



FAIRLEE NEWSLETTER

April 2016

FIRST QUARTER PRIORITIES

This year, your new Selectboard's objective is to chip away at deferred maintenance and maximize the value of every Town expenditure. During the first and second quarters of 2016, Selectboard priorities include:

- ✓ Completing an inventory of the Town's highways and water system so that we can build proactive and predictable financial plans.
- ✓ Identifying summer highway projects and kicking off an engineering study of Lake Morey Road.
- ✓ Managing the repair of one of the Town's water tanks.
- ✓ Beautifying the village center.
- ✓ Continuing the renovation of Town Hall.

TOWN HALL

The Fairlee Town Hall is a two-story Colonial Revival style building of white wood clapboards, with a hipped roof of slate shingles. Inside, there are pressed tin decorative ceilings, lath and plaster walls, simple stained wood trim, beaded vertical boarding, and hardwood floors. In 2014, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Town Hall and added the building to the Town's three other structures on the National Register of Historic Places, including our 1938 steel arched Samuel Morey Bridge linking Fairlee with Orford, and two former Boston & Maine Railroad Stations.

Along with the professionals who do their day-to-day work in the Town Hall—including the Town Clerk, the Treasurer, the Town Administrator, the Zoning Administrator, and Listers—the building is one of the

Town's most valuable assets. This year, our objective is to replace the building's historic slate roof.

VILLAGE CENTER

Last year, the Selectboard pulled two reports that have been gathering dust—the White Report from 2001 (a village design plan) and a more recent Town Common Study—and identified recommendations that are important today based on what we have heard from residents and that we can address with funding approved at Town Meeting.

The White Report recommends strategic tree planting along Route 5 to slow traffic and make the Town more attractive for residents and those who are customers for local businesses. At Town Meeting, voters approved \$2,500 in the capital budget for village center beautification, and Zoning Administrator Chris Brimmer has identified a grant of up to \$1,000 for trees from Vermont Urban and Community Forest Program.



The Town Common Study recommended ways to maintain the bandstand and the Veterans Memorial. In addition, to prevent destruction of the lawn from parking, the Study recommended defining the north end of the Common with historically appropriate fencing. We will be discussing both tree planting and fencing for the Common at the Selectboard meeting at 6 PM on April 25 in the Grange Room of Town Hall.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Fairlee manages and maintains 17 miles of highways (not including Routes 5 and 244, which are Class 1 state highways). With an above average volume of traffic, Lake Morey Road is a Class 2 highway. Two-thirds of town roads—including Fairview Street, Maurice Roberts Highway, and Terry Hill Road—are Class 3 highways, negotiable by car under normal conditions and during all seasons. Remaining roads, such as Brushwood Road, are Class 4.

At Town Meeting, voters approved \$20,000 in the highway budget for road resurfacing and \$150,000 in the capital budget for highway rebuilding. Unusually mild weather allowed Road Contractor Mike Wright, the Selectboard, and Town Administrator Brian Hanson to get out on the roads earlier and as a team, finalize work plans for the spring and summer. Of longer term importance is the engineering study of

Lake Morey Road, to be awarded by the end of April and paid in part by a \$30,000 Class 2 Road grant. The study's surface borings and engineering analysis will help define what needs to be done to more effectively maintain Lake Morey Road.

WATER

Fairlee has two reservoir tanks adjacent to Bald Top Road. The primary tank is 265,000 gallons; the secondary tank is 100,000 gallons. Last year, Water Operators Lance Colby and Barry Larson noticed unusual cracking on the top concrete planks of the primary tank. Working in partnership with Tim Schaal, an independent structural engineer, and Aldrich + Elliott, a full service water resources engineering firm, we are evaluating ways to fix the tank roof as well as protect our water storage until repairs are completed. When the primary tank is offline during its repair, the secondary tank is large enough to ensure an adequate reservoir for those who depend on the Town for water and fire protection.

Comments or questions?

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SAVE THE DATE!

FAIRLEE GREEN UP

May 7
10 AM-1 PM
Town Hall
Please Volunteer!

Green Up bags available
at Town Hall

