

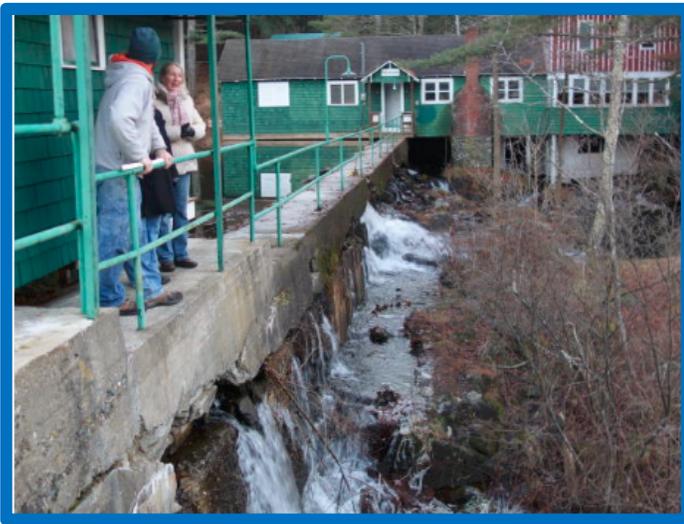


# FAIRLEE NEWSLETTER

November 2016

## LAKE FAIRLEE DAM

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, the Lake Fairlee Dam was inspected by the state and passed with flying colors. The long and sometimes complex multi-town effort to protect Lake Fairlee—to build a coffer dam, move a cottage, build the dam, and return the cottage to a reinforced spot—is completed.



Lake Fairlee Dam Before...



...and Lake Fairlee Dam After.

Our thanks to Town Administrator Brian Hanson for acting as a construction manager for the three towns, and former Treasurer Melissa Gahagan for managing the project's finances.

The shift in contractors in 2015, from Kingsbury to Hebert Excavation, has led to some complicated legal procedures adding to the overall cost of the project, with \$26,690 as Fairlee's share.

As we move into the budget planning season, the Selectboard will stay attuned to protecting taxpayers from unnecessary tax increases.

## CAPACITY AND BUILD OUT STUDY

Under the guidance of the Town's Planning Commission, Fairlee has used a Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) of \$9,500 to evaluate the Town's build out capacity—that is, what center-of-town property owners may be able to do, should they choose to change the status of their lot, as the lots are currently zoned. Staffed by Brandi Saxton of Place Sense, the project has been especially helpful highlighting what can potentially occur in or near the center of town, in terms of workforce housing, small retail and office space, and larger businesses. Elizabeth Wilson chairs the MPG Committee, joined by Peter Berger, Miranda Clemson, Larry Gatto, Cathy McGrath, Smith Reed, and Zoning Administrator Chris Brimmer.

## WATER STORAGE TANKS

During a regular inspection and cleaning of the Town's water tank during the second half of 2015, divers noticed unusual and extraordinary cracking on the underside of the top concrete planks of Fairlee's primary 250,000 gallon water storage tank. In order to ensure that we have the best information for decision making, the Selectboard contracted with Tim Schaal, an independent structural engineer, and Aldrich + Elliott, a full service water resources engineering firm. Later, we sought a second opinion from another engineering firm, Tata and Howard. Tata and Howard had conversations with four construction companies and a USDA engineer and the Town has retained legal counsel, all in an effort to find the most suitable and effective approach to resolve the Town's water tank problem.

## MANAGING WATER QUALITY

As Chief Water Operator Lance Colby finalizes the mapping of the Town's water system, recent studies highlight the notable presence of manganese in Town water. Manganese is a secondary contaminant that does not present a risk to human health but does affect water taste, color, and odor. (Secondary Drinking Water Standards: Guidance for Nuisance Chemicals, US EPA) At the direction of the Water Commissioners, Town Administrator Brian Hanson has personally telephoned 80+ households asking questions about water quality. While most who responded were satisfied, some complained of odors and color.

Pinpointing the geographic locations of complaints will allow the Town to more effectively determine whether color and odor issues are connected with aging infrastructure or with the water itself. In some towns, manganese is eliminated by filtration at pump stations.

As Water Commissioners, the Selectboard is creating a Capital Plan that includes an assessment of the Town's water infrastructure. (The Capital Plan also addresses economic development and growth.) A Capital Plan with a complete water infrastructure map is a requirement for accessing capital for major infrastructure overhauls from banks or the state.

## TOWN HALL

Fundraising continues for the renovation and access projects at the Fairlee Town Hall. The Lake Morey Foundation has contributed \$5,000, and the last mailing raised over \$6,000.

The next fundraising effort brings local artwork into play. Noël Walker and Georgette Wolf-Ludwig saved some of the old slate tiles from the summer's roof repair and distributed them to 27 local artists, asking each to use the tile in a work of art. The tiles are at the



Town Hall—and they are stunning. (To view and bid online, go to [fairleevt.org](http://fairleevt.org).) On November 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be a festive silent auction in the Grange Room, with all proceeds contributed to the Town Hall access project. Bidding starts Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>.

## BEAUTIFICATION

To beautify the town and to encourage those who drive on Main Street to slow down, three crabapple trees were planted to the north of the Railroad Station. Our thanks to the Fairlee Gardeners for their research, work, and “spiritual” support, as well as to the Lake Morey Foundation and the State Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation for tree purchase and planting grants.



## A FOND FAREWELL

Melissa Gahagan retired from the Treasurer position on October 25<sup>th</sup> in order to focus more time on important family matters. At its regular meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup>, the Selectboard appointed Assistant Treasurer Lisa Hinsley to the Treasurer position until Town Meeting in March. From the Selectboard, all of us in the Town Hall, and Fairlee residents, a fond farewell and enormous appreciation to Melissa for her devotion, persistence, and skill.

### FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- **November 12, Sat., 3:00-6:00 PM, Grange Room: Slate Art Silent Auction**
- **December 14, Wed., 11:30 AM, Grange Room: Holiday Potluck Luncheon**
- **January 9, Mon., 6:30 PM, Grange Room: Annual Public Budget Hearing**



**Silent Auction**  
**Fairlee Town Hall Slate Art**  
**Saturday, November 12, 2016**  
**3:00 - 6:00 pm in the Grange Hall**

27 Local Artists have created unique works of art using 100-Year-Old Fairlee Town Hall Roof Slates. Slates can be viewed online at [fairleevt.org](http://fairleevt.org) or at the Fairlee Town Hall during office hours Nov. 8-9-10th.

Bidding will take place until 5pm Nov 12, either in person or online. For questions call: 802-333-4363

Music and Hors d'Oeuvres will be provided.

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