

## Select Board Second Quarter Report-2016

Life in Lyme continues with a host of issues that required attention in the second quarter. Here's an accounting:

Our Tax Collector, Joanne Coburn died on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Creating a huge void, both emotionally and physically, the office staff proceeded as needed and in May Marci O'Keefe was appointed as Tax Collector until the March Town Meeting election in 2017.

The River Road issues remained a focus, and further studies were done. Thanks to the volunteer efforts by Frank Bowles and Kevin Sahr, both engineers, the length of Lyme's River Road was walked and analyzed for potential issues, following up on the NH Department of Environmental Services request that we stop asking for emergency permits and start addressing the whole problem. The next step is to do the assessment from the river which will begin soon, with the generous help of boat owners willing to spend the time for this purpose. With Frank & Kevin's attentive research we have a much clearer picture of needs to be considered and addressed.

The Army Corp of Engineers contacted the town to express interest in providing assistance with one of the many River Road concerns. Bob Barnum provided boat access for a tour of the river banks. The engineers were very interested in what they viewed and have indicated they hope they will be able to assist with a project. Following standard procedure takes time and we look forward to hearing if they will be able to help.

The quest for land owner permission to negotiate a resolution toward rerouting River Road away from the slump #1 area to East Thetford Road remains unresolved. Based on the recommendation of now 5 certified engineers that this is the only option available other than closing the road, notice has been provided that the town will begin steps for eminent domain to move forward with the re-route. It should be noted this is not what the Board wanted to do, and it's a very frustrating situation for sure.

The Highway Department has continued its efforts toward stabilizing all roads and adding gravel to build back a good base. Consistent grading made a good difference for a manageable mud season—recognizing that Mother Nature helped there as well. The road crew is to be commended for their willingness to work as much as necessary to stay ahead of potential problems. A case in point was the replacement of 2 culverts on Grafton Turnpike Road. Two days following the completion of that project a beaver dam let loose and wiped out a section of road above the culvert work. If that work hadn't been completed, the damage cause by the dam release would have been catastrophic. The application of magnesium chloride has started, helping with the road base stability and dust control. The 5000 gallon storage tank was installed by the road crew and the set up was complimented by the distributor.

Restoration efforts for two properties in town continue, slowly but surely.

Jennifer Cooke and her crew of generous gardeners have taken on the restoration of part of the town office gardens. The plantings done at the time of the building project were incredibly happy and took over! Jen is leading the effort to corral and create a healthier garden. There will be a granite bench installed in memory of Joanne Coburn.

It was discovered that a section of Holt's Ledge belonging to the Town has had climbing paraphernalia installed, inviting climbers to use the ledges as a public recreational area. This is trespassing and presents

a liability to the Town. The land has been posted to protect the Town until this paraphernalia is removed and any trees/vegetation which was cut has been restored.

The boat racks and assorted water crafts left at the boat rack area has created an issue with property maintenance and unsightly grounds. Boats with no identification on them will be removed. The Board, Recreation Commission and Police Dept. are working on a plan to enable safe keeping of resident boats during the season. All boats will need to be removed off-season.

The Town Assessor, Diana Calder is retiring this year. An Assessor Search Committee has been put together and has developed an RFP which will be used to solicit proposals from individuals or companies to perform assessing requirements for the Town of Lyme.

Adult swim docks have been installed near the Chase Beach areas. These docks are intended for use by those 18 years old and older. They are not to be used for fishing or docking boats and are not monitored by the life guards at Chase Beach.

The Chase Beach area has opened, with scheduled Life Guard activity. Life Guards will follow a Standard Operating Procedure:

- They will not engage in any activities related to the Adult Swim Docks other than to clear Chase Beach and call for emergency services in the event of a perceived emergency.

- Life Guards are not hired baby sitters. Children at the beach area must be supervised at all times by an accompanying adult. If a parent or guardian is repeatedly requested to watch the children they have brought to the beach, it will assumed they are not providing the required supervision and will be asked to leave and stop using the facility.

- New signage will be posted outlining rules and regulations at the beach, including daily closure of the facilities at dusk.

- Any questions regarding these or other beach related issued should be brought directly to the Select Board.

#### **Coffee Hours continue:**

7/12-Sue at Stella's 9am-10am

7/19-Patty at Lyme Inn 10:30am-11:30am

7/26-Jay at the Library 10am-11am

8/2-Patty at Dowd's 3pm-4pm

8/9-Sue at Lyme Country Store 1pm-2pm

8/16-Jay at Long River Studio 2pm-3pm

8/23-Patty at Lyme Inn 10:30am-11:30am

8/30-Sue at Stella's 9am-10am

9/6-Jay at Dowd's 10am-11am

9/13-NH State Primary-visit us at the school

9/20-Sue at Long River 1pm-2pm

9/27-Jay at the Lyme Inn 10:30-11:30

We hope you find these reports helpful in keeping abreast of what's happening in your town. Please visit a coffee hour if you can.

**From the Clerk's Office-** Last ditch effort to remind owners about dog licenses. Owners with unlicensed dogs are currently being charged a \$1 per month late fee. If any dog remains unlicensed as of August 10, 2016, civil forfeiture action is required. This includes visits with police personnel and a \$25.00 fine per dog in addition to licensing fees. PLEASE...come do your dog!

