

THE PORT HENRY FACT FINDER

Reporting the News and Needs of Port Henry and Surrounding Area
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The North Cheever Sailing Club, Champlain's Best Wash, Lance Galvin, Kelly Ann & Joe Cooke

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING NOTES

Prior to the regular monthly Village Board meeting there was a Public Hearing to provide an overview of the Community Development Block Grant and provide the public with the opportunity to ask questions and comment on the matter. The Village plans to submit an application for the 2015 CDBG for a maximum award of \$600,000 to replace antiquated water and sewer lines on Rice Street. A project cost of \$696,362 has been projected. The Village plans to defray as much of the unfunded portion by use of in-kind services.

The regular portion of the meeting began with reports from department heads. Chip Perry, Water/Sewer Department head began. The raw water reservoir is up for its annual cleaning. The deteriorating condition of Cheney Dam needs to be addressed even though a split joint in the line has been repaired. He pointed out that if this were to give, then the village would have no water and no water for fire fighting.

Fire Chief Hughes gave a detailed report on the important training our firefighters are receiving in boat safety and water rescue, basic firefighting, pump operation and instruction on Essex County's New High Band Radio System. PHFD participated in Crown Point's Annual Memorial Day Parade and our Engine 291 received the award for "Best Appearing Fire Apparatus." Congratulations PHFD! The South siren has been repaired and is back in service. Good news for village safety, but those residents living close to it, may not feel so pleased until they become used to it again. I know, downstate for 25 years I lived three houses away from our fire department. The first night we were in our new home, there was a call!!! We did become accustomed to it. The most vital information which will concern all village residents came at the end of Fire Chief Hughes' report. Russ Craven, Field Representative from Insurance Service Office, Inc. (ISO) has requested an inspection of the Fire Department on Monday, July 27th. This is an extremely important inspection because the results will ultimately affect everyone's fire insurance. How effectively a municipality's Fire Department performs reflects in residents' and businesses' insurance premiums. Fire Chief Hughes requested and received a **special public meeting** to be held at Village Hall **Monday June 15th at 7 pm**. If you really wish to understand how your safety is maintained at the highest level with as little cost as possible by judicious purchasing, do not miss this special meeting. Again the date and time: **Monday June 15th Village Hall, 7 pm**.

Village residents expect, accept and appreciate that clean, safe water is always be available. They are also very aware of the respect and appreciation due our Fire Department, but do we really give full appreciation due our Department of Public Works? DPW head, Daniel "Digger" Liang's concise report made me very aware of the many, many repetitive and non-headline-worthy care-taking tasks there are to keep a village functioning smoothly. Here is "Diggers" list from May into June: 1. Few more streets swept/some mowing. 2. Repaired 2 storm drains, driveway of Moriah Pharmacy and one on Rice Lane. 3. Installed water tank in Park due to a broken water service under sidewalk. 4. Met with NYS DOT on road guidelines. 5. Screens installed in Library. 6. Storm drain installed on Meachem St. 7. Tobey St. sewer repaired (16 hour job). 8. Parts ordered and UFPO done for Spring Street water line job. He explained that Spring St. residents have had to suffer an unrepaired road until the infrastructure could be completed and then the paving could be done once, not twice. I am sure there were more, smaller but necessary, unlisted jobs.

This year's campground manager Norm Wright is continuing to offer campers many extra benefits and activities. His campground activities will be joining the village in its Champ Day celebration. This should create an unusually exciting day! More about Champ Day, July 19th below and as the time grows nearer.

There was discussion about the Bullock house on Elizabeth Street and the fact that it is unsafe in its falling-down condition. It is condemned and it seems the County might own it. The Village will be sending a letter to the County concerning this problem.

The Board is seeking Village residents to volunteer to serve on a five member Planning Board. In doing a bit of reading on Planning Boards, it seems its major role is "to ascertain the public interest and how best to further the interests of the community as a whole" and report and discuss these findings with the municipality's governing board. For those of you interested in serving on this board, send a letter of interest, as soon as possible, to Village of Port Henry Trustees, 4303 main Street, Port Henry, NY 12974.

Recent Hirings: Chloe Mitchell has been hired as a third lifeguard for the Village beach and Hannah Smith as part-time maintenance at the campground.

The Village will be applying for a grant through the NYS Office of Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation, in the amount of \$30,000. for a larger public parking lot.

The Board approved the request of the Moriah Robotics Club to hold a Coin Drop. It will be held on Saturday, August 1st.

There was a discussion on how to solve the problem concerning the water which the Town purchases from the Village for their Water District #3. When there is an increase in water rates, the problem arises from the fact that the Town finances operate on a calendar year and the Village operates on a fiscal year (May-June). Supervisor Scozzofava said 2016 will cause no problem as this cost will be budgeted for. There will be a review and further discussion on options for the Town's 2015 November billing.

Water bills were adjusted because of the need of keeping water trickling this past winter.

TOWN BOARD MEETING NOTES

The Town Board meeting opens the floor to the public at the beginning of the meeting and at the end of the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, Port Henry's plans for holding Champ Day, July 19th and the Labor Day Parade, September 6th, were announced by Jackie Viestenz.

The Water and Sewer reported that the submersible pumps (vintage 1988) had to be replaced as soon as possible and would be replaced with above-ground suction pumps.

Building Codes officer had issued several clean-up notices. There was a brief discussion about the importance of as much allowable follow-through as needed.

The Highway Department continues its paving schedule as well as spruce-up on the campground. The new landscaping and the new boat racks for offering boat rental were a success.

Building and Grounds reported that of its 174 sites, the campground has 151 seasonal sites filled and there were 10 transients over Memorial Day.

Supervisor Scozzofava said other companies than Verizon want to use the tower for transmitting their signals. Since the deal with Verizon was closed, prices on available transmitting sites have soared, partly because there is now a law, seemingly to prohibit the proliferation of towers, that companies must use existing towers. There will be more research before any decisions on this subject are made.

Councilors have been hired for the school's summer program and sign-ups have begun.

There was a discussion about having more public access to the videoed Town meetings other than Channel 17.

The date of July 9th at 5:30 for a public hearing, at the Court House, on Proposed Local Law #1 "Animal Control Law."

There was a resolution adjusting the “Mid-Season” Rates for the Bulwagga Bay Campsite. If you feel this might affect you, contact Moriah Town Hall, [518-546-3341](tel:518-546-3341), for further information.

After discussion, the Board gave authorization to MCS to use the old landfill for Cross County Track and Field teams as a practice course.

“Housekeeping” items addressed by the Board were: the purchase of a Rider Mower; the review of the Time Warner Contract and also the merger with Charter Communications; and the purchase of a Storage Shed for Bulwagga Bay Campground.

CRAFTERS ALERT!

Crafters wanted for **Champ Day** which will also be the **Lake Champlain Antique and Classic Boat Society Rendezvous on Sunday, July 19, from 10 AM to 4 PM**. The crafters will be in the Power House Park next to the boat launch. There is no cost to set up, but each person must bring their own tent, chair, and table. To reserve a spot, contact Jackie Viestenz, 546-9855.

REVIEW OF MORIAH CENTRAL’S DRAMA PRODUCTION

Reported by Kelly Ann Cooke

Moriah Central School's Drama Production of *The Alien's are Coming* was a big hit over the weekend of May 15-17th. Over 30 students from grades 7-12 participated in this year’s play.

Everyone did a fantastic job and they had an Outstanding Performance! A Round of Applause to all and to their Director Mrs. Reilly for another successful and fun-filled play.

A NOTE FROM PORT HENRY MARINA

Marina Manager David Koran reported that there is now a live cam and weather station at the Marina, which basically covers Port Henry. Tom Messner , WPTZ’s weather man uses the image on occasion during a weather forecast! Every bit of advertising for Port Henry is very welcomed!

ARE YOU A “SECRET” PERFORMER?

Readers, who have been keeping your talents hidden, step-up-and-out and show what Port Henry and Moriah have to offer in the way of talent. The Ticonderoga Historical Society has issued a call for all auditioners for their USO-style variety show commemorating the end of World War II. The call is for variety acts and performers in the WWII style: Singers (single and acts); Bands (Swing, Jazz, Classical); Comedy; Dramatic Recitation; Acrobatics; Dance and anything else that might fit this call. There can be a modest reimbursement for travel and there possibly will be assistance with correct 1940’s costuming. For more information or to schedule an audition, call [518-585-7092](tel:518-585-7092) or email artiesgal@hotmail.com. The performance will be Saturday, August 29th at 5 pm at the Hancock House, 6 Moses Circle, Ticonderoga. Time is flying by so get that call in and while promoting your talent you will be promoting Port Henry!

There is a bit more space and I ran across this on the internet. Wisconsin’s State AFL-CIO suggested that there should be a new rule: No CEO bonuses if any of the company’s employees make less than a living wage. If your business can’t afford to pay your employees fairly, you don’t deserve a bonus. Need I say I wholeheartedly support this thinking. Political? Probably! But it is also humanitarian.

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN IN WORDS, HAVE A LOVELY COMING TWO WEEKS!

Look for the next issue on **Saturday, June 27, 2015** at Mac's, Moriah Pharmacy, Sherman Free Library, George's Restaurant, John Eisenberg's Service Center, Ken and Paula LaDeau's Champlain's Best Wash, Don Foote's "Miss Port Henry" Diner, and TFCU. **NOTE**: The Fact Finder may also be found on-line at porthenrymoriah.com. "Fact Finder" is the first item on the third drop-down menu.