

## September Municipal Corner

**One-way Street Trial:** The Selectboard decided to advance a trial making Park Street a one-way street in a northerly direction from its intersection with Pond Street to Main Street. The trial will start the morning of September 18<sup>th</sup> until the October 16<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting. At the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting the Selectboard will receive public input and discuss whether to discontinue the trial or amend the Motor Vehicle Ordinance to make it permanent. With this being said, they did empower Chief Hull to discontinue the trial if safety becomes a problem.

This idea has been discussed for over a decade as a way to add more parking in the village. The Selectboard thinks it is worth trying it out rather than just discussing it conceptually. It is anticipated that as many as 13 on-street parking spaces could be added if it is made a one-way street. Removing one of the sidewalks will not enable the Town to add on-street parking. You can only accommodate on-street parking by making it a one-way street.

Also at the October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting the Selectboard will also discuss Main Street crosswalk and parking plans. For years people have complained about the visibility when pulling out onto Main Street and being seen by motorist in crosswalks. Increasing visibility would result in the reduction of some Main Street parking spaces.

The State is tentatively planning on paving Main Street and other Class 1 highways in 2020. The Selectboard is - tentatively planning on a bond vote in November of 2018 seeking voter approval to finance the reconstruction of curbs/sidewalks along this corridor in 2019 before the state paves the roads. All of these discussions are in preparation to develop the final curb and sidewalk plans, which will also include curb cuts, crosswalks and parking spaces.

**Luce Hill / Mountain Road Intersection:** VTrans in cooperation with the Town of Stowe and the Lamoille County Regional Planning Commission is developing a VT 108 Roadway Master Plan for Mountain Road Village, including the Luce Hill / Mountain Road Intersection. VHB who is the consultant for the project will be taking public input on existing conditions and what you would like to see for improvements at the Selectboard's 9/25/17 Selectboard meeting. The meeting starts at 5:30 pm in the Akeley Building (Town Hall).

**Help Those that Help You:** E911 is a street addressing system that helps emergency responders find you in the event of an emergency. You can help Stowe Emergency Management Services help you by ensuring you have your E911 address posted in a visible location, so that they can readily find your location in an emergency. Time matters and you don't want them to have to spend extra time searching for you in an emergency. You can purchase reflectorized signs from Stowe Rescue, Inc. by calling the Stowe EMS operations office at 802-253-9060. You can also download the order form from the Town of Stowe website at [www.townofstovevt.org](http://www.townofstovevt.org).

If you live in a private development, you should ensure that your private drives have street signs and your buildings have numbers that coincide with your E911 address, which may be different than your mailing address. If you want to know what your E911 address is, you can contact Rich Baker at 253-6141 or [rbaker@townofstovevermont.org](mailto:rbaker@townofstovevermont.org).

**Bingham Falls:** It is a beautiful place to visit, but visitors should be aware that it can also be dangerous. Numerous people over the years have suffered serious injuries by jumping off from the rocks into the water. It is very difficult for rescue agencies to extricate someone from the site, so please be careful and avoid jumping off from the rocks, especially at high elevations. Also, avoid it during heavy periods of rain when the velocity of the water may increase.

**Change in Speed Limit:** The State has changed the speed limit on Rt. 100 from its intersection with Brush Hill to the former Village limits from 40mph to 30mph. Please abide by the new speed limit and all of the other speed limits in Stowe. If you have concerns about speeding, you can call the Stowe Police Department non-emergency number at 253-7126. The Police and I receive numerous complaints about speeding, especially in residential areas. The PD spends a considerable amount of time on speed enforcement, but the only people who can stop speeding are the motorist. You have to decide to be safe and respectful of your neighbors by letting off the gas and slowing down.

**Stormwater:** The Town of Stowe will soon be developing its FY'19 General Fund Budget. The Town will increasingly have to devote additional fiscal capacity to new stormwater permitting requirements associated with the Vermont Clean Water Act. Replacements of large culverts for perennial streams will be significantly more expensive. Culvert replacements that used to cost \$20,000 to \$50,000 are going to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to achieve the required natural bottoms and aquatic organism passage. These will also often require easement for required work and outside of the Town Highway Right of Way. In addition, the new Municipal Roads General Permit will require the inventory, prioritization and the implementation of new best management practices intended to minimize sediment transport off our Town Highways. Stowe has over 100 miles of affected Town Highway, 2/3 of which are gravel with many steeply sloped and "hydrologically connected". While we will have 20 years to implement all of the work required and there is intended to be some state grant monies available, the cost of compliance is will become a significant budgetary factor and require significant additional efforts of our Public Works and Highway Departments.