



FAIRLEE NEWSLETTER

November 2019

COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Fairlee Community Survey had superb participation. Online and on paper, we gathered 208 responses. Quick notes:

- 72% are satisfied with the services of the Library
- 70% agree that the Town should network its trails with those in other communities
- 49% perceive that they are well informed about Town business
- 45% believe that Fairlee should explore public/private partnerships for additional housing

Town leaders will use the responses to help set priorities and will share a report that includes survey responses on the Town website.

TOWN PLAN

The Planning Commission (Smith Reed, Chair; Miranda Clemson, Vice Chair; Sarah Berger; Tim Danen; Denis Lambert; and Susanne Pacilio) has devoted countless hours drafting a Town Plan that sets a path for Fairlee over the next 8 years. The Plan is important because it documents our community's aspirations as we apply for state and federal grants.

After a public hearing on October 10, the Planning Commission delivered its draft Town Plan to the Selectboard. **The Selectboard will review the Plan, gather input and suggestions through a public hearing on December 12 and has scheduled the vote to approve the Plan on January 21, 2020.** For a current copy of the Town Plan, go to the Fairlee website.

NORTH, SOUTH, AND IN-BETWEEN

On the north end of the Village, 7-Eleven filled deep – and we mean deep – potholes in its parking lot. On the south end of the Village and in response to multiple nudges from the Town Hall, Dollar General mowed its property, meeting the specifications included in their site plan. In between, the Fairlee Gardeners prepared the Gypsy Garden (on the Railroad Station property) for its winter hibernation.

SPEAKING OF MAIN STREET

The Better Connections grant that was awarded to Fairlee in the beginning of the year is aimed at improving the Route 5 streetscape, calming traffic, and controlling stormwater on Main Street. The project is facilitated by

consultants Chris Sargent, Dubois & King; Rebecca Stone, Community Workshop (who led revitalization projects in Bethel); and Tripp Muldrow, Arnett Muldrow & Associates (an economist who specializes in rural communities).

During the first meeting, the Committee discussed the value of infrastructure that connects our community and improves streetscape design. During the second, it considered the importance of engaging a rich array of community members. The Steering Committee includes Miranda Clemson, Katie Knowles, Alex Nuti-de Biasi, Angela Rorison, Lauren Senn, Selectboard members Peter Berger and Cathy McGrath, and Tad Nunez. Soon, the group will inaugurate a special website. **Mark December 5 on your calendar for the “Main Street to Morey” kick-off event.**

LET THE SUN SHINE IN

The Town has entered a **solar energy agreement** that will reduce by 10% the electricity expenses of the Town Hall and the Pump House. The Town is currently examining a second solar agreement that will provide electricity with similar savings for other Town facilities.

WATER DEPARTMENT

After 5 years of discussing, voting, planning, examining, excavating, and building a **new water tank**, the final step – cleaning up its access road – was finished in mid-October. **It's completed!** The Town's Request for Proposal for **water meters** has been distributed and installation of meters is scheduled for April through July 2020. The Town will soon have construction bids for the **water treatment (filtration)** structure with completion of the building scheduled before the end of the year.

SHE'S DONE IT AGAIN

Town Clerk Georgette Wolf-Ludwig is one of only two clerks who earned Certified Vermont Clerk, Summa Cum Laude.

TRANSFER STATION

Trees and brush to the north of the Transfer Station have been cleared as a first step toward improving service to Fairlee residents. Next steps include modifying the Station's flow of traffic and identifying the best site for a pole barn to store road and water equipment.

CRISP & SNAPPY

The Emergency Services Building is freshly painted. It's an investment that supports our FAST Squad, the Fairlee Fire Department, and Upper Valley Ambulance.

DON'T WAIT 'TIL THE HOLIDAYS

Many hold off on giving their time, talents and treasure until the end of the year when the holidays encourage us to be our best selves. However, there are numerous groups that would **welcome your year-round help**. We invite you to consider contributing time and talent to the **Recreation Council** and the **Energy Committee**. Please contact Tad Nunez 333-4363, extension 2 or townadministrator@fairleevt.org.

OPIOID CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT

At no cost to the Town, Fairlee has joined a Vermont Attorney General class action lawsuit against manufacturers and distributors of opioid medication.

OVER THE RIVER & THROUGH THE WOODS

Maurice Roberts Memorial Highway, Brennan Road, and Clubhouse Road had major crack-filling completed in September. The east side of Lake Morey Road adjacent to the Barbieri, Burns, and Chambers residences received its final topcoat of asphalt on November 2. Overall, the project built a durable foundation for the road with a design that effectively manages stormwater.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Zoning Administrator Chris Brimmer attended a conference about planning and zoning on October 23 and will attend a training program about enforcing ordinances on December 4. Selectboard Member Cathy McGrath attended a conference about improving community infrastructure on November 5.

CAPITAL BUDGET

The passage of the Capital Reserve articles at Town Meeting 2019 have updated the budgeting process that Fairlee has had in place for 20 years. The intent is to create a 10-year schedule for annual contributions to the Town's new asset reserve funds with an objective to stabilize and make more predictable long-term municipal tax rates.

Projects prioritized in the **Town Buildings and Lands Reserve** include replacing sills at the Railroad Station and buying a generator so that the Town Hall can serve as an emergency shelter. **Emergency Reserve** projects include a down payment on a new fire engine. The **Highway Reserve** includes funds for the rehabilitation of Lake Morey Road and the **Lake Reserve** includes funds for future chemical treatment of Lake Morey to eradicate milfoil.

Treasurer Lisa Hinsley, Town Administrator Tad Nunez, and Selectboard Chair Peter Berger have enrolled in 3-month **Asset Management** class sponsored by Vermont Clean Water. The objective is to catalog and monitor the Water Department's capital assets.

WITH ONLY 24 HOURS IN THE DAY

Fairlee has an enthusiastic yet small municipal team with tasks and requests from the State that are the same regardless of the size of the Town or its municipal staff. Fairlee's professional municipal staff (Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, Lisa Hinsley, Noël Walker, Chris Brimmer, and Tad Nunez) answer your questions, find for you the right forms, and explain processes. **Fairlee residents are their priority** and they are eager to help you. Please be patient as they balance their workload.

Comments or questions?

Peter Berger: peter.berger@fairleevt.org

Cathy McGrath: cathy.mcgrath@fairleevt.org

Josh Hickman: josh.hickman@fairleevt.org

Tad Nunez: townadministrator@fairleevt.org

HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Wednesday, December 18

11:30 in the Grange Room



Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Fairlee/Orford food shelf.