

Adirondack Underground

Town of Long Lake
Clark J. Seaman, Supervisor
May, 2010

Much has happened since my last letter to you. It seems that every day there is something new to deal with and as I told the Board at a recent meeting I feel like I'm constantly aiming at a moving target.

I've recently had some inquiries as to the status of the Affordable Housing property so I'll begin with that. The Board established a target date of July 1st to have the larger lots for sale and on the market. From a choice of three, we've chosen an appraiser (W. Terry Horrocks of Lake Placid) and he visited the property last week. He should complete the appraisal on schedule which will allow us to move forward with the required permissive referendum and resolution to sell the lots. We hope the appraisal will provide us with guidance in deciding whether or not to run power on the property although it remains to be seen if there is sufficient data available in that regard. Nevertheless, we remain on schedule to have those lots on the market by July 1st.

As you may already know, recent test drilling on the TNC property on Tarbell Hill Road did not produce the desired quantity of water needed for a municipal well in spite of the fact that geophysical testing on that site had indicated ideal conditions for a well. The firm that conducted the geophysical testing on TNC (Radar Solutions, Inc.) has offered to conduct testing on the Affordable Housing property as well as additional testing on TNC based on the test drilling results there (fractured bedrock between 80 and 100 feet) at no charge to the Town. They have done field work on the housing property already and will be returning to the TNC property in the future with specialized equipment to conduct additional testing there. It may be another week or two before the data on the housing property is processed and we have any results, but I'll share this information at a Board meeting as soon as it's available.

Although we are still waiting for the outcome of our hardship application for more grant money for our modified water project, we are moving ahead with our base water project to the extent that we are able. Final prep work on the water tank site is scheduled to begin this month and construction of the tank should begin in June. We anticipate scheduling one or two open house days during construction to allow anyone interested to visit and watch construction. We will post this information once we confirm the dates.

The Water Department will begin installing the new water main on South Hill and Stone Roads around the same time as the tank site work begins. We also anticipate beginning construction of the Bissell Pit Well pump station once we receive required approval from the Comptroller's office to increase spending for this project (our project costs have increased since first approved in 2006).

In my last letter I reported that we had been made aware that Lake Eaton would close on Labor Day this year and I had written a letter to DEC Commissioner Grannis requesting that he reconsider. While the Commissioner's office is sympathetic to our concerns they are unable to keep Lake Eaton open longer due to budgetary constraints. Unfortunately, soon after I received the reply from the Commissioner's office we received word that Tioga Point on Raquette Lake was going to be closed for the season. I have since written another letter to the Commissioner's office objecting to this closing and discussed this with Assemblywoman Sayward. I anticipate attending a meeting in Albany in the near future regarding this closure. Although there are no current proposals, it may be possible that the Town can partner with the State to open and run Tioga. I'll keep you posted.

Last month the Town lost two employees. On a bright note, Bruce Vickerson from Raquette retired as our part time transfer station attendant there. We wish him the best as he begins this next chapter of his life. On a very sad note, I am sorry to report that we also lost an employee here in Long Lake. Wayne Austin, our town custodian, suddenly and unexpectedly passed away on April 26th. He will be missed by all his friends in the community and here in the Town government.

In keeping with our commitment to reduce the work force through attrition, the Board elected not to replace Bruce but instead opted to change schedules of other staff to provide transfer station coverage and thereby reduce the workforce in Raquette Lake. The Board is considering all our options with respect to filling the vacancy of the town custodian which includes restructuring the position, making it part time, doing it via contract cleaning, etc.. We are using a part time cleaner for now.

Recently the Board approved and accepted a low bid to replace the sidewalks at the medical center this summer. While we don't have a confirmed date for the work, anticipate that for at least a couple of days this summer this construction will be taking place. I'm sure the end result will be worth the few days of inconvenience caused when the work takes place.

The Town's new website is scheduled to launch in June. The Board approved a fee schedule for enhanced advertising on the new site at our last meeting. Free listings will still be available for local businesses. Contact Alex in the Parks, Recreation and Tourism department at 624-3077 for more information.

A dental van from Adirondack Medical Center will be coming to Long Lake starting this month. Most dental insurances, Medicaid and self pay are accepted with a 30% discount for cash payment at the time of service. The van will be at the Geiger Arena on June 8th, Aug. 3rd, Aug. 31st and Sept. 28th. For appointments call 523-1122 or toll free: 1-888-523-2632.

Again this year the Town will be partnering with the Raquette Lake Property Owner's Association and the Long Lake Association to conduct the lake steward program. During the 2010 budget process, the Board voted to provide \$4,000 in funding for each Association to conduct the lake steward program at the main launch sites in both Raquette and Long Lake to inspect boats for invasive species and to educate boaters about invasive species. The Associations pick up all costs greater than the Town's support.

Recently the Board designated May as community pride month. Many volunteers from Raquette and Long Lake including members of the Beautification Committee have been volunteering their time to help clean up our communities. To everyone who has participated in this effort, "thank you for a job well done".

Over the past few months we've established a bus for senior citizens to participate in the therapeutic swim program at Sunmount DDSO in Tupper Lake. This program is sponsored through the Adult Center in Tupper Lake and has already become very popular with many of our seniors. Karen Rifenburg is coordinating this program. Call her at 624-2096 for more information. (Thank You Karen!)

Finally, to those who may be interested, summer is fast approaching and it's time to register your children/grandchildren in the Newcomb summer youth program. Long Lake provides transportation with the Little Bus if we have enough participants. Contact the Parks Recreation and Tourism Department at 624-3077 for more information or to sign up your child.

Until my next newsletter, feel free to contact me anytime regarding any issues of concern to you.

And remember "We do not inherit the land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children".

Native American Proverb

Sincerely,



Clark J. Seaman,
Town Supervisor