



FAIRLEE NEWSLETTER

October 2015

TRANSPARENCY

The Fairlee Selectboard believes that transparency and the civil exchange of ideas is crucial to the functioning of a democratic government. The purpose of this newsletter is to bring residents up to date on the Lake Fairlee dam, to share with you our conversations and decisions about Fairlee's roads, water, public transportation, transfer station, and safety, and describe our steps to help ensure that the Town finds the best value for every dollar spent.

LAKE FAIRLEE DAM

This past May, Fairlee, Thetford, and West Fairlee overwhelmingly approved bond funding, ownership, and control of the failing Lake Fairlee dam. By June, we had all of the required state and federal permits for the dam's replacement. The original intention was to replace the dam during the summer of 2015. However, due to time constraints and the amount of details that still needed to be attended to, it was decided by the newly formed Tri-Town Commission to postpone the construction of the new dam until the summer of 2016.

HIGHWAYS

We have 17 miles of Town-maintained roads. At Town Meeting in 2015, voters approved \$208,000 for highways (including \$20,000 for summer paving), and \$100,000 in the capital budget for Quinibeck Road.



Mike Wright

The Selectboard is confident that we are well positioned in this area, because of the able service of Mike Wright, who has served as Fairlee's road contractor for six years, and Town Administrator Brian Hanson, who has 30+ years of experience from his prior municipal positions in

Barton and Brattleboro.

Current highway work includes improving drainage on Quinibeck Road from Hebbard Road to Route 244. There is a legally-required bidding process for any highway projects that are estimated at costing over \$5,000 and/or have state funding. To help fund this work, we have a \$10,000 grant from the state. Thomson Excavation's bid for Quinibeck Road work was \$65,000. They anticipate completing the project by the end of the month.

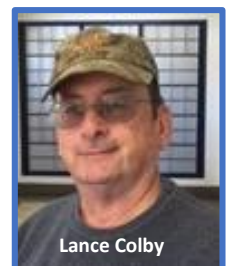
Because Fairlee has neither a long history of documenting mile-by-mile highway work nor a five year capital calendar of preventive roadwork, the Town has frequently spent highway money on temporary fixes. To help us build a five year capital strategy, the Town has purchased a highway inventory software package which will provide precise documentation of current road projects and enable more responsible long term planning.

The Town today finds itself playing catch up on some preventive maintenance.

As noted in the August newsletter (which is posted on the Selectboard page at www.fairleevt.org), the Town won a \$30,000 grant for an engineering study of Lake Morey Road, with the knowledge that it will lead to a more permanent fix. Finally, Chris Brimmer, Fairlee's Zoning Administrator, submitted an application for a Municipal Planning Grant. The MPG grant would fund a build-out study that will be an important foundation for both highway and water system planning.

WATER

Lance Colby, assisted by Barry Larson, has been the Water Department's Chief Operator for 40 years. He oversees a system that is 67 years old and works with a budget of just over \$100,000.



Lance Colby

The Selectboard believes that now is the time to begin a comprehensive review of the Town's water infrastructure. (For example, we must begin to consider a well replacement site, as our current well east of Route 5 is 42 years old.) Lance and Barry anticipate finishing a multi-year water system mapping by the end of the calendar year, and. Both will help us answer "what next?" questions.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Recent articles in the *Journal Opinion* and the *Valley News* indicate that Stagecoach Transportation is considering expanding its service in the Bradford/Fairlee/White River Junction corridor. To

enhance Fairlee's Park and Ride at the Train Station, Chris Brimmer has applied for a grant that will fund paving, lighting and an EV station, with a design that will not encroach on the site's historic character.

KEEPING US SAFE AND HEALTHY

Fairlee's Town Constable, Jason Bachus, was first elected to his position in 2013. When Jason is off duty, Fairlee is covered through the Town's contract with the Vermont State Police. Each year, fire and EMT volunteering demands more training, certification, and paperwork; serving on either is a considerable time commitment. We have two exceptional volunteer organizations: a fire department led by Larry Farnham and a fast squad led by Gary Collins. We are fortunate to be served by well-trained professional and volunteer emergency personnel.

Fairlee is a member of Code Red, an automated service that delivers emergency warnings to Fairlee residents and businesses. While we believe that most property owners are already listed in Code Red, those who are tenants or without 333-exchanges may not be enrolled.

Please enroll in Code Red:
www.fairleevt.org/emergency-services

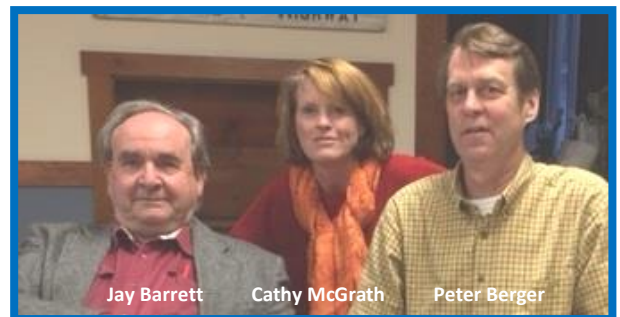
The crosswalk at the corner of Main and Bridge Streets is faded, and residents have witnessed cars dangerously passing others on the right. Through official channels, we have asked the State Agency of Transportation to re-paint the crosswalk, but our request has fallen to the bottom of the list, in part because we cannot claim a high volume of pedestrian crossings per day. We encourage town residents to contact our state representatives about this issue: Jane Kitchel at jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us, and Sarah Copeland Hanzas at scopelandhanzas@leg.state.vt.us.

Taking your rubbish and recycling to the Transfer Station is Saturday morning habit. Justin Adams and Quinttown Container Service have served the Town well for the past six years, and the Town has renewed the contract for the next three. With Justin and Mike Wright, we are considering site improvements, such as a concrete slab for the rubbish dumpster, reorienting the metal dumpster, and improving drainage.



WHO WE ARE

Jay Barrett has been a member of the Fairlee Selectboard since 1995, and currently serves as its chair. An architect and published historian, Jay grew up in Hanover and has lived in Fairlee since 1990. A transportation enthusiast, Jay lives in the former Ely railroad station. **Peter Berger** has lived in Fairlee since 1975. Prior to being elected to the Selectboard, Peter served as Planning Commission Chair and Town Auditor. He works for TomTom (formerly Tele Atlas) and enjoys golf and house projects. **Cathy McGrath's** connection with Fairlee began when her grandmother was an Aloha camper in 1918. After living in Orford for five years, Cathy moved to Fairlee, where she has lived year round since 1998. She is a fundraising consultant for colleges and arts organizations, and has two daughters, two dogs, and two cats.



FAIRLEE SELECTBOARD
Fairlee, VT 05045-0095