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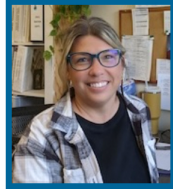


Fairlee Newsletter

May 2024

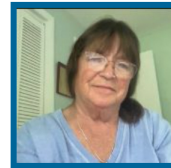
Happy Memorial Day!

HELLO AND GOODBYE: BOARD AND DEPARTMENT CHANGE



Jessica Chase has joined the Fairlee Town Hall staff as Finance Manager joining Jenn Garrow in the Town Hall. She will be taking over the duties of Lisa Hinsley, our Treasurer. Jess worked for Orange East Supervisory Union (OESU) in their Finance Department as Grants Assistant.

The Selectboard welcomed Miranda Clemson as its new member in January of this year on Cathy McGrath's retirement. Miranda comes with a wealth of background on Fairlee having served on the Planning Commission for 9 years.



LAKE MOREY ALUM TREATMENT

Fairlee has been granted a permit from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Wastewater to treat Lake Morey with Alum in May of 2024. This process began in Aug/Sept of 2022 with a devastating Cyanobacteria bloom covering approximately 2/3 of the surface of the Lake with 2" to 3" mats of a toxic bloom. The Town and the Lake Community responded within a month. The Lake Morey Foundation and the Town cooperated to fund a feasibility study that was accepted by ANR Lakes and Ponds to determine the necessary steps to resolve this crisis.

Over the next 15 months ANR, the Town and SOLitude Lake Management (the company doing the treatment) negotiated to agree on an \$825,00 project that involves the method, through ANR Wastewater for a permit and with ANR Clean Water for funding with a forgivable loan to treat the lake with Alum.

Our expectation at this time for this project is a cost-free solution to ensure the continued water quality for the lake for years to come. The efforts over the past year working with the various agencies of ANR to bring this project to fruition has come through a whole lot of hard work by a dedicated team made up of the Lake Morey Commission, SOLitude and our Town staff.

The treatment will begin May 28 and is expected to last for 10 days.

**VTRANS RAILROAD PROPERTY
RIVER ACCESS / RECREATION / POSSIBLE TOWN SEPTIC**



Over the past two years there have been conversations about the 7 acre parcel owned by VTrans that lies along the river between the Fairlee Railroad Depot and the transfer station.

In response to a request from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) as part of their Municipal Reinvestment Pilot Program we submitted a proposal to acquire the uses of this parcel to create a river walk and overlook to the Connecticut River. During the Better Connections gatherings with residents the lack of the Town's access to the river was a continual topic.

In early April the Town had a meeting with VTrans officials about how this could proceed. VTrans provided the Town with positive feedback on how to accomplish a possible recreation trail. VTrans also signaled acceptance of the idea of using this as a possible landing zone for the wastewater field the Town has been trying to resolve as part of the ongoing Septic analysis.

FIRE TRUCK PURCHASE

Fairlee has been considering the purchase of a new Pumper Truck for close to ten years and monies have been put aside in the Capital Budget for some time now. Over the past two years the Selectboard and the Fire Department have had ongoing discussions on how best to procure the much-needed new Pumper Truck. It is clearly time for the Town to replace Fairlee's current 1991 pumper. The Selectboard considers the advanced age (33 years) of this vital equipment to be a matter of public safety.



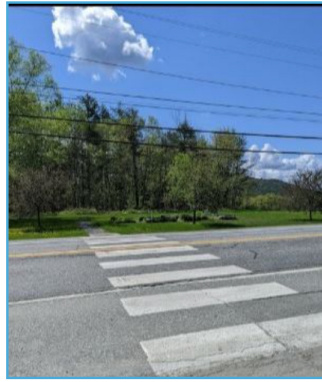
The Fire Department, in collaboration with the E-One truck manufacturer, have presented a plan to lease the truck over ten years which will provide the Fire Department with an equipped, ready to serve vehicle. The Selectboard, the Fire Department and E-One have finalized the agreement on purchasing the new Pumper truck for the Town and the Fairlee Fire Department. The purchase agreement is a lease rather than a bond, which would require a town vote.

**NOW FOR THE BAD NEWS:
FOURTH OF JULY PARADE
CANCELED**



With the increased traffic on Route 5 from the work to resolve the issues with the Palisades we expect a long summer of delays. Another unfortunate aspect of this work is the necessity of canceling the July 4th parade. The fireworks will take place on the Fourth, and the flyover will pass over Fairlee as usual. This was a difficult decision, and one that many argued against and provided alternatives they'd like to see happen on the holiday. However, the State of Vermont will not issue a permit for the parade this year.

NEW CROSSWALKS



Three new crosswalks have been painted as part of the Route 5 Corridor improvements as enumerated in the [Main Street to Morey Fairlee Town Center Action Plan](#). Once the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHBs) are installed crossing Route 5 in the village area will be safer for all. An example of a PHB is on West Wheelock Street in Hanover, where the walker presses a button and beacons on either side of the street light up to warn drivers of pedestrians crossing.

THE LIBRARY IS MAKING PLANS

A structural assessment (available at the library) of Fairlee Public Library found that extensive repairs would be required for the present building to be safe and usable for current and future needs. The Fairlee Library Trustees have applied for a grant that would allow us to build a new facility on the current site.

Stay tuned for further updates available at the [Fairlee Public Library website](#).

FAIRLEE FOCUS

Fairlee has an app! Download Fairlee Focus from the Apple store or Google Play. Or just scan the QR code to the right. Get important updates from the Town.



Comments or questions?

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Your engagement is vital in shaping the future of Fairlee. Get to know your Town government and consider serving on a board or commission. Selectboard Meetings are livestreamed and you can listen in from the comfort of your home, just click the link in any [posted agenda](#).



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