

July – Municipal Corner

Safety Inspection: The Town of Stowe recently had a random Vermont Occupational Safety & Health inspection of our Highway, Water, Wastewater and Fire Departments. The inspector was impressed with our commitment to safety and did not issue any fines. To put this into context, they recently inspected another municipality and issued them \$86,000 in fines. A safe workplace helps manage our workers compensation loss experience rating, which results in lower insurance premiums. It also helps to maintain our productivity by helping to ensure our valued employees are able to work in a safe environment. Most importantly, many of the jobs within local government have inherent dangers and a safe workplace helps ensure they are in a position to go home at the end of the day to enjoy their families and off-time.

Please Pull Over: When an emergency management vehicle is coming down the road in either direction, you should pull over to the right and come to a complete stop. This includes when you see a volunteer in their private vehicle with their emergency response lights on coming down the road to respond to an emergency. This is for their safety and yours. It is also to help them get to the station or the scene of the emergency as timely and safely as possible. The other day I was driving home when an emergency responder was traveling in the other direction on Rt. 100 with their emergency lights on. I pulled over to the right and stopped, as did the car behind me. What did the car behind that do? You probably guessed it, pulled around us and crossed the double yellow lines into oncoming traffic almost getting into an accident with the emergency responder.

Volunteer Spotlight: I have been working with a group of emergency management officials on ideas to recruit and retain our emergency management volunteers. One of the ideas we came up with is to feature an emergency management volunteer in the local paper by telling you a little bit about them and why they volunteer in this capacity. The hope is that you will have an opportunity to know who is serving you. While they don't do it for this reason, I hope you take the time to express your appreciation for their service. We also hope that it will help you feel comfortable talking to them further about what they do and consider joining. If you do decide you want to further explore serving, you can contact Scott Brinkman, EMS Chief at sbrinkman@stowevt.us, or Mark Sgantas, Fire Chief at sgantasm@yahoo.com. EMS offers a ride-along program and Stowe Fire can arrange so that you can attend and observe one of their trainings.

Special Events: Please remember that outdoor events on public or private property that are anticipated to draw over 300 people require approval of the Stowe Selectboard prior to the event. Applications may be downloaded from the Town's website www.townofstowevt.org (Go to Documents & Maps, Municipal Ordinances, then Special Events). Also, anytime you are going to use public property for an organized event, including a public road or other right-of-way, it requires municipal approval. Please ensure sufficient time to obtain approval prior to the event. Abby Earle, Executive Assistant, can assist you with any questions you have about the process and direct your completed application to the Selectboard for review. Her phone number is 802-253-7350 or aearle@townofstowevermont.org.

Construction Update: The State rejected the Rt. 100 Reconstruction bids. This project involves removing the concrete under the existing asphalt and repaving. The state plans on rebidding the

project. They have also indicated that they tentatively plan on paving Stowe's Class 1 Town Highways in 2020. This runs from Rt. 100 from the Brass Lantern Inn to the Public Safety Facility and up Rt. 108 from its intersection with Rt. 100 to the Field Guide Hotel. Public Works is working on a plan to replace the curbs and sidewalks along this corridor along with drainage improvements prior to the paving of the roads. This work is subject to Selectboard approval and voter appropriation(s).