

FAIRLEE Newsletter

Edition 3

October 2013



P.O. BOX 95
Fairlee, VT 05045

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Contact Information

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townclerk@fairleevt.org

Town Treasurer
333-4947
treasurer@fairleevt.org

Listers Office
333-9829
listers@fairleevt.org

Town Administrator
333-9653
townadministrator@fairleevt.org

Zoning Administrator
333-4158
zoning@fairleevt.org

Town Constable
802-522-8468
police@fairleevt.org

All Emergencies: Dial 911

From the Emergency Management Coordinator:

The Town is in need of 10-12 volunteers to help with the local emergency shelters in the event of any disasters that may occur. There are two shelters, the Samuel Morey Elementary School and the Bradford Evangelical Free Church.

- Lance Colby

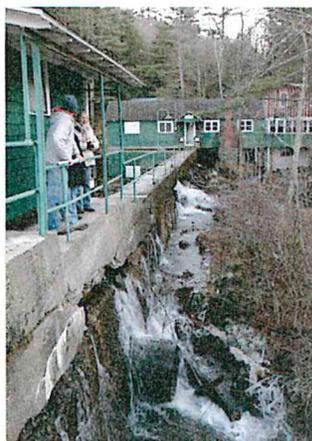
 Home Page
www.fairleevt.org



Overview of the Lake Fairlee Dam

In early 2012, the Selectboards of Fairlee, Thetford, and West Fairlee met together to address shared issues relating to Lake Fairlee, in particular the deteriorating condition of the dam which if it should fail, the water level in the lake would drop significantly affecting the residences and summer camps as well as public use. Property values would be reduced causing Town Tax Rates to increase.

Update: An engineering company inspected the dam and reported the condition of the dam being badly in need of repair. The engineering firm, Dubois & King has been contracted to do the required engineering studies and to develop proposals for the repair or replacement of the Lake Fairlee Dam. Over the summer, D&K performed a topographic survey of the dam and surrounding property and prepared a contour map showing elevation lines at one-foot intervals. Based on existing watershed maps and climatological data, they determined expected water flow rates and quantities for average years, and for the theoretical 100 year and 500 year events for which the dam's design must account. Also they conducted a subsurface investigation, taking soil and rock samples from borings drilled down to bedrock, to determine how the dam should best be anchored. Based on analysis of this data, the engineers developed what they call a "solutions matrix." In late August,



they presented to the committee their evaluations of possible solutions for the failing dam. These included repairing, reconstructing in place, and relocating. They discussed the design, permitting, and construction challenges of each option, and gave some preliminary cost estimates. Several options were easily discarded as simply not feasible, or unnecessarily expensive. The committee narrowed the list to two options, both of which involve rebuilding the dam in its present location. D&K will prepare a more detailed analysis of these options, and develop more refined cost estimates. They will present these to the committee at the next meeting in early October. There will be a Public Hearing scheduled at which time plans, drawings and analysis will be presented and input from interested citizens will be solicited.

For more information, go to www.lakefairleedam.infoloverview.htm.

Announcements

General announcements are always posted at the Town Hall, Post Office and Public Library, as well as posted on the Fairlee Home Page and the Fairlee listserve. Urgent Public Notices will also run in the Journal Opinion and Valley News.



There will be an **Open House** at the Town Hall on **Sunday, October 6th** from 11:00am to 2:00pm.

Come and see the renovation after the water damage caused by the sprinkler system.

The Transfer Station will be open from 9am to 4pm on Saturday, October 5 for the Fall Brush Collection.

From the Town Administrator:

- Please report any personal property damage you sustain during any heavy rainstorm, snowstorm or ice storm by contacting me at 333-9653 or townadministrator@fairleevt.org. Provide as much details as possible and submitting photos is very helpful for documentation. This is necessary for qualifying and obtaining federal and state assistance.
- Again, I want to emphasize that each and every one of you are the "eyes and ears" for the Town. Please report any suspicious activity, unsafe conditions, road damage, etc. to me.

- Laurent J. Veilleux

From the Town Clerk:

- Beach and Dump passes will be changing January 1, 2014. They will no longer be two separate passes. They will be combined into one Resident/Taxpayer pass that can be used for either the Dump or the Beach. The cost of this new pass will be \$5.00 and will be available for purchase at the Town Clerk's Office in mid-November.
- Please remember your neighbors in need this holiday season by donating to Barbara's Red Stocking. Donation boxes will be displayed in local businesses by mid-November or send your donation to: Barbara's Red Stocking, c/o Louise Mack, 59 Archertown Rd, Orford, NH 03777. All donations are tax-exempt.

- Georgette Wolf-Ludwig

From the Town Constable/Chief of Police:

- If you need a VIN Verification for registering a vehicle, contact me at 802-222-3571.
- Get locked out of your vehicle? Contact me.
- If you will be absent from your home and would like to have it checked, fill out a Vacant House Check Request and mail it to me or drop it off at the Town Clerk's Office. Forms are available at the Town Hall, library and on the Home Page.

- Jason Bachus

From the Planning Commission Chair:

The Planning Commission is continuing to work with Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission to update the Town Plan. The Introduction and Demographic portions have been completed. The Land Use portion has been drafted. A Public Forum to present the Land Use Portion will be held on Thursday, October 24th at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall Grange Room. As we move forward with the update process to the Town Plan, the most important aspect for the Commission is to have public input. As a Board, we desire that it be an inclusive and informative discussion. All are welcome to attend and provide input.

- Peter Berger

From the Development Review Board Chair:

The DRB is in need of an interested person to serve as an alternate member when regular members are not available. If you are available on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month (especially in December - March) and would be interested in serving your Town, please leave word at the Zoning Office, 333-4158.

- David Fracht

From the Librarian:

- This month's book discussion will be on October 16th at 7pm. We are reading Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling by Ross King
- Movie Night will be on October 25th at 7pm. We will be showing Thor, rated PG-13.
- We also have a lot of new TV shows on the shelves including the first seasons of Breaking Bad, and The Walking Dead.
- Stop by the library to find out about all our programs and resources.

- Hannah Tracy

From the Lake Morey Commission Chairperson:

The 2013 Lake Morey Milfoil control project is winding down. Currently, the Aquatic Endeavors dive team is at the lake hand harvesting the eastern, southern, and western sections of the lake and then will suction harvest in the northern portion. Once this has been completed, a grant justification package will be prepared and forwarded to the VT Dept of Environmental Conservation for final reimbursement by the State. Based on ACT's late summer survey of the lake's shallow and deep water sample points, the consensus is that the 2014 program will be similar to that of 2013 and a chemical treatment will not be necessary.

- Don Weaver

From the Lake Morey Protective Association President:

As things wind down at Lake Morey after another very active summer, LMPA would like to thank the Town of Fairlee for their continued efforts to provide all Fairlee residents with excellent recreation activities. The Town Beach continues to be the focal point for all to gather and enjoy sunshine, sand and a swim. The highlight of summer was the Fairlee Family Fun Day where over 200 people enjoyed a full day of sailing, golf, family BBQ and water sport completions where everyone is a winner! We trust everyone is having a great fall and takes the time to pause and enjoy the seasonal colors reflection on the cooling waters of our great natural resource called Lake Morey!

- Bruce Durgin

From the Orange County Assistant Judges:

During the last twelve months the Assistant Judges of Orange County have been busy on two big projects that will improve the functionality and appearance of the courthouse for years to come. In late January, the County purchased 3 Court Street, the adjacent parcel to the courthouse that formerly housed the Wellspring School. We needed this parcel to provide room for off-street handicapped accessible parking, improve the grade around the north and east sides of the courthouse and to allow for a new handicapped entrance. Previously, it was practically impossible for a person with limited mobility to park and get to the old handicapped entrance unassisted. The state of Vermont is paying the full cost of the new entrance and the county will benefit both from eight off-street parking places and because the grade will be improved as part of the project. For years, the negative grade on that side of the courthouse had led to rotting clapboards on the north end of the building; these clapboards will be replaced at this time. We have just gotten underway with this project as of the last week of August. Construction is estimated to take six weeks. The other big project has been on-going for the last year. With the expert help of Northeast Restoration owned by Norm Collette of Corinth, the County has completed a full condition survey of the courthouse. When we learned that there were issues with the bell tower, Northeast Restoration worked over the last year to improve access in the attic and will oversee the bid process to have a specialized company work next summer to repaint and repair the bell tower. Depending on the bid, it is possible that the dome will be re-gilded at that time as well. We are also applying for a Vermont Historic Preservation grant as part of the belfry project. If awarded the grant, we could receive up to 50% matching funds for the cost of the project. In addition to improving access and lighting in the attic so that it is safe to work on mechanical equipment up there, Northeast Restoration identified and repaired a few other things that needed immediate attention to make sure the building functions properly and to hold off more costly repairs in the future. Norm who works with his wife, Connie Longo, have many years of experience with historic repair and renovation and are well positioned to help us with these tasks. We welcome all questions regarding county business. We especially would encourage school groups to come and tour the courthouse and observe court in session to learn about the vital role the judiciary plays in our government. Your two elected Assistant Judges are Joyce McKeeman from Corinth and Vickie Weiss from Tunbridge. We can be reached at the courthouse at 685-2113.

- Hon. Joyce E. McKeeman

- Hon. Victoria N. Weiss