter Farmer's Market:** *Saturday, November 23rd from 9:00 am. - 2:00 pm (Main Hall)*
- **Conservation Commission:** *Tuesday, November 26th at 7:00 p.m. (3rd floor conference room)*
- **Planning Commission:** *Wednesday, November 27th at 7:30 p.m. (1st floor conference room)*

Weekly Updates from Departments:

Hinesburg Community Police

- *Multiple Violations* - On Thursday, November 14th, officers on patrol made an enforcement stop for no mounted headlight. The 19 year old male driver from Bristol was determined to be driving without an operator's license, no insurance, license plates not belonging to the vehicle, and defective equipment. During the stop, it was also determined that the driver was also in possession of marijuana and was issued a civil citation.
- *Criminal DLS* - Also on Thursday, November 14th, an officer made an enforcement stop on a vehicle without a front license plate. It was determined that the 24 year old male from Charlotte was driving on a criminally suspended operator's license. The driver was arrested and transported to the station for processing and released on a citation to court.

Hinesburg Fire & First Response

- *Call Activity* - We responded to an EMS call, a gasoline spill, a fire alarm and a brush fire in the past week.
- *Business Meeting* - We have our monthly business meeting at the station this Wednesday, 11/20/2013.
- *Training* - EMR students went through practical scenarios at the station on Saturday.

Buildings & Facilities

- *Kelley's Fields Sidewalk* - Working in tandem with the State of Vermont, two (2) catch basin manholes were raised on Wednesday, November 20th along the eastside sidewalk on Route 116 at the corner of Kelleys Fields Road and Route 116. This

development will improve pedestrian safety and we thank the State of Vermont for their help with this much needed fix.



Kelleys Field Catch Basins

Recreation Department

- *Youth Basketball Season* - HRD Youth Basketball season begins Saturday, 12/7 in the HCS Gym. For a complete list of practice times, go to: <http://www.hinesburg.org/recreation.html> and look for the HRD Youth Basketball document or contact the Rec. Dept. at hinesburgrec@gmavt.net. Game schedule for grades 3-6 teams will be available by mid-December. Please plan on a home and away game each Saturday, starting 1/4/14 that run through 2/15/14.
- *Youth Basketball Registration* - Sign up for Youth Basketball. Early incentive deadline is Friday, 11/22. After that, price increases to \$50 and final deadline is 11/29. Forms and schedule are available at: <http://www.hinesburg.org/recreation.html> or in the Recreation Office.
- *Coach Needed* - Still looking for a 5/6 girls coach.
- *Free Youth Basketball Coaches Clinic* - CVU Women's Basketball Coach, Ute Otley will offer a free Youth Basketball Coaches Clinic on Sunday, 12/8 from 4-6 pm in the CVU Gym. The first hour will focus on skill development appropriate for grades 1-8 and the second hour will focus on team strategies (offense and defense) appropriate for grades 5-8. Handouts will be available, players will be present to demonstrate, and coaches will be encouraged to ask questions. Join the Division 1 2013 State Championship coach and team for this incredible opportunity, right in town!!
- *HRD Winter Guide* - The HRD Winter Guide 2013-14 was mailed on Thursday 11/14. Extra hard copies are available at the Rec. Dept. or an online version on the town website. To enroll in programs or if you have any questions, please contact HRD: hinesburgrec@gmavt.net or 482-2281 ext. 230.

Carpenter-Carse Library

Calendar

- *Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award Book Discussion* - Children grades 4 – 7 are reminded to come to the library to join a lively book discussion on Thursday, November 21st from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Our group will talk about *Expeditioners* and *The Treasury of Drowned Man's Canyon* by S.S. Taylor. If you haven't finished the book, come anyway! Pizza and a beverage will be served. ☺
- *Book Discussion Group: Thursday, November 21st 7 p.m.* - The library's book discussion group meets in readers' homes. Members of the group are reading the classic *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, and will focus on it at next week's discussion. Interested readers may call Diane at 482-4455 for more information. There will be a change of pace at the December 12th gathering, when each person will bring a poem to read, and will share reasons for choosing their poem. Newcomers are welcome.
- *Preschool Story Hour for 3-5 yr. Old Children* – Tuesday, November 26th, 11 – noon
- *Pajama Story Hour with Janet: for Ages 3-7* – Tuesday, November 26 at 7 p.m.

Other News

- *Holiday Book Sale* - The library's (ongoing) holiday book sale has started. Library patrons look forward to purchasing like-new books and dvd's at very reasonable prices. Patrons will find great savings and will know their purchases provide income for new books! Kudos to Librarian Jane Racer for pulling this seasonal ongoing mini-sale together each year. Shoppers should browse the sale shelves/table often, so as not to miss new titles that will be added as items sell. We also have a shelf of vintage books for sale.
- *Vermont Universal Class Online Website* - Carpenter-Carse staff and patrons are excited about access to the Vermont Universal Class Online Website which opens up the opportunity to choose from 500 continuing education classes. Thanks to the VT Department of Libraries and Recorded Books, our patrons can easily use this amazing resource free of charge. This is a great service! Access the site via the <http://www.carpentercarse.org>. Explore it! Use it!
- *Keep up-to-date on the current events happening at the library* - http://www.carpentercarse.org/ccl_programs.html.

Planning & Zoning

- *Jean Isham's 20+ Years of Service* – The Planning Commission honored Jean Isham at her final meeting on November 13. Consistent with the Commission's culinary tradition, respect for Jean's service was given via gourmet pastries. Jean first joined the Planning Commission in 1991, and served as the chairperson for many years. She brought an important farming and business owner perspective to the Commission, and worked diligently with her fellow community planners to implement the Town Plan. She consistently reached out to community members outside of meetings and hearings (living room meetings, articles in the Hinesburg Record, etc.), and shared her experience as a farmer and a large landowner who was able to sell and conserve property at the same time. We look forward to Jean's

continued contributions as a concerned citizen, and we VERY much appreciate all the time, effort, and patience she gave through her Planning Commission service.

- *Hannaford Act 250 Review* – Final comments on the Hannaford Act 250 review were due from interested parties on 11/15. After previous comments and three public hearings earlier this year, staff submitted final comments based on Selectboard instructions. We now wait for the Act 250 District Commission to deliberate and render a decision. No clear timetable for that.
- *Hinesburg Center Project* – Both phase one (buildings around Bristol Bakery and Kinney Drugs) and phase two (proposed for the field behind phase one) of the Hinesburg Center project occupied large quantities of staff time over the last couple weeks. Phase one is in front of the DRB requesting after-the-fact revisions due to deviations from the approved plans. Phase two is in front of the DRB requesting approval for fill in a flood hazard area to help facilitate the concept plan for this next phase of development. Important decisions to be made with heavy doses of hydrology studies and engineering.
- *Cheese Plant Road Concept* – Route 116 Corridor Study staff (Town, regional planning commission, and consultant) met with one of the owners of the Cheese Plant (Larry Williams, Redstone) to discuss and get feedback on the possibility of public roads through the property to help build an interconnected street network in the village area. Good discussion, plenty of concerns, hopefully some options to consider. Just one of many options being evaluated as part of the Route 116 Corridor study.

Town Administrator

- *FY2015 Budget* – The first draft of the proposed FY2015 Hinesburg budget is available for review on-line. Budget documents available for review include revenues, expenditures, capital, and summary budget pages. The Selectboard will review each department budget between now and the end of December. In early January, the Selectboard will review outside agency requests and then work to finalize a budget by the end of January for voter consideration at Town Meeting in early March.
<http://www.hinesburg.org/budget/>
- *Town Garage/CSWD* – The Town of Hinesburg and the Chittenden Solid Waste District currently share space atop Beecher Hill Road. Both the Town and CSWD are interested in enhancing the site. Hinesburg's Town Administrator and CSWD's Director of Facilities are prepared to meet this week to consider how to move a proposal forward.
- *Sale of Lot 31* – A few residents of Creekside have expressed interest in purchasing a 5-acre parcel of Town owned land behind Creekside (directly to the west). They approached the Selectboard about this possibility a few months ago. This will be an agenda item at the December 2nd Selectboard meeting and the Selectboard will be asked to further consider this possibility.
- *Village North Sidewalk* – A Public Hearing is set for December 16th at 7pm for community review and input on the proposed Village North Sidewalk project. This grant funded project, with local matching support from NRG and Jolly Mobil, will

create a sidewalk along the east side of Rte. 116 between Commerce Street and Riggs Road. This is the first phase in a two-phased plan to extend a sidewalk from Commerce Street to the new recreation path on CVU Road. Some initial engineering work has been completed and, potentially, if all goes well, construction could commence as early as next summer (2014).

- *CBC seats still available* – Are you looking for a way to become more invested in your community?

Volunteer to be on the various Town of Hinesburg Boards, Committees, or Commissions!

The following seats are still open: <http://hinesburg.org/boards.html>

Conservation Commission: (6) 4-year term

Energy Committee: (2) 3-year term

Recreation Commission: (1) 3-year term

Town Forest Committee: (1) 3-year term

Village Steering Committee: (2) 2-year term

The Selectboard will continue interviewing candidates until all seats are filled. For more information, please contact Renae Marshall at 482-2281 ext. 227 or Joe Colangelo at 482-2281 ext. 221. Application forms can be found at:

http://hinesburg.org/documents/cbc_application_form.pdf

Weekly Updates from Boards, Committees, and Commissions:

Selectboard

- *CVU Championships* – Girls, and their coaches, of the recently crowned state soccer and cross-country teams at CVU attended the Selectboard meeting this past Monday night for special recognition. Hinesburg’s Selectboard congratulated these outstanding student-athletes on their success.



Congratulations to the CVU Girls' Soccer Team - 2013 Division 1 State Champions



Congratulations to the CVU Girls' Cross-Country Team - 2013 Division 1 State Champions

- *Community Volunteers* – For their efforts, George Dameron (Village Steering Committee), Trina Hikel (Agency Request Review Committee), and Melissa Levy (Conservation Commission) were recognized for their many years of service to the Town of Hinesburg. Hinesburg is a special place to live because of the outstanding commitment of our many community volunteers.



L-R: George Dameron, Melissa Levy, and Trina Hikel

- *Thistle Hill* – The Selectboard held a Public Hearing Monday night on the proposed take-over of roadways within the Thistle Hill Development. Much of the Public Hearing focused on the retaining wall at the end of Thistle Hill Road and both the Town of Hinesburg and the Home Owners Association felt it necessary to have a clear understanding of ownership, maintenance, and liability associated with this retaining wall. Other items of interest were two (2) cross stormwater pipes that will have joint-ownership responsibility between the Town and HOA. The Public Hearing closed and the Selectboard gave instruction to the Town Administrator to work with the developer and HOA to clear-up these issues before take-over by the Town would be considered.
- *Trails Committee Review* – The Trails Committee presented their report as part of their annual update to the Selectboard regarding work of their committee. For the last three years the Trails Committee's first priority has been to complete kiosks and trail blazing on the Town Forest, LaPlatte Headwaters, the Russell Memorial Trails and Geprags. This priority has been slowed down by the need to clear recent

storm damage as well as finances. The weather has been friendlier this year coupled with Ray Mainer's pro bono offer to construct kiosks at five locations. Russell and Hayden Hill West have been built and will soon contain up to date trail and more. LaPlatte is almost completed. With the help of VT Land Trust and Hinesburg Land Trust the Committee was able to acquire for the Town, an easement on the Parker property on Pond Brook Road. Two future projects are moving at their own pace: Connecting the northern and southern extremities of LaPlatte and The Quick Lube Jolley station through NRG to CVU. The Trails Committee has long hoped to cooperate with our two Hinesburg schools. Susan Rustin conducted a treasure hunt last May in the Russell trails. Twenty humans and four dogs combed the woods and fields and then celebrated by Papa Nick's. A family oriented tour of The Town Forest was scheduled for a perfect fall afternoon when the leaves were at peak beauty. Twenty one people and only one dog attended.

The Trails Committee attempts to stay abreast of the DRB and zoning staff. Earlier in 2013, the Trails Committee welcomed Ray Mainer and Susan Rustin. They replaced three faithful stalwarts: Jason Reed, Greg Leroy and Cathy Ryan, who is being replaced by George Dameron. The Trails Committee continues to celebrate the many ways that our Town staff helps us. Their friendly cooperation adds immeasurably to our work.

- *Town Forest Committee Review* – The Town Forest Committee also provided an update to the Selectboard of the work they have done over the past year. Salvage and trail clearing from the July 2012 storm damage to the LHTF and the Economou Road entrance of the HTF is completed. The FOTW began trail improvement work on *The Maiden*. The committee closed and later reopened the rebuilt section of the Eagle's Trail on the Economou Road Extension to prevent erosion. The committee contributed to discussion about a Firearms Ordinance and continued action items from the Management Plan, which included identifying proper boundaries, installing 'slow' signs for driver safety, installing kiosks, updating maps, and signing an MOU with Fellowship of the Wheel to formalize its relationship.
- *FY2015 Budget* – Joe Colangelo, Hinesburg's Town Administrator, presented the initial FY2015 proposed budget to the Selectboard. This proposed budget included a municipal property tax-rate increase of 2.5%, or 1.2¢, and would increase property tax payer responsibility by \$12 per \$100,000 of assessed homestead value. All budget documentation is available on-line: <http://www.hinesburg.org/budget/>
- *Police FY2015 Budget* – Chief Frank Koss reviewed his budget requests directly with the Selectboard. The one major difference between the budget presented to the Selectboard by the Town Administrator and the budget requested by the Police Chief centered around wage increases. The Chief's wage increase, as an aggregate for the department, was requested at 4.72%; the Town Administrator's proposal capped budget increases to no more than 4%. The Selectboard will have the opportunity to deliberate further on this topic before setting the budget for Town Meeting in late January.

- *Fire FY2015 Budget* – Chief Al Barber reviewed his budget request directly with the Selectboard. The major difference between the initial FY2015 budget proposed by the Fire Chief to the SB and the initial presentation from the Town Administrator is the budgeted increase for the expansion of the Fire Chief’s position to a ½ Full-time position. The Fire Department budget requested \$26,000 and the Town Administrator’s budget showed \$13,000. The Selectboard will deliberate further on this, and all budget items, between now and the end of January.



Exterior View of Police Station - 11/19/2013



Interior View of Police Station – 11/19/13



View from 2nd floor window looking south on Route 116



Shows underground boring for utility connection to new police station - 11/15/13

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