



## ***Supervisor Chris Burdick's Report – May 22, 2015***

### **Public Hearings on June 16, 2015**

The following public hearings have been scheduled for June 16, 2015 at the Court Room in the Town House at 321 Bedford Road

Time	Topic
7:00 PM	Local law to amend the Code of the Town of Bedford concerning the allocation of Special Permit authority between the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Board
7:05 PM	Local law to provide a mechanism to fill vacancies on the Town Board and other elective positions.
7:10 PM	Local law to amend the Code of the Town of Bedford to allow the Historic Building Preservation Commission to waive the public hearing requirement on an application under certain circumstance

### **State Roads – Routes 172 and 22 in Somewhat Better Shape – More is Needed**

In last month's report, I mentioned that the Town is acutely aware of the terrible condition of the state roads, especially Routes 172 and 22. Since that time, there have been two developments. As I mentioned in a weekly update, the Town's Department of Public Works Commissioner, Kevin Winn, and I went on a local road trip with the Regional Director of the New York State Department of Transportation and an Executive Deputy Commissioner. We gave them first hand feel for Route 22 from Route 35 to the Bedford Village Green and Route 172 from the Bedford Village Green to Route 137 in Pound Ridge. They agreed that the roads were in poor condition. The Monday following that road trip, the DOT crews were out on both roads patching and laying a macadam strip along portions of both roads. The condition of the roads is somewhat better, but they truly need to be paved. I am hopeful, though not certain, that "Albany money" may be made available to the DOT Regional Office for paving. The indication is that *if* they do commit to paving, it may be on a phased basis. They may pave a portion of Route 172, which is worse condition, with Route 22 next year. For those of you who have contacted our elected representatives, thank you. Those calls and e-mails truly are heard. The contact information is below.

**Governor Andrew M. Cuomo**  
NYS State Capitol Governor of Building  
Albany, NY 12224  
[gov.cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us](mailto:gov.cuomo@chamber.state.ny.us)

**Congressman Sean P. Maloney**  
123 Grand Street, 2nd Floor  
Newburgh, NY 12550  
Phone: (845) 561-1259

	1529 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: 202-225-5441 Fax: 202-225-3289 <a href="http://seanmaloney.house.gov/contact">http://seanmaloney.house.gov/contact</a>
<p><b>Senator George Latimer</b>  <u>Albany Office</u>          615 Legislative Office Building          Albany, NY 12247          Phone: (518) 455-2031          Fax: (518) 426-6860</p> <p><u>District Office</u>          222 Grace Church Street Suite 300          Port Chester, NY 10573          Phone: (914) 934-5250          Fax: (914) 934-5256</p> <p><a href="mailto:latimer@nysenate.gov">latimer@nysenate.gov</a></p>	<p><b>Assemblyman David Buchwald</b>  <u>District Office</u>          125-131 East Main Street, Suite 204, Mount Kisco,          NY 10549          914-244-4450          Fax: 914-629-3618</p> <p><b>Albany Office:</b>          LOB 326          Albany, NY 12248          518-455- 5397  <a href="mailto:BuchwaldD@assembly.state.ny.us">BuchwaldD@assembly.state.ny.us</a></p>

We think we're close to the end of pothole repair season for Town roads, but let us know please if we've missed any by calling our Pothole Hotline at 666-7669 or feel free to contact me at [Supervisor@Bedfordny.gov](mailto:Supervisor@Bedfordny.gov). And even if you are writing, as suggested above, for New York State roads, please call the NYS DOT's hotline at 800-POTHOLE.

**Comptroller's Report**

Comptroller Ed Ritter reported on May 15 as follows:

The parking renewals permits are being mailed out to residents. Business and Non-Resident renewal applications are being sent out now.

The conversion to the Springbrook software has been underway. Beginning May 19, 2015 the Springbrook team will be on site in the Finance Office, completing installation and training on the payroll module. We expect to be live with for the May 29, 2015 payroll. We will be running a parallel payroll in the old system as well. If all goes well we will begin to schedule the implementation of the Finance module and ultimately connect all modules into one seamless package.

Summer employees have started to arrive and are being added into payroll. As summer approaches our payroll increases to over 400 people.

**REVENUE AREAS OF NOTE**

Mortgage Tax has actual data from October through April 2015. The actual percentage over 2014 is a 11.72% decrease. This amount has been used as a basis for projecting the remainder of the year (through September). Mortgage tax is projected to be \$1,016,557, which is \$16,557 over budget.

Sales Tax has actual data from January through March 2015. County sales tax shows a 4.56% decrease over 2014. This revenue is projected to be \$2,409,058 which is \$9,058 over our budget of \$2,400,000.

Parking has actual data from January through April 2015. The actual percentage over 2014 is a 3.32% increase. Revenue to date is \$99,857 which is an increase of \$3,212 from last year at this time. The revenue for the year is projected to be \$931,923 which is \$1,923 over budget.

Fines and forfeited bail has actual data for January through March 2015. Revenue is \$140,298 which is \$39,909 under last year's revenue at this time. The revenue is projected to be \$724,646 which is \$74,646 over budget.

Safety Inspection Fees has actual data for January through April 2015. Revenue is \$276,858 which is \$10,353 over last year's revenue at this time. This revenue is projected to be \$752,692 which is \$12,692 over budget.

EXPENDITURES: 2015 expenditures are within budget limits at this time

### **Proposed Septic System Repair & Replacement Fund Advances**

Two of the Town's hamlet centers, Bedford Hills and Katonah, are located in the Croton Watershed, with Katonah's commercial district immediately adjoining the reservoir. We believe that it is important to balance continued protection of the reservoir system with the economic vitality of these central business areas and their surrounding residential neighborhoods. The Bedford Town Board discussed potential programs for protection of water quality and maintenance of community character within the Croton Watershed at its meetings on August 5, 2014 and April 7, 2015. After the first Town Board meeting, the Town met with representatives of the New York City Department of Environmental Conservation including Assistant Commissioner David Warne to discuss improvements to existing septic systems. Based on this advice, the Town decided to pursue a septic system repair and reimbursement program through the use of funds from the East of Hudson Water Quality Investment Program (funds from NYC Department of Environmental Protection). It is estimated that as much as 10% of the septic systems in the watershed would not meet current requirements or have exceeded their useful life. The septic inspection program recently required under the New York State DEC Stormwater Management Program will help in identifying problem septic areas, but will not assist in paying for their repair. Bedford wishes to help property owners in meeting the challenge.

Last week the Northern Westchester Watershed Committee, a committee comprised of 11 northern Westchester municipalities in the New York City watershed unanimously approved Bedford's proposal to create a \$3.5 million septic system repair and replacement program. At the NWWC meeting, a number of member municipalities suggested that Bedford's proposal may serve as a pilot for similar programs for their municipalities. The next step in the process is the Westchester County Planning Department preparing a legislative proposal for the Westchester County Board of Legislators to consider, as the BOL must approve the funding request. If established the program would provide up to 50% of approved eligible expenses for construction of repair remediation or replacement of a septic system, as well as design engineering costs not

to exceed 20% of total construction costs. An enhanced treatment unit (utilizing more advanced technology) would be permitted, provided the County Board of Health and, if applicable, DEC and DEP, approves it.

### **Bedford Hills Memorial Park Master Plan**

The Town believes that each of our hamlet parks should have a master plan. A master plan is important to provide for the proper long term development and management of each of our parks ensuring that improvements are thought through carefully and are consistent with long term objectives. A master plan is in place for Bedford Village Memorial Park and Katonah Memorial Park. This year, completing the process, the Town engaged the consultancy firm of DeSantis Consulting LLC to develop a master plan for Bedford Hills Memorial Park. The Master Plan project began unofficially in January and officially in February, with the entire process taking approximately six months. The process has been transparent and open, working to engage the public. DeSantis has been working with Parks Department staff, the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee (RPAC), user groups, and the community at large through public forums, the most recent of which was held on Wednesday, May 13 at the Bedford Hills Community House. The process is as follows:

#### Stage 1. Examination and Physical Assessment:

Gather information & data, conduct user / stakeholder interviews (15), separate site visits by consultant (8), site visits by consultant and superintendent (3), comprehensive digital photographs taken (approx. 300), interaction with steering committee, RPAC planning director et al, park inventory, component assessment etc.

#### Stage 2 Recommendations:

Formulate recommendations which will include the preliminary list below

#### Stage 3. Formation of the final Master Plan

Completion by 6/5/15

Presentation at the final public forum 6/10/15

Preliminary recommendations for the BHMP Master Plan are as follows:

1. Reline the pools with new market finish, redo start blocks consider a small water playground adjacent to small pool
2. Future consideration for artificial grass turf on soccer field as demand grows
3. Continuous path from entry to end of Rosafort field ( loop )
4. Tree contract for maintenance
5. Buffer plantings adjacent to condos and Saw Mill River Parkway
6. Tennis court shaded seating
7. Tennis color coated within next 2-3yrs
8. Tree plantings throughout park
9. Nature trail system in wetland

10. Signage unification throughout the park
11. New playground in the near future
12. Improvements to Lake Marie possibly dredge lake at 3 inflows and more if funding allows
13. Lakeside and wetland nature appreciation and education program
14. Install new volleyball court adjacent to the left side of Rosefort field
15. Re-stripe lots every 2-3 years
16. Speed signs, pedestrian warning signs, dog signs, speed bumps before pedestrian crossings
17. Directional signs to park on Haines Rd
18. Improved portable restrooms - large trailer type
19. Cemetery grade access
20. Upgrade Rosefort Field irrigation
21. Relocate water dept storage yard, blend bldg. with rest of park structures
22. Park structures need painting.
23. Landscape plantings adj pool
24. Address dog waste problem / signs / rangers
25. Add handicapped spaces
26. Install more park benches
27. Consider park lighting, paths, floods
28. Consider Haines Rd lighting improvements

Please note that these recommendations are preliminary. We're interested in feedback from the community, and of course, implementation is dependent upon Town Board approval of the final plan and funding.

### **Town Board Adopts Amendment to Solid Waste Law – Advancing Single Stream Recycling**

At its May 19 meeting, the Town Board held a public hearing at which we adopted the amendment to the Town's Solid Waste Law to require "split packer" trucks for residential refuse collection. We are pleased with the cooperative partnership and relationship with the Town's haulers – they supported the proposal. The use of split packer trucks allows for needed additional recycling capacity, much needed as recycling rates continue to rise with single stream recycling.

### **Click it or Ticket!; Saved by the Belt**

The Click it or Ticket campaign sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration runs from May 18 through May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Law enforcement Agencies across the nation are stepping up enforcement to crack down on motorists who risk serious injury by not wearing their seatbelt. At the Town Board meeting held on May 19, 2015 Bedford resident Sally Farrell was awarded the Bedford Police Department "Saved by the Belt Award" for surviving a head-on collision that occurred on Old Post Rd in Bedford Village. Congratulations to Ms. Farrell for making the lifesaving choice to buckle up. Seat belts save lives. Please buckle up and have a safe Holiday weekend.

## **Town Board Supports a County Ban on Single Use Plastic Bags and Polystyrene**

At its May 19 meeting the Town Board approved a resolution I proposed to endorse the legislative proposal of County Legislator Catherine Parker to ban single use plastic bags, such as those used in supermarkets, as well as polystyrene (Styrofoam) containers used in fast food restaurants. We are hopeful that the proposal advances at the County level as a means of reducing the waste stream and helping to provide a more sustainable environment.

## **Unfunded Mandates**

The Town Board is considering forming a committee to evaluate unfunded mandates and ways in which the Town might go about having the removed or alleviated. The Town of New Castle has established such a committee, and we will be looking into the matter further.

## **Filling Vacancies in Town Elected Positions**

We're moving ahead with adopting a local law to provide for a special election to fill vacancies in the position of Supervisor, Councilman or Town Clerk which would provide that if the Town Board does not fill the vacancy by appointment within 45 days of the vacancy occurring, then a special election must be held within 60 to 90 days. Summer elections or an election within a short time before a general election would be avoided. We have scheduled a public hearing for Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 7:05 pm.

## **Solarize! - There's still time.... Let's Solarize Bedford-Mt. Kisco!**

Perhaps you didn't get a chance to get to one of the Solarize workshops. There's still time to take advantage of the discount pricing through Solarize's vetted installer. You will need to act soon, as the discount pricing program ends on June 15. Federal and state tax credits, discount pricing and other incentives make now a good time to explore solar energy for installing solar panels for your home. There is no cost and no obligation to learn whether clean solar energy will save you money by reducing your electricity bills, while also reducing greenhouse emissions. Find out whether solar energy is right for your home by calling Ross Solar Group at (203) 512-4500 and let them know you're calling about the Solarize Bedford-Mt. Kisco program.

## **Wilder Balter Partners Proposal – No News**

A number of residents have contacted me to ask whether there's been any further action regarding the Wilder Balter Partners, Inc. proposed residential development of 118 acres at Crusher Road and Old Post Road. The Town has heard nothing further since the applicant's April 28 letter to the Planning Board requesting that the public hearing which had been scheduled for that evening be adjourned and that "...at this point in time we are evaluating whether to continue pursuing approval of our project as proposed."

## **Reminder: Emergency Information from NYSEG and Con Edison**

Con Edison notified us that you now can *text* Con Edison about power outages. Here's the message they sent us:

“Prefer texting? No problem. Sign up by texting REG to OUTAGE (688243) and we'll text instead of calling.

But don't wait for us to contact you. The sooner we know about a power problem, the sooner we can respond. Reach us at conEd.com, by texting OUT to OUTAGE after you sign up for texting, with our My conEdison app for Droid and Apple devices, or by calling 1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633).”

Both NYSEG and Con Edison encourage customers with special needs to enroll in special services for them.

“**NYSEG** is committed to providing their customers with safe, reliable energy delivery. They also offer many services for special need customers, including:

- Special Identification for households where everyone is elderly, blind or disabled
- Large print, sight-saver Bills for visually-impaired customers
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) grants
- NYSEG's Energy Assistance Program (EAP)
- Project SHARE emergency energy assistance program

*If you or someone in your household relies on life-sustaining equipment, you should contact NYSEG immediately!*

How to call NYSEG:

Electricity interruptions or emergencies: 1.800.572.1131 (24 hours a day, every day)

Customer relations center: 1.800.572.1111

Payment arrangements: 1.888.315.1755

Hearing and speech-impaired: Dial 711 (New York Relay Service)”

#### **“Message from Con Edison: Customer Central Special Services**

##### **Safety for Special Customers:**

It is important that we have a record of everyone who uses electrically operated life-support equipment or has medical hardships so we can contact them in an emergency. To learn more and complete the survey, please visit the link below. You can also let us know by calling 1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633). Con Edison customers can enroll for this service by visiting [www.conEd.com](http://www.conEd.com), clicking on Customer Central, and then the “special services” link. You will need your account number. To keep our records current, each year we send a letter asking you to recertify.

<http://www.coned.com/customercentral/specialservices.asp>

##### **Customers with Special Needs:**

We recognize that senior citizens and people with disabilities need special attention. That's why we offer a variety of services and billing and payment options that make life a little bit easier for the elderly, visually or hearing-impaired, or customers with

permanent disabilities. Please visit the link below to view the *Customers With Special Needs* brochure.

<http://www.coned.com/customercentral/specialservices.asp>”

I ask you to please send me an e-mail at [supervisor@bedfordny.gov](mailto:supervisor@bedfordny.gov) should you have any questions or comments on this report or any of our work on the Town Board.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Burdick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Chris Burdick  
Town Supervisor