



FAIRLEE NEWSLETTER

April 2019

LAKE MOREY ROAD CLOSURE

As an initial step in the Town's ambitious plan to rebuild Lake Morey Road, an eastside portion of the road will be closed from Monday, May 6 until Friday, June 28. During that period, Northwoods Excavation will reconstruct the road base, put in place geotechnical reinforcement for stabilization, add a culvert, and resurface 350 feet.



The closed portion is between 4534 (the Barbieri residence) and 4522 (the Groschner residence). **All traffic will be re-routed to Lake Morey Road West.** The \$150K project is paid for by \$15K from the Town's capital budget and \$135K awarded to Fairlee through a VTrans Structures grant.

WATER SYSTEM UPDATE

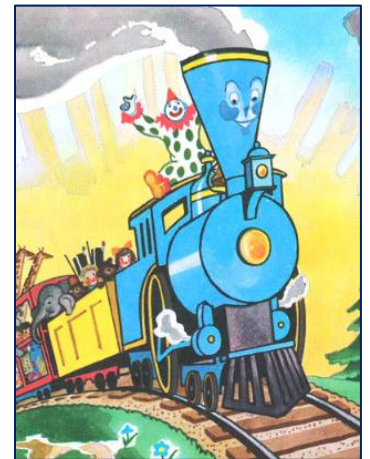
The Town has made great progress addressing its three most current water systems interests. Fairlee's **new water tank is up and running.** Lance Colby and Barry Larson have been working with Tata & Howard to determine the most appropriate **water filtration system** for the Town. And, water users have been notified that **household usage meters** will be installed before the end of 2019. (The installation of water meters will lead to notable changes in the Town's water policies and practices. Over the summer, there will be a public informational meeting.

Finally, the Town's water tank **legal matters have been resolved.** Prompted by a day-long mediation process in February, five defendant entities – companies that supplied, engineered, or manufactured tank materials – agreed to a payment of \$900,000 to the Town of Fairlee. It has been recommended that the award be used to pay down the Town's remaining debt on the defective tank. Additionally, it will cover the Town's legal expenses.

FAIRLEE WINS \$96K GRANT

Fairlee is one of only three communities in the state to be awarded both **Better Connections and Clean Waters Initiative grants** totaling \$95,833. The other two awardees, Middlebury and Northfield, have populations that are seven or more times larger than Fairlee, leading some to describe our Town Under the Cliff as "the little engine that could."

Funded by VTrans and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Fairlee's objective is use the funds to create a **Route 5 Corridor Action Plan** that focuses on the streetscape of Route 5 between Bridge Street and the Lake Morey Road/I-91 intersection. The project's outcome will create a design that will enhance pedestrian, bicycling and public transit opportunities, connect our primary corridor with the Town beach, hiking trails and schools, address traffic calming and stormwater drainage issues along Main Street and propose amenities that will



enhance the livability of our Village Center. The Action Plan will also direct Fairlee's future capital investments and serve as a baseline for additional state and federal cooperation and funding.

One of the reasons that Fairlee was awarded this competitive grant is because it will update the 2001 White Plan. Another reason was our promise to include community members throughout the process, first by creating a steering committee and later, over the course of the next year and one-half, by gathering opinions and perspectives through surveys, open forums and intercept interviews. Please contact Tad Nunez, Town Administrator (townadministrator@fairleevt.org) if you are interested in being part of the Better Connections/Clean Water Initiative.

NEW TOWN LECTURE SERIES

As announced at the end of Town Meeting in March, the Town and the Fairlee Historical Society is honoring Jay Barrett's 24-year Selectboard tenure with the **Frank J. Barrett, Jr. Lecture Series**. In the inaugural lecture on Tuesday, May 7th from 7 to 8:30 PM in the Town Hall, Michelle Sherburne will describe the underground railroad in and around Fairlee.



MORE GOOD NEWS

The **Town Forest Board** (David Matthews, Terry Lewis, Mitchell Phelps, Reggie Cramer, and Jim O'Donnell) has been awarded the **2019 Vermont Tree Steward: Volunteer Group Award**. The Board has done an outstanding job nurturing chestnut trees in the Town Forest. The award recognizes a team who have shown outstanding dedication and commitment in a community forestry project.

To welcome spring, the interior of the **Fairlee Library** has a **fresh new coat of paint** and rearranged furnishings, an outcome of Librarian Samantha Hickman's strong management and the thoughtful planning of the Library's Board of Trustees.

FAIRLEE'S SUPER SENIOR

Robert Edmands shovels and sands walkways and steps, digs out fire hydrants buried by snow, and makes sure that only metal is dumped into the appropriate bin at the Transfer Station. While publicity is not his mojo, Robert was recently featured as a "Super Senior" on WCAX. If you missed the 3-minute feature, go to:

<https://www.wcax.com/content/news/Super-Senior-Robert-Edmands-507151241.html>

2019 SELECTBOARD

At Town Meeting in March, Josh Hickman was elected to fill the open Selectboard position. Josh is a Senior Practice Manager at Norris Cotton Cancer Center, volunteers with the Fire Department and is Chair of the Rivendell Recreation Committee. At the first meeting with the new Selectboard, Peter Berger was elected Chair and Cathy McGrath was elected Vice Chair.



Comments or questions?

Peter Berger: selectboardchair@fairleevt.org

Cathy McGrath: selectboardvicechair@fairleevt.org

Josh Hickman: selectboardmember@fairleevt.org

Tad Nunez: townadministrator@fairleevt.org

Join community volunteers on

GREEN UP DAY!

Saturday, May 4th, 10:00-1:00

Meet at the Town Hall on the Common



Brush Dump Extended Hours:

9 AM-4 PM, May 4th and May 11th

Fairlee Selectboard

PO Box 95

Fairlee, VT 05045