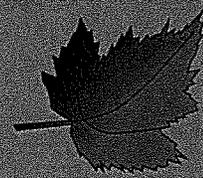


THE WILLIAM GILLILAND POST

*An outdoor lover's dream on the banks of the
Boquet River nestled between Lake Champlain
and the Adirondack Mountains.*

August 2016, Volume 3, Issue 3



SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Office of the Supervisor

Supervisor's Corner

Summer seems to be flying by, I've heard many people say that it feels like it just started and were in early August. We have had quite a few great programs and events in town like the craft fair, road races, sculpture show, numerous golf tournaments, and summer camp.

Our summer program is winding up soon. We have averaged about 50-55 campers per day. All the campers and parents I have talked to have nicely complimented the program. I have to say that Tina Belzile, our camp director, is the one responsible for the brilliant success of this year's Noblewood Camp. Thanks to Tina and all the staff for a great summer program.

We conducted our third Battle of the Boquet duathlon race in mid-July. Despite the low water in the Boquet the race was popular and successful. We had over 30 racers, 24 of whom were racing in this event for the first time. The race is a 5 kilometer footrace down the banks of the river from the old school to the mouth of the Boquet and then transitions to kayak for a paddle race up river. At the boat launch the racers disembark their boats and sprint back to the old school and the finish line. We are planning on doing it again next July and would welcome more adventurous racers to join in.

I want to thank the boat owners and boating community of Willsboro for doing a tremendous service for our community. Noblewood beach at the mouth of the Boquet River has always been an extremely popular destination on the lake for boaters to pull up and come ashore at one of the most gorgeous and unspoiled spots on Lake Champlain. The area is part of our town park of Noblewood and is use controlled by an easement owned by the Nature Conservancy. The area is both an area to be enjoyed and a protected nature preserve. In the past a few people abused the area with fires, beaching of boats, littering etc.

This year we met with the boat owners and asked them to please be stewards of the beach and help protect and preserve the unique asset Willsboro has in Noblewood. Our boating community took on the task admirably and has done a tremendous job getting the word out to have boaters respect and respectfully enjoy the beach and unique place that is Noblewood. We have no problems at the beach whatsoever this summer. Thank you all for helping.

The state's grant application deadline has just passed and we have applied for a number of grants from various agencies through the Consolidated Funding Application process. These are:

- Construction of a new salt storage shed at the Highway Garage.

- Planning and construction of lighted baseball fields and multiuse athletic field at Hathaway Park.
- Engineering study for developing a decentralized wastewater treatment system for the Buena Vista Park area.
- Rebuild of the Veterans Memorial structure

In other grant related areas the State Department of State turned us down for funding for consolidated services Highway/School Bus garage project. They indicated they were looking more for personnel reduction efficiencies than physical and logistical savings through consolidated storage, maintenance, repair and operations. Win some, lose some.

Other projects in progress:

- We are in the process of approving design and planning construction of the Gateway Park deck platform.
- We are in discussions with an architect/engineer on the grant work for evaluating the Adsit Cabin structure.
- The Sewer district I&I engineering planning study is in progress
- Planning for procurement and installation of water meter systems initially in the sewer district area of the water district.
- We are still waiting on release of short term financing for the Wastewater Treatment Plant rebuild design and construction. The Environmental Facilities Corporation has indicated it will be released before the fall. Construction would not begin until after the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) approves the engineered new design.

I have continued to have complaints about dogs running loose on properties other than where they are supposed to be. I need to remind everyone that we do have a leash law in Willsboro. If there are dogs running loose and causing problems please call the town hall so we can send the dog control officer to investigate.

This summer the 4th of July parade and fireworks was held in Essex. Per our agreement with Essex, next year these events come back to Willsboro. Last year, celebrating the town's 250th anniversary, we had a great parade and fireworks and we want to make it even better next year. We're looking for volunteers who would be willing to help develop and coordinate the program and parade for next year. Please give a hand and let us know. We can always use help.

You may have seen the notices on water conservation. This year we are several inches below normal precipitation levels. DEC has notified us that the entire State of New York is in drought condition, and suggested that everyone practice voluntary water conservation practices. Whether you are on a well or on town water it is a good idea to conserve.

For the town water system, the lake levels are nearing historic lows. The design of our water plant is such that with lowered lake levels can affect the replenishment of the water well in the water plant, from which the water is pumped through filtration and then to the water main. The pumps respond to level signals from our water storage tanks. When demand is very high the pumps could conceivably pump the wet well dry before the water is replaced in the well. If this happens we could burn out our very expensive pumps. Please be mindful of water use.

I would encourage everyone to stop by and enjoy our county fair this year. It is being held the 10th through 14th of August. The fair embodies many things that make Essex County so special and is treasured heritage tradition of our greater community, plus it's a lot of fun.

Thanks for allowing me to serve this great town,
Shaun Gilliland

Town Clerk's Corner

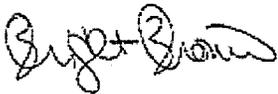
We have had a busy summer in the town clerk's office. Third quarter water and sewer billing has gone out. We have one more quarter for water and sewer billing for the year. The last quarter must be paid by November to avoid a re-levy on the land taxes.

We will be preparing to mail school tax bills out by the end of August or beginning of September. School taxes will be due without penalty by the end of September. We will collect the taxes until beginning of November in the office.

We have been receiving a lot of complaint about dogs running loose. The Town of Willsboro does have a lease law. If your dog is found running loose it will be picked up. We will do our best if it is registered to find the owner if it is not registered it will be brought to the SPCA where you will need to show proof of shots, registration and pay a \$100.00 fee to get your dog back.

The new Hunting licenses will be out in the middle of August. You must apply for your deer management permits by October 1, 2016.

Enjoy the rest of you summer!



Bridget Brown, Town Clerk
Bridget Brown

Department of Assessment

Dave Galarneau

2017 Reassessment: All assessments will be reevaluated for next year. The market appears to be up slightly but no major changes are expected. Some vacant lands will see an increase. New assessments will be available by March 2017. Change of assessment notices will be mailed in March if the value has increased. No notice will be sent if the value remains unchanged or decreases. To ensure a more accurate assessment it is

incumbent upon property owners to verify property information.

To verify information call the assessment office at 963-8668 Ext 6 or stop in on Mondays or Tuesdays. I will be glad to verify all information with you. Simple discrepancies can be corrected immediately. More significant errors may require a site visit for recollection. As always, on-site or interior inspections are at the discretion of the owner.

Questions and Answers:

Must I allow the assessor to measure the property or inspect the interior? It is an assessor's duty to have an inventory for each property. If direct access is not possible the assessor must reasonably estimate the information.

Can an assessment change before it appears on an assessment roll? Yes! An Assessor has the discretion of changing assessments up until May 1. Once an assessment is made for a property it is not likely to change without documentation to support a change.

STAR Exemption: Applications for new STAR exemptions cannot be accepted. Property owners may still apply for STAR online at www.tax.ny.gov or by calling (518) 457-2036. Anyone currently having a Basic STAR exemption may still upgrade to the Enhanced STAR with the assessment office.

Assessor

Code Enforcement Office

Doug Rock CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
(CEO), PLANNING AND ZONING

72 new permits have been issued so far in 2016 for the town of Willsboro. There are also still several exciting projects in the planning phases. These new projects include a healthy mix of vacation, residential, commercial and public projects.

Required fire inspections are being scheduled beginning in August and September for all seasonal commercial buildings followed by multiple family residential buildings in September and year-round Commercial buildings in September and October.

New York State law requires fire safety and property maintenance inspections for all residential buildings with three or more units at least once every three years. Commercial buildings require annual inspections. Each building must be compliance with the building code that was in effect at the time it was constructed and in compliance with the NYS Property Maintenance and NYS Fire Code. The town provides the required inspection free of charge, however repeat inspections for violations may be subject to fees, and of course failure to fix violations can result in closure of buildings and/or fines. It is the responsibility of all businesses to have an up to date fire inspection filed with the town.

The New York State 2016 code update is in effect and we started using the most up to date set of codes in June from the 2015 International Code Council alongside a New York State Supplement. This required all New York State code officers to undergo 15 hours of mandatory training and an exam. This also counts toward the mandatory 24 hours of training required every year. Projects permitted prior to June 15 are under the 2010 set of codes.

I am evaluating several options for software to help organize and manage inspections, permitting, violations and planning/zoning functions of the Code Enforcement Office. This will lead to better service to the public and is a necessity to practically meet the New York State requirements of the local Code Enforcement program. My recommendations will be evaluated by the Town Board.

I met with the residents of Buena Vista at their annual meeting by an invite from a board member. I discussed the planning, zoning and code enforcement functions in the Town of Willsboro. I also answered questions and explained how to set up an appointment.

*Appointments: Much of my time is divided between inspections, on-site visits, meetings, training, conferences, etc. So for efficiency and

fairness, meeting appointments will now be scheduled for all permitting, zoning, planning, inspections, complaints, and so forth Please contact myself or the Town Clerks office to schedule.*

Please visit <http://www.townofwillsboro.com> (Department of Building & Zoning) for more information.

Questions? Contact me at 518-963-7411, codes@townofwillsborony.gov or by mail at Town of Willsboro

Code Enforcement Office

5 Farrell Road

Willsboro NY 12996

Also Follow me on Twitter @WillsboroCEO

Doug Rock

Department of Parks and Recreation –

Happy Summer Everyone

The summer has been very busy for me. The Willsboro-Essex Summer Youth Program is in full swing at Noblewood Park. This year our attendance has been on average 55. Tina Belzile and her staff have done a fantastic job keeping the youth busy.

We had our 3rd annual Battle of Boquet Trail and Kayak Race. This year it was very popular and had 31 contestants participating. We hope that this event will steadily grow every year. I would like to thank all the volunteers that helped put this event on and a very special thanks goes out to Ashley Blanchard that helped with the process throughout the year.

Some improvements have been made to Noblewood Park. We now encourage you to utilize the park with your dogs. We have put up the doggie waste stations. They are located throughout the park so if you bring your dog all we ask is that you pick up the waste. Another improvement is the new picnic tables located at the lodge. If you ever want to book an event at Noblewood Lodge please contact me by email or phone.

I also have been busy with the Willsboro Golf Course. The course is in great shape and we are continuing to improve the course daily. I would like to thank the guys that work daily to improve the golf course, Arnie Provost, Otis Gay, and Harold Reynolds. The course would not be in the shape it is without the help of those guys. Come out and enjoy our course.

If there is anything that you would like to see for events in the Town I am trying to plan the winter events and come up with new ideas. If you have anything that you would like to do or see happen please contact me either at parksandrec@townofwillsborony.gov or by phone at 963-8933.

Have a great spring everyone



Justin Drinkwine

Willsboro Youth Commission-

The Youth Commission is busy preparing for the upcoming school year. We are hoping to offer many more activities to our youth. Soccer season is quickly approaching and we are in need of coaches. We will have a Pre-K/Kindergarten team, a 1st/2nd grade team, 3rd/4th grade team, and a 5th/6th grade team. If you are interested in coaching our athletes, please send a letter of interest to Justin Drinkwine, Parks and Rec Manager. Feel free to either email your letter to Justin directly at parksandrec@townofwillsborony.gov or drop it off to the town hall during regular business hours. The parent meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 16th in the WCS auditorium at 6:00 pm. We encourage parents of athletes in Pre-K through 6th grade playing soccer to come and meet the coaches, complete the necessary paperwork and learn about the upcoming season.

If you are interested in learning more about the youth commission or would like to donate your time to Youth Commission sponsored events, please join

us at our monthly meetings which are held on the First Monday of each month at 5:30 PM in the WCS conference room. All meetings are open to the public.

Willsborough Visitor's Center

Volunteers Needed

This community has a great Visitor's Center, but there is a great need for a few more people to step up and volunteer some of their time. I have been reminded of what President Kennedy once said "We need to ask ourselves it's not what our country can do for us, but what we can do for our country." To date we are blessed with several volunteers, but there are still some half day times each week that the center is closed due to no volunteer. These times are just three hour time slots once or twice a month and all that you need to do is be a friendly welcoming person when people stop in. There must be a few more people in this community that could lend a hand, so if you can volunteer contact Janice Allen at 963-8912 to check times that need to be filled. This season is from Memorial Day to the first week in October.

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