

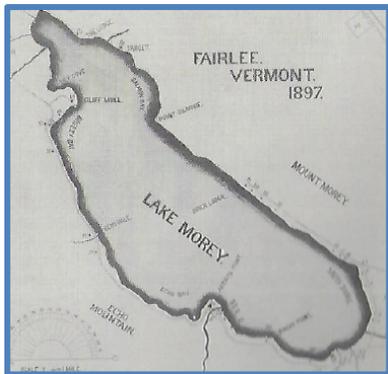


FAIRLEE NEWSLETTER

September 2018

LAKE MOREY ROAD

Lake Morey is one of the oldest resort areas in New England, and for the last 130 years, it has been an important source of tax revenue for Fairlee. Property in the Lake Morey “basin” – including acreage on Lake Morey Road as well as on other roads to which Lake Morey Road provides access – accounts for 47% of Fairlee’s municipal taxes with a grand list value of \$97.9 million.



The Town has invested tens of thousands of dollars in the road that circumnavigates Lake Morey. It has crack filled, skim coated, and re-paved it – sometimes repeating the same task in the same place every few

years. Without a long-term plan, the one-year-to-the-next “address whatever is most urgent” approach has often been a source of problematic financial surprises.

For the past three years, the Selectboard has done its best to make decisions based on facts and data. It has not been reluctant to turn to engineers and state experts for advice on functionality and cost-effectiveness. Looking for a way to smooth Town expenditures and avoid financial surprises, the Selectboard contracted for an in-depth roadway evaluation project with consulting engineers Tata & Howard (St. Johnsbury). The objective of the study was to **provide the Town with a preliminary and long-term plan for improvements to Lake Morey Road.**

ROADWAY EVALUATION PROJECT

Tata & Howard’s study included soil borings at 19 different spots on Lake Morey Road. The borings were approximately 24” deep and provided information about the depth of asphalt pavement and reclaimed asphalt, and the type of road base. In general, the borings uncovered 4-5 inches of asphalt paving, 4-18 inches of reclaimed asphalt, a gravelly sand-and-silt road base (with clay on the north end of the lake), and a moist-to-very-moist subgrade.

In other words, Lake Morey Road is without a structural road base – and in many areas, the lake side of the road has no shoulder. Without a base and a shoulder, retaining walls have served as a fragile backbone for the road. With unstable support, the road continues to slough and settle, resulting in “continued subsidence of the road” which has required the Town to apply layer after layer of additional asphalt.

The report commended Road Contractor Mike Wright for effectively maintaining roadside ditches, allowing surface runoff to drain away from the road instead of moistening the road’s subgrade. Additionally, the Town was applauded for replacing many older culverts. Regardless, **installing a multi-layered, modern road base was adopted as a long-term goal by the Selectboard.**

Lake Morey Road has no structural road base and in many areas, no shoulder.

(Tata & Howard emphasized that **each Lake Morey driveway must be carefully evaluated upon the development of the final design.** Even though early calculations suggest little change in the road profile, it is essential that the Town ensures a safe and appropriate meshing with the road’s final top course of pavement.)

HOW MUCH?

The short answer in regard to cost is “a lot” – a lot in terms of the size of our investment and town resident’s loss of convenience. Because of both, road restoration will be addressed in segments.

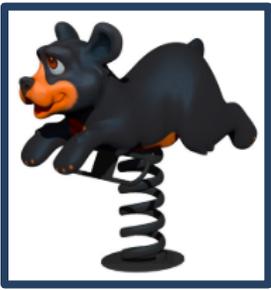
To begin the project, the Town was awarded a \$135,437 Agency of Transportation Structures grant to be matched at 10% (\$15,049) from the Town and enhanced with a contingency of \$13,000. This will fund the rebuild of a 150-foot retaining wall on the east side of the lake.

Over the long term, rebuilding Lake Morey Road will reduce expenditures and the project will not get in the way of ongoing highway maintenance. For example, the Town repaved the base of Terry Hill Road this year – a simpler project, because it did not require a new road base or underdrain piping. Mike Wright will replace at least three culverts this fall and continue mowing, ditching, and crack filling as necessary.

FAIRLEE BEACH PARK BUILD

Fairlee Town Beach will receive approximately \$9,000 in improvements thanks to an initiative of the Vermont Recreation and Parks Association. The non-profit is holding its 75th annual conference on Oct. 9 and 10 at Lake Morey Resort and the Fairlee Beach Park Build project is the first of its kind for a state affiliate of the national recreation association.

VRPA volunteers will restore the playground surface, install a new grill, build wheelchair-accessible pathways,



add a handicap-accessible picnic table, contribute a water-access wheelchair, and install bear and ladybug spring riders.

Donations of both material and labor have accounted for all but the new picnic table and grill, which are being paid for through an online fundraising campaign that had raised \$1,300 of its \$2,000 goal by September 24th. The Lake Morey Foundation has pledged to match \$1,000 to help ensure the project is completed. Matt Jung, chairman of the Recreation Council, noted, "We're excited for the whole project."

On Wednesday, October 10, at 5 PM there will be a celebratory ribbon-cutting at the completion of the project. Please join us! To contribute, go to: <https://www.gofundme.com/vrpa-fairlee-park-build-project>



FAIRLEE BEACH PARK BUILD
Ribbon Cutting
Wednesday, October 10
5:00 PM

*Honor VRPA volunteers and
celebrate our renovated park!*

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2018. To help town voters make fact-driven choices, the Selectboard is hosting a **Candidate's Night on Monday, October 22**, from 6-8 PM in the Town Hall. The session will be moderated by Jay Barrett and attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions. Light refreshments will be available.

At the time of the printing of this newsletter, **Fairlee has attendance commitments from Senators Jane Kitchel and Joe Benning, Rep. Sarah Copeland Hanzas, and gubernatorial candidate Christine Hallquist.** We have also invited U.S. Rep. Peter Welch, Governor Phil Scott and congressional candidate Anya Tynio, though their attendance has yet to be confirmed. If you are unable to join us on October 22nd, please note that you can also attend a Candidate's Night in West Fairlee, on Monday, October 15 at 6 PM in the Grange Hall.



MEET THE CANDIDATES
Monday, October 22
6:00-8:00 PM
Fairlee Town Hall Auditorium
Light Refreshments

Ask questions, listen, learn the facts!

Fairlee Selectboard
PO Box 95
Fairlee, VT 05045