

SUPERVISOR'S

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2019 Summer Update

Photo Courtesy of Jonathan Churins

Greetings from Town Hall, your Town Supervisor and your Town Board. With, what many consider the best time of year ahead, it is a great time for our community to get out and enjoy all our town has to offer.

RECREATION

We have some exciting changes in our Recreation Department with new personnel and new plans. Both Kathleen Davis, our long time Recreation Director, and Diane Cullen, the Recreation Leader, have recently retired. We wish them well in their new endeavors and thank them for their many years of service to the Town and our residents.

We have been fortunate to welcome Teresa Gasparini as our new Recreation Leader, who is bringing much enthusiasm to the position. Based on feedback from senior residents, Teresa has changed the location of our Senior Center from Hyde Park Elementary School to the Hyde Park Reformed Dutch Church, located at 4408 Albany Post Road. This change will enable more flexibility in the programming and **will be effective as of July 1st**. The Seniors Drop - In Center meets on Mondays from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm and hosts Seniorcise on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 10:00 am.



Our traditional 4th of July Parade, organized by our Recreation Leader, is, as always, for the 4th at 10:00 am beginning at the Roosevelt Theatre and ending at Town Hall. This year's parade will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing. Ray Nichols will be "Grand Marshall" as we honor the Roosevelt Fire Department for their sixty-five years of service.

Don't forget our weekly outdoor "Music in the Parks" series. Concerts alternate between the Vanderbilt Mansion and Mills Mansion on Wednesdays, starting at 7 pm. For a complete schedule go to:

www.hydeparkny.us/176/Music-in-the-Parks

In May, the New Guinea Site at Hackett Hill Park celebrated its designation on the National Registry of Historic Places. This fascinating piece of history is worth a visit, with the entrance alongside the Disc Golf course, on the west side of the park.

At Dinsmore Park, in the hamlet of Staatsburg, the town is seeking proposals to expand, and improve the basketball courts and add pickle ball courts to the playground. The project will be constructed either late this Fall or in early Spring of 2020.

To apply for a summer Recreation job, or to find out additional details on our recreation programs or summer camp, please visit : www.hydeparkny.us/179/Jobs-Interns



HIGHWAY

After a long winter of ice and snow, our Highway Superintendent is preparing his department for scheduled road improvements. A sincere thank you to our Superintendent Howie Fisher and all the highway employees who often work through the night to keep our roadways safe and clear. We will be investing in the purchase of two new plows to replace some aged workhorses, which should be ready for the 2019-2020 winter season.



This year, the Town is scheduled to pave Beck Road, Grove Street, High Street, Highland Street and cul-de-sac, Linden Lane, Sherwood Place, Rosendale Court, and Cookingham Road. In 2018, the Town Board authorized approximately \$700,000 in road paving, and we were very pleased with the quality of the results. Additionally, The Extreme Winter Recovery Funding awarded by NY State, will be used to fund work on Mills Cross Road and Roosevelt Road.

Dutchess County Department of Public Works is currently preparing plans for an improvement on Forest Drive, while the Town will perform drainage work on Forest Drive, Van Wagner and Cookingham Road.

To address flooding in Staatsburg, Councilman Neil Krupnick is spearheading a plan to divert some of the massive waters dumped onto our roads from Dinsmore Golf Course by installing a bigger pipe in the area around the Portofino parking lot. The project is currently in the design/legal phase with easements required from a couple of the property owners. Progress is dependent on acquiring the easements, and while the project will reduce flash flooding, until a long term solution is provided by State Parks, this will not fully resolve the issue.

POLICE

With efficient communication between police departments critical for public safety, Chief Rob Benson and Supervisor Rohr have submitted an application for grant funding through the Dutchess County Municipal Innovation Grant Program to purchase replacement communication software for our department. This software will greatly improve communication among our police, our dispatchers, and our neighboring town police forces.

BUILDING AND PLANNING

In addition to processing building permits, planning board applications, zoning variance requests, property maintenance enforcement continues to be a critical function in our Building Department.

The adoption by the Town Board last year of a Grass Maintenance Law has allowed our town to quickly address neglected properties by following a simplified process. However, residents should realize that each mowing requires an action of the Town Board triggered by a complaint. This is a tedious process for all, but must be followed to allow the town to legally enter properties that do not comply. Complaints can be made online at:

www.hydeparkny.us/FormCenter/Building-Department-9/Building-Department-Complaint-Form-61

The Town has taken property maintenance seriously and has instituted policies and personnel to tackle these extremely difficult issues. All property owners are asked to respect our town, their neighbors, and their investment by proper maintenance of the exterior of their homes. Our town and our future depend on the care and investment of property owners, particularly those who own commercial properties on Routes 9 and 9G.



ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION

The contract with NYSEERDA for funding for an EV Charging Station to be installed at Town Hall has been approved and now signed, with installation scheduled for later this year.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE DOWNTOWN INITIATIVE

Pinebrook Water and Sewer, Greenfields Water and Sewer

Much needed infrastructure improvements have been underway over the last several years in both Pinebrook and Greenfields for both water and sewer. With funding provided by the Local Government Efficiency Grant Program, the Town was able to transfer ownership of these districts to the DCWWA in 2015. Major rehabs have been undertaken, including a fully replaced sewer plant at Pinebrook, with substantial grant subsidies again provided by NY State. The DCWWA's next step is to explore the ability to connect Pinebrook Estates and surrounding properties to the Hyde Park Water System.



DOWNTOWN INITIATIVE

Route 9 Sewer District

We have been hard at work forging the required consensus amongst the 109 property owners who will be part of the proposed Route 9 Sewer District. NY State law requires that only the property owners who will have the sewer service pay for the project. As with all special districts, this process is strictly controlled by state law. Here's the deal: it is an \$18,000,000 project, the Town Board has obtained approximately over \$5,000,000 in grants and commitments, leaving \$13,000,000 to be borrowed by the property owners over the maximum term available of thirty years.

Over the last several months, we have held five public meetings with special invitations sent to all property owners.

We have met with many property owners individually and have found that though many are thrilled at the prospect of having their wastewater treatment issues solved for the long term, there are those who find the project with the current funding levels too expensive.

Because of these concerns, we have slowed down the adoption process and the subsequent referendum vote while we explore ways to lower costs. With this goal in mind, we are looking at all options. This includes seeking political support for additional grant money for this transformative and necessary project, and viewing ways to decrease the cost of the district. We have done the following:

- Submitted a pre-application to the state's EDA for \$3,000,000 in funding
- Met with representatives of Senator Schumer and Congressman Delgado's office, and directly with Assemblywoman Barrett
- Researched various other configurations of the sewer district
- Explored additional grant opportunities

Our work to create a vibrant commercial district continues. However, it is obvious that the absence of a sewer district limits the type of development we as a town seek. This absence of necessary infrastructure, combined with property owners who choose not to invest in improvements to their septic systems and their buildings, has posed an uphill battle in our efforts, but yet we are committed to doing all in our power to change this equation. The bottom line is that investment by property owners is needed to change our town, whether that investment is through monies for a shared sewer system, or through monies spent to upgrade their septic systems and their buildings.

Fortunately, though, investment independent of this need for a central wastewater collection system is moving quickly ahead. With the Bellefield Hotel well under way, and the Asahi Shuzo project meeting the last of its site plan conditions, we are poised for major positive change at our southern end of town.

PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

Lighting

Pedestrian lighting will be installed in late June between Calmer Place and Park Plaza. This is the final piece of our Phase 1 Route 9 Pedestrian Improvements paid for with funding from the Transportation Improvement Program and a SAM grant obtained for us by Assemblywoman Didi Barrett.

Sidewalks

The design plan for the next phase of pedestrian improvements has been submitted to NY State DOT after holding the required public meeting.

The project will include upgrading the intersection at Rogers Place and the entrance to Park Plaza. The intersection of Pinewoods Road and Fuller Lane is also slated for upgrade by New York State in the near future, and we are working to coordinate that with our project. Together these intersection improvements will make it easier and safer for people to cross between residential neighborhoods and businesses, including those walking and pushing strollers.

With many steps left in the process, including final approval by DOT, the project is scheduled for construction in 2020.

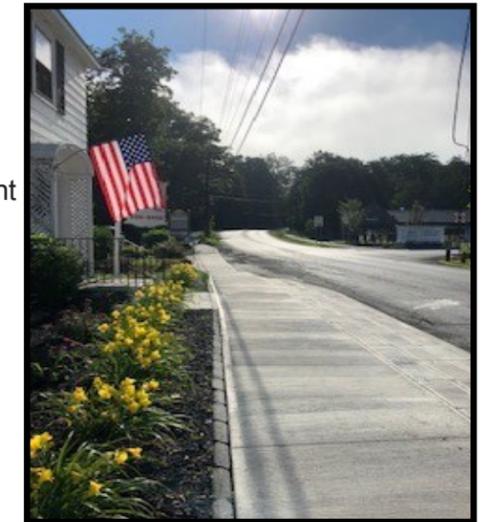
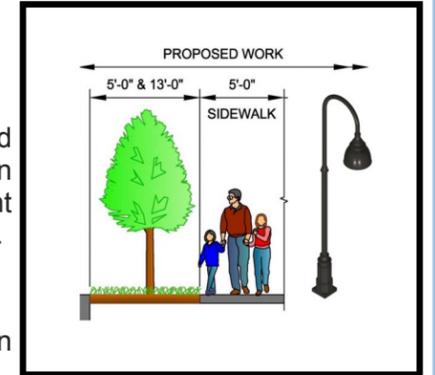
Pinewoods

In the fall of 2018, the Town constructed sidewalks from Route 9 to Pinewoods Park with a Community Development Block Grant awarded by Dutchess County.

ZONING UPDATES

We recently completed a proposed Town Core Zoning District to compliment the new uses that could be allowed by the proposed sewer district.

The document is currently under review by the Planning Board and public comment is open. The document can be found at: <https://www.hydeparkny.us/502/Town-Code-Local-Laws-and-Maps> on our website.



EXAMPLES OF A POSSIBLE TOWN CENTER



Wishing Everyone a Safe and Pleasant Summer!

*Your Town Supervisor
Aileen Rohr*