

town government

Selectboard Talks Old Roads and New Road Foreman

By Tom Bodett

The fiscal year has come to a close and once again the town has done an admirable job of staying true to the budget the voters approved. As always, we were a little over in some areas, a little under in others, but overall we're proud of our elected and appointed officials who continue to do the town's business and provide good services on what can often be rightly called a shoestring.

Longtime highway crewman Leon Chamberlin took over as road foreman on June 15th. We're very happy that Lee accepted the position and look forward to a long and fruitful collaboration on your roads. Wayne Emery's retirement was celebrated over the Memorial Day weekend with a raucous and irreverent Wayne and pig roast. Good fun was had by everyone who attended except the pig. So, take Wayne's phone number off your speed dialer and call the town garage directly with any questions or complaints about the care and feeding of Dummerston roads.

The Selectboard voted at its June 6 meeting to officially take over Hopkins Road in West Dummerston. The town has been maintaining this road for many years and we felt it was time to get it on the books so that we can include it in our highway inventory for State assistance. For identical reasons we are moving forward with the intent to take over Sugarhouse Road as well. Thank you to all the property owners and interested persons who have cooperated with and kept themselves informed of these intentions.

We are still looking for more input and comment on the issue of locating any ancient roads we might have lying about town. Officially called, "unidentified corridors" these roads are defined as one-time town rights-of-way which have disappeared into the landscape. These corridors must be identified and claimed by the town on the road map by July 2009 or forever lose them. We don't know if we have any of these corridors and we don't know if we don't. The Catch-22 of the situation is that if you can see the old road, it is not

an "unidentified corridor", and not subject to the new legislation. If you cannot see it, then it is. So what we are searching for in effect is rumors of roads. Heard any lately? Call Tom Bodett or Lewis White if you have.

A joint meeting of the selectboard, school board, planning commission, conservation commission, town clerk and treasurer produced a lively discussion of areas where we can all cooperate, save taxpayer money, and get some things done. We have such a terrific bunch of people putting their time and expertise into this town and it is gratifying to see them all in the same room like this from time to time. If you've never considered getting involved with the town in this way, you might. It's more fun that you'd imagine.

One of the many good things that came of that meeting was the coordination of effort on the long-term planning of gravel resources in and around Dummerston. Our current gravel pit on Clark Road is a cooperative effort with the town of Putney and contains enough gravel for about five years for the two towns and perhaps twenty years of winter sand. Vermont is a difficult place to dig a hole in the ground and if we're going to develop our next gravel pit we should be zeroing in on it soon. It was suggested that known gravel deposits in Dummerston be identified on a comprehensive map in order to make considerations for its extraction as we move forward. Gravel and sand for our roads is the single biggest material expense we have in any given year and the quality of our roads depends upon an affordable and steady supply of it. John Warren of the Conservation Commission and Zoning Administrator Alan McBean both have extensive experience in this area and will be helping us to identify where our best bets for gravel are going to be.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and remember we meet every other Wednesday at 7:30 in the town office. We welcome visitors. Bring cookies.

Dummerston Recreation Board Introduces New Community Programs

By Sarah Evans

The Dummerston Recreation Board is looking for your input. A survey was distributed at Y2C as well as sent home from school asking for residents' input regarding youth and adult programs to be offered in the coming year. If you have not participated in the survey but would like to, please email Sarah Evans. Below is a list of programs the recreation board currently plans to offer.

Fall: youth soccer (\$20 resident or non); beginner knitting (\$3 per person, per night); scrap booking (materials provided, cost to be determined)

Winter: volleyball (adult & youth, cost to be determined); basketball (adult & youth, cost to be determined); cheerleading (cost to be determined); karate (cost to be determined); cooking (cost to be determined); home economics (adult & youth, cost to be determined)

Spring: baseball (cost to be determined); softball (cost to be determined) soccer camps (cost to be determined); horticulture (adult & youth, cost to be determined)

If you have additional suggestions please

let us know. We are currently in search of volunteers to instruct the above-listed winter and spring activities.

Youth soccer sign-up will be held at the East Dummerston School on Saturday September 8th from 9-11 a.m. Chris Evans will be coaching Saturday morning clinics throughout the season. However, the recreation board is seeking additional assistant coaches to accompany individual teams to their Tuesday and Thursday evening games.

Beginning Sunday July 8th at Dummerston School, you are invited to join in an ultimate frisbee pick-up game. All ages and abilities are welcome. There will be no charge for this activity.

For more information, suggestions, to volunteer, or to participate in any of the above programs, please contact Sarah Evans by email at sarah@hughes.net, or phone at 802-257-6909. Look for the Dummerston Recreation link coming soon on the town website (www.dummerston.org).

Recreation board members include: Sarah Evans, chairperson; Phil Rollins, secretary; and Beverly Wright and Anna Piergentili, co-treasurers.

JB Auto
CAR & LIGHT TRUCK REPAIR
W. Dummerston, Vt.
1751 River Road
Dummerston, VT 05301-9665
257-5580