

Municipal Corner – 8/22/16

Bridge Dedication: Dedication of the new bridge, with the covered walkway, located on Bridge Street is scheduled for 5pm on August 22nd on-site. The bridge is being dedicated to Giles Dewey who was a long time public servant. He served as a Selectboard member for 30 years, was a representative from Stowe to the Vermont House of Representatives for 14 years, and was the Town Administrator for 7 years. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Parks Office / Shed Fire: There was a fire at the Parks Office / Shed behind the Stowe Arena on Thursday August 11th. Fortunately there were no injuries, but the building and a considerable amount of equipment was destroyed. We have notified our insurance company and expect that most of the cost will be covered. However, there may be some delays to our typical mowing schedule. We ask for your patience as we clean up and replace the damaged equipment.

Political Signs: Please remember that political signs are not permitted on public property, including the public-right-of-way, which typically is about 25 feet from the center line of the road. Political signs are allowed on private property.

Stay Connected: Please remember that you can sign up on the town website for various notifications and reminders, such as when a road is scheduled to be closed for repairs or when property taxes are due. We've recently added an opportunity to be reminded of upcoming voting opportunities. The Town's web site address is www.townofstowe.org.

Police Bike / Foot Patrol: Stowe Police has expanded their bike and foot patrol program. Officers will be patrolling the Village area, Recreation Path and Mountain Road area businesses. The primary purpose of the expanded bike and foot patrols is to have officers visible in the community, to provide any assistance to people on the Recreation Path and to interact with the citizens and visitors to Stowe.

The Stowe Police would also like to remind residents and visitors to take a few reasonable precautions. Lock your home and vehicle doors. Also, do not leave valuables in your vehicles. If you are going for a hike or bike ride tell someone where you are going and when you plan on being back. You should also carry a cell phone with you in case any possible emergency comes up.

Stowe EMS / Fire: Stowe has seen a decline in the number of fire and EMS volunteers. As a result, property tax support has grown as we have had to hire more employees to ensure we are in a position to respond to EMS calls. The Selectboard hired a consultant to work with fire and EMS to develop a report outlining how Stowe can provide surety of service while maximizing resources under our current operating model and future recommended operating modes. This report will be available before the start of the Fiscal Year 18 budget process.

Fire & Rescue Associations: The Stowe Volunteer Fire Department and the Stowe Emergency Medical Services Department are municipal departments primarily supported by property tax dollars and user fees. They also have non-profit associations whose primary mission is to support these municipal departments and their members. They do the extras, like pay for annual awards

dinners, rather than ask the tax payers to do so. Stowe Rescue has also gone above and beyond over the last year to help provide financial support to the Town to pay for per diem staff to help provide surety of service and support the volunteer members while on a call. However, the Town can not necessarily rely on this on-going support, which is one of the reasons we are doing the study to understand our resource needs and how best to meet them going forward.

Dogs: Stowe has an Animal Control Ordinance requiring dogs to be under the owner's immediate control. In some areas (e.g. sidewalks, Rec Path Memorial Park) it requires them to be on a leash. They are not allowed to run-at-large no matter how friendly you think your dog might be. Other property owners may not want your pet on their property and may not want to confront your dog while enjoying public spaces.

The Animal Control Ordinance also requires owners to pick up after their pets. Fecal matter can contribute to the pollution of public waterways. Also, no one wants to step in pet waste, including pet owners, so please pick up after your pet by carrying a plastic bag with you. Please don't leave the plastic bag on the side of the sidewalk or Rec Path. We provide trash cans along the Rec Path and sidewalks in the Village Center. If you need to, take it home with you and properly dispose of it.

Please recognize that owning a pet comes with responsibility not only to the pet, but to others as well. Problems with dogs running at-large and other violations of the Stowe Animal Control Ordinance can be reported to the Stowe Police Department by calling their non-emergency number at 253-7126.