

## Municipal Corner – Steve Bonneau

**Steve Bonneau:** Steve will be retiring this year after 31 years of service to the Town of Stowe first in the Village Water & Light Department and currently as Stowe's Highway Superintendent. He has served as Highway Foreman and then Superintendent for the last 23 years. A Highway Superintendent is an important job in any community responsible for the daily maintenance of roads and winter plowing and sanding. Here in Stowe this network is 95 miles of roads including 24 bridges, 600 + culverts and sidewalks. It is literally where the *rubber meets the road*. And Steve and his department know every inch of it.

Steve is often the person that responds to citizen concerns about road conditions or other request for services. At times, he has the unenviable role of having to tell people that it is not the Town's responsibility which isn't always easily accepted by the person calling. Even under duress he is courteous and smiling, and responds with his quiet Vermont accent. In a note from Kermit Spaulding he thanked Steve and his crew for their "prompt action" in taking care of an issue near Stowe High School which "no doubt saved lives. Your service to this town is great!"

Steve continually exceeds expectations. In 2006, Public Works Director Cliff Johnson wrote "Steve is one of the most loyal and conscientious employees working for the Town of Stowe. During inclement weather events Steve will make special trips from his home to check on road conditions. He never says no to any request for help from other departments. "He takes it upon himself to be on duty 24-7 and has also slept in the Highway Garage in order to be near during winter storm events. You can't ask someone to do that, some people just do it because it is innate in them.

I will miss Steve stopping by my office or hitching a ride in his truck to take a look at a concern. He has seen and been involved with this town a lot over the years. If he wasn't involved as a municipal employee, it was during the 18 years prior when he worked for a private contractor in Stowe. His expertise and friendly demeanor will be missed by many.

A lot of people are unsung heroes in a municipality and Steve is one of them. However, we shouldn't forget those that help our municipality function smoothly sometimes involving personal sacrifice. I wish to extend our appreciation by hosting a celebration honoring his good work at 12 noon on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Green Mountain Inn. Please feel free to stop by and wish him well.

**Bruce Merriam:** I would also like to thank Sergeant Merriam for his 36 years of service with the Stowe Police Department. During this time, he served as a detective and was integral in helping to solve the Scoville murder case. Prior to joining the Stowe Police Department, Bruce served as a United States Marine. His employment application for the Town of Stowe states, in part, "Upon completion of duties in Lebanon, I received the Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Overseas Ribbon. Bruce has been very involved in the department over his years of service and has served honorably. He has passed on the will to

serve to his son Issac who also served in the United States Marine Corp and now is a Vermont State Trooper. It is not always easy to serve others, but society needs those that are willing to do so honorably now more than ever. Thank you for your service.

**Stowe Free Library:** Will be opening to the public without an appointment on Monday, June 14. Staff will be onsite and library services will be available Monday through Saturday, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm. Regularly scheduled library hours will return on July 6<sup>th</sup>: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 am-5:30 pm; Tuesday, Thursday, 12 noon – 7 pm; Saturday, 10 am- 3 pm.

**Akeley Memorial Building (Town Hall):** It is now open to the public from 8 am to 4:30 pm Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the building is open from 12 noon to 4:30 pm. People are encouraged to make appointments with department heads to ensure they are available to serve you and devote uninterrupted time to do so. For the Town Clerk's Office, please schedule an appointment for these services: Passport Photos, Passport Application processing, as well as marriage license applications and notarial services. Only unvaccinated people will be required to wear a mask until rescinded by the Governor.

**COVID 19:** It has been a long trying year and due to people getting vaccinated we are seeing light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you all for following the Selectboard's Face Covering Resolution and the Governor's Executive Order as well as Vermont Department of Health Guidance. As a result we are going to be able to have fire works again this year along with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades. We are also able to get back to work and revitalize our local economy. *Go Stowe!!!*

6/4/21