



DRYDEN TOWN NEWSLETTER

November 1, 2009

A note from the Supervisor's Office

By Mary Ann Sumner, Town Supervisor

My time this month has been split among the water commission, sewer committee, fire departments, Teamsters, health insurance consortium, planning board, conservation board, Transportation Council, gas drilling issues and more. Many meetings include some level of budget discussions.

Our budget process is nearly complete. Town Board members have settled on a preliminary budget which is available for public review. Sadly, it's 70 pages of numbers and terms that are hard – maybe impossible – to understand unless you've been involved in the process. We've scheduled a public hearing for Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 7:00 PM. Before then an executive summary will be available and we'll be happy to answer questions. Following the public hearing the board will decide whether to make changes based on public comments or accept the budget as proposed.

I encourage you to attend the public hearing on November 4 or the Town Board meeting November 12 at 7:00 PM either to make a public comment or simply to see how we work. Please also feel free to contact me if you have comments or questions. Email Supervisor@dryden.ny.us. Or phone 844-8888.



The Town Hall at 93 E Main.

Ask a Code Officer...

Have you ever wondered how high a fence can be before you need a permit? Or what the rules are on swimming pools—even some of the inflatable ones? Or how to subdivide your property?

What are the burning questions you have that our Code Enforcement Officers can answer for you? Submit your questions to the Zoning Department at Zoning@dryden.ny.us. Not only will you get an answer, your question may be included in a future newsletter.

Some application forms are also available [online](#).



The following text is from a postcard that was mailed last month notifying area boards of a training that was provided here at the Dryden Town Hall on October 22nd.

As you may or may not be aware, the New York State Legislature approved a bill that was signed into law in 2006, setting minimum training requirements for planning and zoning officials. Effective January 1, 2007, all county, town and village planning and zoning board members, including alternate board members, must receive a minimum of four hours of training annually. The legislative body for each municipality approves courses of training for its board members.

TVGA Consultants will offer free training to meet this need on October 22nd at Dryden Town Hall. Four, one-hour sessions will cover the following topics:

- 1) Traffic Calming and Access Management– Why it is important to plan prior to building
- 2) Site Plan Review– An overview of how to read a set of plans
- 3) Environmental Review– The fundamentals of SEQRA
- 4) Stormwater Management– The elements and importance of managing stormwater

We want to thank Henry Slater for coordinating this training and TVGA Consultants for providing it. There were 68 participants from 25 municipalities in attendance! To quote Mr. Slater, "There is no better training than one that draws the attendees into the presentation. Attendees listened, analyzed and questioned. Ultimately, they improved their knowledge and are able to much better serve their community." Thank you.

Stormwater Management



By Henry Slater, Director of Building,
Zoning & Environmental

In the Town's first Newsletter (10/01/2009), I discussed the expanding roles of Town Government. I concluded that local hands-on guidance is a very good option as opposed to guidance from afar.

This month, I would like to discuss Stormwater Management; one of the areas in which primary responsibility has recently shifted from afar to the Town.

Prior to 2008, Stormwater Management has been administered by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) as mandated by the Federal Government, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The original legislation was the Clean Water Act of the 1960's, also a Federal Action.

As you might recall, in October we discussed how by the mid 1960's local government was responding more and more to local land use needs. Another contributing factor was land use guidance was evolving from the top down, from Federal to State to County and finally locally as Federal Agencies were recognizing environmental needs.

Some of the trickle down was simply a result of identification and creation of regulation at the upper level and administration handed down to the next level on the ladder. Another factor, and more importantly, was a developing local resident interest in regulating and administering local land use.

The 1960's was the time many factors were contributing to regulating at the local level.

Stormwater management was around for several decades before an administrative role evolved.

Beginning in the 1990's, the DEC began a series of phases which established thresholds of ground surface disturbance, removal of or covering of vegetation, surface in terms of acreage which would require stormwater management controls. The purpose of stormwater management is to direct clean water from land surface to our inland fresh water system, wells, roadside ditches, ponds, streams, lakes and rivers.

A second goal would be to direct only clean water at a rate and quantity both during and following the disturbance period similar as to what it was prior to the disturbance activity.

You may have noticed short black fence structures while driving by a construction site which is installed on bare ground. This is siltation fence. Siltation fence is used to collect eroding soils. When installed correctly, the bottom six inches is below grade. Eroding soils collect against the fence rather than running off the construction site eventually into a watercourse. Even a simple road side ditch is a watercourse. How can that be? Consider every roadside ditch terminates at a stream, lake, river or pond and so does the debris ditch water carries.

See STORMWATER page 4

Boards & Commissions

Did you know?

The Town of Dryden has an elected Town Board, 3 volunteer boards, and 2 commissions on a standing basis.

The volunteer boards are: Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Conservation Board.

The commissions are the Dryden Youth Commission and the Dryden Recreation Commission.

Over the next few months, we'll take a look at each one and tell you more about them.

From the Recreation Department

Registration for Winter Youth Sports begins on Monday, November 2, 2009.



Wrestling:

Grades K-7 (4 year olds welcome!)

Tentative start date: December 8, 2009

Location: Dryden High School

Price: 35.00 (includes home tournament fee)

Program Code: W2010



Travel Basketball, boys and girls

Grades 4-6

Tentative start date: December 8, 2009

Location: All Dryden schools

Price: \$35.00

Program Code: TB2010

In-House Basketball:

Grades K-3

Tentative Start Date: January 9th

Location: TC3

Price: \$25.00

Program code: IB2010

Join us on November 7th 2009 for our First Annual Mother-Son Dance! The dance will be held at the Village Hall, located at 16 South St, from 6:00-7:30. Sign up early and save \$2.00 off your tickets!

Advance tickets at: www.dryden.ny.us/recreation

What's Happening in the Code Office

By Kevin Ezell, CEO (Code Enforcement Officer)

The most frequent question that we get asked is "What work requires a Permit?" The office is required to enforce the "Code" for many different items and in many different categories.

If you are replacing a deck or porch, you are in fact making changes to the exiting or egress from the dwelling. There are many considerations that should be looked at by this office to determine that the "new" deck or porch meets applicable code sections. This would include the guards or railing, any handrail, and stairs. The dimensions of the framing that supports the decking and any foundation and beams are another concern that should be looked at through the permit review process.

You would also need permit for replacement of any heating plant. The most important issue here is that the venting of the combustion gases to the exterior. The size of the vent and distance of the vent terminations from door or window openings are what we in this office will be looking for.

These are just a few of the items that require permits. Please call for any specific questions that you may have. You can reach us between the hours of 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. The office number is 844-8888, option 2. We look forward to talking to you and being of service if you have any code related needs.

The Town History Corner

By Harry L.D. Weldon, Town Historian

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS--20 October '09 (2-4 pm):

First meeting ("ever") of the History Committee, Town of Dryden.

Present: Clayton Dans (Freeville Village), Ann Leonard (Town at-large), Cam Viall (Dryden village) and Harry Weldon (Chair).

Questions were made about the relativity of the Town's early history.

How far back does the Committee want to deal with and what is to be done with that history? Answer: 1780 to the present, as being the date that the Town was first delineated as a part of the Military Tract and to make our findings available to the general public.

What is the tie to the Dryden Town Historical Society? Answer: There is no tie whatsoever, other than cooperation between the two entities. Both are independent of each other!

Will adjunct areas be included, such as Virgil, etc.? Answer: Only in as so far as might be included in some mutual venture; case in point: The Town of Dryden was at one time a part of the Town of Ulysses and was set off in 1803 and as in the Town of Dryden setting a portion off to the Town of Caroline in 1882.

What can be done about some of the deplorable conditions of some of the rural cemeteries? Answer: Make a study and report same to the Town Board with any reasonable suggestions and/or recommendations.

Open discussions were then opened on the following areas of present interest to those present. Priorities deemed by a consensus are noted with a triple (*) asterisk.**

Historic preservation of buildings and structures.

***** Roadside historic markers—At least two are missing!**

***** Update cemetery listings and Town Historian's map of the same.**

***** Assist the Town Historian in gathering things for an "on going history scrapbook."**

Proposal of placing a highway marker ("Road of Veterans Valor") on Route 38.

***** Make known those land tracts and buildings on the National Register of Historic Places.**

Determine how to protect historical buildings (e.g. Crosby cabin) and Jennie McGraw's birthplace on current NYS forestlands.

The enthusiasm and interest of the committee members was certainly refreshing and perhaps overwhelming at times.

NEXT MEETING: 24 November '09; 2:00-4:00 pm, meeting room/office used by the Town Historian in the Town Hall.

Stormwater (Continued from Page 2)

A first line of defense should be protecting the ditch. Often ditches receive little attention. That must change. Effective stormwater management considers the roadside ditch. How? Ditch protection is provided by construction of what is known as a stable entry and internal travel path.

Generally, site development vehicles should stay-off devegetated surfaces. Vehicles traveling on devegetated surfaces pick-up soils, wet or dry, and carry these materials onto the public road where vehicle speed causes soil debris to fall off on to the road surface where most of it migrates to the ditch. Next rain and following rain events start to carry road debris until such time debris wash into a dedicated water course (contains water on a normal basis).

If vehicles cannot avoid devegetated surface, project work sites and internal travel paths should be built-up with clean stone or gravel with a crown surface. Travel paths should be located adjacent to vegetated soil surfaces where stone or gravel will drain.

Vegetation is the most effective run-off filter device. It slows flows absorbing fallout and holds fallout. Certainly other devices can be employed depending on other factors.

I should also mention another source of erosion is wind. When the wind blows or even when vehicles travels over bare soil dust occurs. What is dust? Dust is fine particles of soil. Airborne soil is erosion and should be eliminated or limited.

In future discussion I'll explore effective stormwater management protection systems. For now I would ask you to think about how you might contribute to effective stormwater management even if it is simply to limit your dust!



MONTHLY MEETINGS

Town Board, 2nd Wed. @ 7 pm

Planning Board, 3rd Thursday @ 7 pm

Conservation Board, Last Tuesday @ 7:30 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals, First Tuesday @ 7:30 pm

Recreation Commission, 3rd Wednesday @ 7 pm

The November meeting will be at the Dryden Community Café.

Youth Commission, 2nd Tuesday @ 6:30 pm

* The November meeting for Tech, Loans & Grants, and Finance will be December 2nd.

Technology Committee, Last Wednesday @ 8:30 am * 12/2

Loans & Grants Committee, Last Wednesday @ 9:45 am * 12/2

Finance Committee, Last Wednesday @ 11 am * 12/2

We also strive to keep a complete list of meetings on the Town Website at: <http://www.dryden.ny.us/calendar/>

Community Centers



After attending a Dryden Recreation Commission meeting this past month, I thought it would be a great idea to “visit” each of our Community Centers over the next few months.

In future newsletters, look for articles on:

Dryden Community Café

1 West Main St, Dryden Village

www.drydencafe.org

Ellis Hollow Community Center

111 Genung Road

www.ehcc.clarityconnect.com

Varna Community Center

943 Dryden Road

<http://www.lightlink.com/vca/>

Etna Community Center

Main Street, Etna

Lower Creek Road