

November Municipal Corner

Last Week's Wind Storm: First, a very big thank you to the electric, emergency, highway, parks crews and others that helped with the response to the recent wind storm. They worked tirelessly to bring power back on-line, clear roads, and check on people to ensure they were o.k. I sincerely empathize for those without power for an extended period of time, had their home access blocked or suffered personnel property damage. If you weren't in a section of the community that suffered damage, it is hard to realize the amount of destruction done in such a short amount of time.

The Town had its Emergency Command Center operational and the personnel response was incredible, but there are always things that can be learned from any event. While we were focused on getting roads passable and power back to individual homeowners, we were also noting opportunities for improvements to emergency preparedness. Key amongst these are provisions for emergency power generation at some of our key water supply facilities and emergency shelters. The EOC will be conducting an after action review and the Selectboard will be discussing with the community if tax and ratepayers want to invest in additional emergency safe guards.

Recruitment / Retention Officer: Stowe EMS and Fire have appointed a Recruitment & Retention Officer. Please contact Tony Carniglia at tcarniglia@stowefire.org or 303-589-9355 if you are interested in joining the team and making a difference.

Winter Parking Ban: A winter parking ban is in effect from November 15th to April 15th of each year. No parking on any municipal street is permitted between the hours of midnight and 6am. In the past we used to put signs up and down the village streets. This year we are going to experiment with reducing signage and putting the winter parking ban signs on just the approaches to the village.

Interactive Zoning & Parcel Map: The Town of Stowe municipal website (www.townofstowevt.org) now includes an interactive map for Stowe zoning and parcels. The map uses a product called Mango Maps which allows for you to create an interactive map using our GIS map layers. Users can access zoning information (districts, overlays, etc.) and parcel information (owner, etc.). This should benefit all who are looking to advise, provide services or directly participate in the sale, purchase or development of real estate in Stowe.

Donations: As always, the Stowe Community is generous with their donations of time and useful items to the Town. Recently, Gerry Scott donated a wagon that has been used by Stowe Parks & Recreation and Stowe Vibrancy for hay rides at community events and to give Santa a lift when the reindeer are taking a break. Stowe Recue, Inc. donated some cardio exercise equipment to the Town of Stowe to be available to emergency management volunteers to get exercise while on call, sometimes for up to twelve hours at a stretch. The Stowe Fire Department Auxiliary donated half the money to purchase an industrial washer to clean their turn-out gear.

In addition, last week, Stowe Bowl had an emergency management volunteer appreciation event and offered free bowling for the families of those who participate in our safety and rescue

programs. Pinnacle Sports organized some local businesses to give a percentage of their proceeds for a day to the non-profit arm to our emergency management volunteer programs. On behalf of the Town, I would like to thank everyone for their donations and support of our emergency management volunteers.

Upcoming Selectboard Meeting Agendas: Here are some upcoming agenda subjects that may be of particular interest. As always, a reminder that all meetings are open to the public and we welcome your input. At the 11/13/17 meeting, the Selectboard is scheduled to consider a request to ban “open burning” in the Lower, Upper and Center Village areas. At the 11/27/17 meeting we are scheduled to discuss the future Village Sidewalk Plan including curb and sidewalk replacement and the location of crosswalks and on-street parking. At the 12/11/17 meeting, the Vermont Route 108 Roadway Master Plan for Mountain Road Village, including the Luce Hill Road Intersection will be discussed and considered. Meetings start at 5:30pm in the Akeley Building (Town Hall). Agendas are available in the Stowe Reporter and on the Town’s web site (www.townofstovevt.org). In addition, you can obtain a copy of the packet of information provided to the Selectboard with the manager’s recommendation on the Town’s website. We highly recommend signing up to have the agendas automatically sent to your email address. Sign up is available on the Town website under “Stay Connected.”

FY19 General Fund Budget: At the 12/18/17 Selectboard meeting, the draft FY’19 General Fund Operating & Capital Budgets will be presented to the Selectboard for their consideration. While budget preparation and planning goes on throughout the year, this meeting is the first time that the entirety of the Manager’s recommended operating and capital budget is presented to the Selectboard and the process of formal consideration begins including requests for further information. Deliberations occur during the 1/8/18 and 1/22/18 meetings. The 1/22/18 meeting will include a formal public hearing after which the Selectboard will adopt a budget for voter consideration at Annual Town Meeting. It is important to remember that while some meetings are called “public hearings” all Selectboard meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to give input.