



# FAIRLEE NEWSLETTER

July 2019

## *Rings* **Believe It or Not!**

Summer is upon us. Fairlee celebrated another glorious Fourth of July with great turnout, a lively parade, and a super fireworks finale. Many thanks to all the volunteers who dedicated their time to make our annual community gathering a wonderful event. The parade winners can be viewed on the [Town's website](#).



## SUMMER ROAD WORK

Long on planning and in partnership with VTrans and Northwoods Construction, the Town began the overhaul of a portion of **Lake Morey Road East**. The entirety of the lake road project is likely to take 5 to 7 years. This initial phase was completed by addressing the road's retaining structures and adding a "GeoGrid" to stabilize the road base. A top coat of paving is scheduled in the Fall, providing time to evaluate the work on this portion of the road before finishing it off.



The Town has also completed work on one section of **Terry Hill Road**. Mike Wright and Blaktop removed the pavement, rebuilt the road base, and completed necessary culvert and drainage work.



The Town applied for and received FEMA monies to repair the box culvert on Lake Morey Road at the Glen Falls Brook and to upgrade the ditching on Hebbard Road. Other scheduled Summer road projects include crack filling on a number of roads and culvert work at the Aloha camps.

It's no secret that Mike Wright continues to do an excellent job for the Town. He is stepping into an expanded position as Road Foreman, as well as being our prime contractor overseeing Fairlee's roads.

## WATER SYSTEM UPDATE

To finalize our work on the **new water tank**, we are rebuilding the retaining wall that stabilizes the bank between the new tank and the existing old tank. Once this is completed, the last steps of the tank project are site cleanup and seeding along the reservoir access road.

We are well along with the **water treatment (filtration) structure**. We are getting the steps in place to begin the **water main project**. We will be submitting plans to the State and USDA, and are preparing the RFP this Fall.

## TOWN ASSETS & CAPITAL BUDGET

The passage of the Capital Reserve articles at Town Meeting have led to an update of the budgeting process that Fairlee has had in place for 20 years. Over the next few months the Capital Budget Committee (Town Administrator Tad Nunez, Treasurer Lisa Hinsley, and Selectboard member Josh Hickman) will finalize a proposed **ten-year Capital Plan** for the Town's major physical assets. The intent is to create a calendar of planned investments to the asset reserve funds to stabilize and make more predictable long-term municipal tax rates.



## TOWN PLAN

Over the past 6 months the Planning Commission in coordination with Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) and the Selectboard have been reviewing and updating the 2014 Town Plan. Town Plans are a State requirement. Without this work Fairlee would

be ineligible for some grants and State-designated Village Status.

When the draft results are completed, the Planning Commission's work will be available on the [Town's Website](#) and as printed copies at the Town Hall. *Please read the proposed Town Plan and share your thoughts with Zoning Administrator Chris Brimmer [zoning@fairleevt.org](mailto:zoning@fairleevt.org).* We commend the Planning Commission's efforts to keep Fairlee a vital and engaged community while meeting the State's changes in regulations.

## SOLAR ENERGY

The Town is entering into an agreement that will ensure that a portion of the electricity used by the Town buildings is provided through various solar arrays located in Norwich. The energy produced by those arrays will be purchased by the Town with savings that are guaranteed to be 10% less than what we would otherwise be charged by Green Mountain Power.

The arrangement is so promising that the Town is pursuing solar agreements for all of its electricity meters, including the Town Hall, the Old Fire Station, the Emergency Services Building, the Pumping Station, the Beach House, the Railroad Station and the



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Library. Our continued thanks to those serving on the Energy Committee, Barbara Duncan, Bob Wertheimer, Bill Weale and Jon Haehnel.

## LAKE MOREY

After recent sightings of a fish kill on Lake Morey, the Lake Morey Protective Association and the Town of Fairlee notified the State Agency of Natural Resources. An on-site study by their biologists concluded that this was a **natural event**, not caused by chemicals or toxins.

Of great interest is the fact that after the dispersion of ProcellaCor on parts of Lake Morey on June 11, those hunting for **milfoil** have not been able to find any. Regardless, there will be divers searching for and pulling weeds later in the summer. Our thanks to the Lake Morey Commission and LMPA for ensuring that Lake Morey remains a Fairlee treasure.

## COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Selectboard is eager to begin working on additional areas of interest to the community. To help kick off its work, the Selectboard will deploy a **Community Survey** in August. The survey responses are anonymous. We encourage fulltime residents, seasonal residents and local businesses to participate.

## MORE GOOD NEWS

Town Selectboard Chair Peter Berger was honored as **volunteer of the year** at TRORC's annual meeting in June.

### Comments or questions?

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