

Town of Cazenovia News

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December 2010



Town Board

Ralph Monforte, Supervisor

Councilors

Kristi Andersen

Sparky Christakos

Pat Race

Bill Zupan

Supervisor's Message comments from Ralph Monforte

Great things are happening in the Town of Cazenovia! A successful lake treatment, zoning improvements, innovative road repairs, and much more have made the past twelve months, as both Town Supervisor and a member of the Madison County Board of Supervisors, very exciting and fulfilling.

Along with my responsibility as Town Supervisor, my involvement with the Board of Supervisors has increased my understanding of the financial frustrations and challenges created by directives filtered down to counties and municipalities from our state and federal governments, almost always requiring us to do more

with less. Increases in the retirement fund (54%) and in insurance (38%) for Town employees, passed down from the State, have contributed to a 3% increase in our local tax for 2011. Be assured, our Town Board has worked to carefully trim expenses and will continue to keep tight control of all expenditures. As we move into the new year, we are optimistic about several economic development opportunities in the community that could provide additional revenues to both the Town and the Village well into the future. We want you to be informed of these projects,

and all actions and matters that affect you, your property and your quality of life. We hope that this newsletter, along with our website, www.townofcazenovia.org, will be helpful in providing greater transparency and information on what your



town government is doing to serve you. I look forward to another year of representing you at both the Town and County on matters that are important to us all. Happy Holidays!

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New Zoning in Action

by Roger Cook, Zoning and Codes Enforcement Officer

The first project in the Commercial Overlay Zone is complete! The newly established zone runs from the Village Edge eastward towards Stone Quarry Rd on both sides of Rte 20. This area has been designed

for various forms of business and commercial activities. Prior to this the entire area was zoned for residential use only. Debbie, Paul and Jessica Amidon, owners of the recently relocated can and bottle return, ap-

proached the Town of Cazenovia two years ago looking to move their business to their property along Rte 20 in what was then classified as Residential A. They sought a (cont on pg 3)

Rainstorm wreaks havoc with Lincklaen Rd.

report from Councilor Pat Race

A very heavy burst of rain on June 28th caused an 82 foot portion of Lincklaen Road, across the street from St. James Cemetery, to wash out and slide 150 feet down the slope. Traffic was restricted to one lane all summer as we researched repair options.

After consulting with many engineers and the NYSDOT, the Town Board hired a Colorado based company that specializes in slope stabilization. They provided a turnkey solution that included design, implementation, and warranty for the failing slope. Using their innovative Soil Nail Launcher, they



Soil Nail Launcher repairs landslide on Lincklaen Rd. in late September.

pounded long steel rods, “soil nails”, into the slope and under the road, and then reinforced with cement. The company completed the job in less than a week in late September and the road was reopened to the public for two lane traffic. It was a challenging problem, but we found an effective, long-term solution requiring a fraction of the time and expense of a more traditional repair.

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New Woodstock is full of energy!

by Highway Superintendent Tim Hunt

The Town of Cazenovia is working with Phil Hoffmyer, project director for Morrisville State College’s Alternative Energy Program, on a plan to install a small-scale hydro-power system at the location of the old dam and water wheel at Mill St in New Woodstock. Hydropower, an efficient and reliable way to harness renewable energy from a small stream, is based on a simple

concept. Moving water turns a turbine, the turbine spins a generator and electricity is produced. The stream flow and vertical drop at the New Woodstock location are ideal for this type of system. Although the environmental impact of a micro-hydro system is minimal, a NYSDEC permit will be required before work can begin. Morrisville College will pay for installation and maintenance,

which is relatively inexpensive compared to other technologies such as solar and wind. Although this site will be used mainly for educational purposes, demonstrating old technology vs. new, it can serve as a gateway for expanded use throughout the area. It will tap into the electrical potential of this stream in an environmentally conscientious way.

Meet the Assessor

Rochelle Harris became the Assessor for the Town in June 2009. She brings to Cazenovia a wealth of assessing experience. Her career began 25 years ago as an appraiser/ assistant project manager for an appraisal firm, and then as an assessor for Oneida County. Along with Cazenovia, she is currently



the sole assessor for the Towns of Sherburne and North Norwich in Chenango County, for a total of approximately 6700 parcels. She was recently admitted into the “Institute of Assessing Officers”, a prestigious designation limited to professional assessors with extensive knowledge and

ability to pass a comprehensive written exam. Rochelle enjoys spending time with her husband, Steve, and their three children, riding their motorcycle, singing with a local dance band, and attending shows and concerts in New York City. She has office hours in Cazenovia on Thursdays and Fridays.

Cazenovia Lake Treatment a Success

update from Councilor Bill Zupan

Two consecutive years of cooperative efforts by the Town, Village, Cazenovia Lake Association, NYSDEC, volunteers, and generous donations from many residents, have resulted in a significant reduction of Eurasian watermilfoil in Cazenovia Lake.

We must remain vigilant to the threat of watermilfoil and other non-native species which are highly invasive and aggressively compete with native plants. Thick underwater stands of tangled stems and dense mats of vegetation on the water's surface can disrupt the environmental health and recreational qual-

ity of the lake.

In 2008, the Town and Village entered into an Intermunicipal Agreement creating The Cazenovia Lake Watershed Council to provide a forum for stakeholders to search for effective long-term solutions. They developed a lake management plan that will serve as a guideline for future restoration priorities, including other treatment and infrastructure options.

The Town has implemented changes to its laws pertaining to stormwater management, zoning and site plan review,

and has prohibited the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus in the lake watershed. The Highway Department has installed computer-controlled sand and salt spreading devices for the Town plow trucks and has installed sedimentation basins on the tributaries entering Cazenovia Lake.

With boat inspections at the village's Lakeside Park launch and ongoing efforts to increase public awareness, we hope to minimize exposure to other threats. We want to preserve and protect this natural beauty for generations to come.

Fun in New Woodstock news from Councilor Sparky Christakos

New childhood memories are being created thanks to the efforts of the Town Board, New Woodstock Free Library Director Norm Parry, residents Babette and T.G. Vaas, Endbar Construction, Ken Vaas Excavating and many other volunteers who helped turn a dream into reality for New Woodstock children in June as a new, state-of-the-art playground was constructed.

Donations and fundraising efforts helped with the \$22,000 project cost. The playground is equipped for preschool through young teenaged children. Although the project had to be pared down to stay within budget, contributions are still being accepted with hopes for future additions such as picnic tables. On a grander scale, the playground dovetails with the town's com-

prehensive plan, which identifies New Woodstock as a hamlet with opportunity for growth in a walking community. Three crosswalks are planned to complete the project, a part of a plan to tie the community together with sidewalks and crosswalks. If we're going to give them a place to play, we should give them a safe way to get there.

New Zoning in Action (cont from pg 1)

variance but were advised that new zoning regulations were being developed and under these proposed regulations approval for their project would likely be granted. They withdrew their application and waited until last February, after the new zoning laws took effect, when they applied to the Town Planning



Board for Site Plan Review. Under this review process, the Planning Board considers the many impacts a project has on the community as a whole, including storm water management, building location, color/materials, lighting, signage, and parking.

The owners cooperated with the Planning Board to meet all of the requirements set forth in the regulations. After receiving Site Plan Approval, they were issued a building permit, and are now open for business. They kept with the rural flavor that the Comprehensive Plan seeks and have established a business that is an asset to the community.

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Zoning Improvements written by Councilor Kristi Andersen

The joint Comprehensive Plan that was adopted by the Town and the Village in 2008 does not have the force of law, but is supposed to guide municipalities in creating laws consistent with the goals of the Plan. Many of the most important recommendations in our Plan have to do with land use, where a critical goal is to: “Establish a healthy and sustainable balance of land uses throughout the Town.” This means paying attention to agricultural lands, open spaces, and natural resources and at the same time providing opportunities for industrial, commercial and retail development. New zoning and subdivision laws were adopted in late 2009.

Our zoning code now has three “base” districts, the Cazenovia Lake

Watershed, Town Rural A (agricultural and residential), and Town Rural B (which creates “opportunity for appropriate light industry, light manufacturing, professional offices, and nonretail commercial.”) This new zone lies along the Route 20 East corridor. Another commercial and industrial zone is located on Constine Bridge Road. In addition, there are several overlay zones. One of these delineates and protects the lands that feed the Village aquifer (generally south of Route 20 and east of Number

Nine Road); another allows for compatible commercial uses in the Hamlet of New Woodstock.

Cazenovia’s subdivision law was changed to provide for a *conservation subdivision* approach. This

method looks at the natural and cultural features of a parcel and guides development in a manner that best protects rural character, open space, and resources (including prime soils, old-growth woods, historic stone walls, or important public viewsheds). Conservation subdivisions result in the preservation of contiguous open space and important scenic and environmental resources, while allowing compact development, more walkable neighborhoods, and more design flexibility than traditional subdivisions.



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