
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

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April – June 2013

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

The Richford Town Board continues to work with the Town Planning Board on drafts of a road use agreement and a road protection law. The subject of fracking has been discussed at several Town Board meetings. No laws can be adopted until a public hearing has first been held.

In March Richford renewed its contract with the Berkshire Emergency Squad located in Newark Valley for ambulance services. Residents are reminded that they will receive a bill for ambulance services. The Highway Dept. collects and sells scrap metal to provide revenue for the Town. Residents wishing to dispose of scrap metal are encouraged to drop it off at the highway garage.

There is a vacancy on the Board of Assessment Review. Members are paid \$50 and there is required training provided by the County. Interested residents are encouraged to contact the Town.

NEWS FROM THE TOWN ASSESSOR

Grievance Day will be held Tuesday, May 28, 2013 from 4 - 8 pm at the Town Hall, 7 Bowery Lane, Richford NY. Grievance Day gives property owners the opportunity to discuss and to seek relief for their property assessments with Board of Review members Flora Karasin, Steve Kotula and another member. By law, Frances Butler, Assessor, must attend this meeting, but she is not a member of the Board of Assessment Review. Property owners whose assessments were changed have been notified directly by mail.

Copies of the required assessment complaint form will be available at the meeting. Copies of the form can also be obtained from the Assessor (849-6966, by e-mail franb@frontiernet.net, or by mail: P. O. Box 366, Marathon, NY 132803). Also, copies can be obtained from the County Real Property Tax Office, 56 Main St., Owego, NY or from the New York State website: www.orps.state.ny.us. Locally the copies are also available from the Richford website: www.richfordny.com.

On or about May 1st the tentative Assessment Roll Book will be filed by the Assessor at the Town Clerk's Office for local residents to examine during the Clerk's regular office hours. In addition the roll book will be available at the Real Property Tax Office, 16 Court St., Owego and at the Assessor's Office in Marathon (849-6966). New York State law requires that any changes in the property assessment after the tentative roll has been filed must be made by the Board of Assessment Review and NOT by the Assessor.

Also, throughout the summer the assessor will be recollecting inventory data and retaking pictures of all property structures. This property file maintenance will satisfy the requirement for updated and current property computer files.

TOWN BOARD REPORT

Jan. 8 2013 - Highway Superintendent Holt reported that the department has been hauling sand, and stated that the Barden Road Bridge Replacement Project will take approximately one month. The Board authorized the Highway Superintendent to purchase a used truck from the Town of Caneada for \$12,000.

The Code Enforcement report was given. The Justice Court report was presented with a check from the Justice Court for December 2012 for \$455. The Town Planning Board report was presented, and a copy of the proposed Road Protection Law was given to the Town Board for their review. The Planning Board requested that a member of the Town Board meet with them for a work session on the proposed moratorium and road use laws. Councilwoman Herrick agreed to attend a work session. There was further discussion regarding fracking and road use and road preservation laws.

Councilman Miller stated that the DOT Engineer has received the Town's request to lower speed limits on Town Roads and on Robinson Hollow from Route 79 to Lacey Road

Feb. 12, 2013 - The Berkshire Emergency Squad presented the new proposed agreement between the Town of Richford and the Berkshire Emergency Squad. Highway Superintendent Holt stated the Highway Department has been busy keeping roads plowed and sanded, and a lot of drainage pipe will need to be replaced in the spring. There were many questions regarding the Barden Road bridge replacement project.

The Code Enforcement report was given. The Justice Court report was presented with a check from the Justice Court for January 2013 for \$1040. There were no Dog Control reports for December 2012 and January 2013 due to no activity. The Town Planning Board report was given. Planning board Chair Davis suggested putting the monthly minutes of Town Board meetings on the Town Website and the Town Board agreed. There was discussion regarding the Road Use and Road Preservation laws presented by the Planning Board. Councilman Miller invited all interested town persons to meet with him and help develop different Road Use and Road Preservation Laws. The meeting was set for 7:00 pm on Wednesday at the Town Hall.

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A resolution was introduced to lower the speed limit to 25 mph on all streets within the Hamlet of Richford, and to 40 mph on Robinson Hollow Road from Route 79 to Lacey Road. The resolution was unanimously adopted. Flora Karasin was reappointed to the Board of Assessment Review.

Supervisor Wilcox discussed the topic of the recent assessment case, where the Court ruled that assessments on three Town properties had been wrongfully increased due to potential value of underlying shale gas. The Supervisor made a motion to authorize the Town Attorney to request a stay that would allow the Town to appeal the court ruling. Council members Beverly Brown, Ricky Brown and Supervisor Wilcox voting aye; Ken Miller voted nay and Cyndi Herrick abstained.

Councilman Miller informed the Board that a family (man, woman and two children) has been living on West Hill in a trailer with no running water or electricity. This matter was discussed, including whether the Code Enforcement Officer was aware of the situation.

During Privilege of the Floor, Councilman Miller presented a resolution to "Support and Encourage Natural Gas Exploration in New York State". Although this resolution was a surprise to the rest of the Town Board, 27 supporters from Richford and nearby towns were present to encourage its adoption. One local resident asked the Board to delay a vote, stating that this is a contentious issue and the Board should first survey the Town to see if a majority of residents agree, and want fracking to occur in Richford. The motion passed 3 to 1: Ken Miller, Bev Brown, and Ricky Brown voted yes, Cyndi Herrick voted no, and Supervisor Wilcox abstained. Copies of the resolution will be mailed to Gov. Cuomo, NYS Legislature, NYS DEC and NYS Health Department. Residents can get copies of the resolution from the Town of Richford Clerk during regular office hours.

March 12, 2013 - Kris West of the Finger Lakes Land Trust informed the Board that Jeanne Paisley has donated a conservation easement to the Land Trust, thereby protecting a portion of the east branch of Owego Creek, which provides critical habitat for brook trout.

Highway Superintendent Holt stated that the Barden Road Project is due to start in late June. There was discussion about steps to be taken before closing Barden Road, including notifying residents, Sheriff, State Police, Emergency Squad, Fire Dept, and Postal Service by letters, signs, and newspaper ads. The Code Enforcement and Justice Court reports were given. The Justice Court check for February 2013 was \$870.

The Town Planning Board report was presented. There was discussion regarding the Road Use Agreement and Road Preservation laws; last year the Town Board asked the Planning Board to prepare these laws, and the Planning Board submitted draft laws in January. In February, Councilman Ken Miller formed an ad-hoc committee to develop different versions of the same laws. The Planning Board asked the Town Board to 1) provide feedback on the draft laws submitted in January, and 2) decide which group – the Planning Board or the Ad-Hoc

committee - should work on these draft laws. Supervisor Wilcox suggested the groups work together. Council member Herrick made a motion to hold a special Town Board meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2013, at 6 pm to work with the Planning Board and Ad-Hoc Committee on the Road Use Agreement and Road Preservation Laws. The motion was approved four to one: Ken Miller, Ricky Brown, Cyndi Herrick and Beverly Brown voted yes and Supervisor Wilcox voted no. The meeting date was later changed to March 19. Councilman Miller stated that the Planning Board should update the Comprehensive Plan.

The Town Board approved an agreement with the Berkshire Emergency Squad to provide services to the Town of Richford for 2013. Highway Superintendent said he placed ads for sealed bids on a new pickup truck. The bids will be opened at the regular April Town Board meeting.

A resident asked the Board to place Stop signs at the intersection of Victory Hill Road and Sears Road. Council members Beverly Brown and Ken Miller made a motion to make a 4-way stop at the intersection of Victory Hill, Sears and Michigan Hill Roads, and to place a stop-ahead sign on Victory Hill Road and Sears Road and to authorize the Highway Superintendent to acquire and install such signs. All approved.

The Board unanimously agreed to a resolution to Support Susquehanna Rain and Stream Gauges. A copy of the resolution was sent to all of the Town Federal Representatives.

BURN BAN

A reminder from the NY DEC: A state-wide ban on open burning is in effect March 16 through May 14 2013. Open burning is the largest single cause of wildfires in New York State, and the spring burn ban has resulted in 35% fewer wildfires over the past 4 years.

The regulation prohibits open burning in all communities during early spring and prohibits burning garbage at all times. Residential brush burning is permitted for most of the year in towns with a population of less than 20,000 (i.e., Richford). Violators of the open burning state regulation are subject to both criminal and civil enforcement actions, with the minimum fine of \$500 for a first offense. To report environmental law violations call 1-800-TIPP DEC (1-800-847-7332), or [report online](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/58519.html) on DEC's website. Information is available on DEC's website <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/58519.html>.

TIRE COLLECTION DAY MAY 11

Town Highway Garage (Rt. 79 east), 8 am - 2 pm.

The fees to help cover costs:

- 17" or smaller (auto type): \$1.00
- Auto tires, tires w/rims, or truck tires 15 - 19" or with rims: \$3.00
- 20" and larger but, less than 100 lbs: \$6.00
- 100 lbs. and larger \$6.00 + an additional .05 per lb.
- (for example: \$7.25 for a 125 lb. tire).

SPRING 2013 RABIES CLINICS

The Tioga County Health Department is sponsoring rabies clinics at several locations around Tioga County this spring:

May 1 - Apalachin Fire Station, Apalachin. 6-7 pm, Dr. West.

May 6 - Owego Fire Station, North Av. Owego. 5-7 pm, Dr. West

May 9 - Newark Valley Fire Station, Newark Valley, . 6-7 p.m. Dr. West.

May 11 - Dr. Hill's Office, Day Hollow Rd. Owego, NY. 3-4 pm. Dr. Hill.

Important: Vaccine will not be administered unless pets are under control with dogs on a leash and cats either on a leash or boxed and both accompanied by a responsible adult. **You must show proof of previous vaccination and lack of this will result in this shot being considered a first time vaccination for the animal and effective for a one year period.** All other vaccinations are effective for a three year period.

A complete spring schedule of all rabies clinics throughout Tioga County is available at the Town Clerk's office or on our website, www.richfordny.com.

RECYCLING INFORMATION

The Tioga County recycling program has changed as of 2/1/2013. Because of market changes, there will no longer be any curbside pickup of plastic bags. Exception to the rule - it is ok to put shredded paper out into a plastic bag to contain the paper. Grocery bags may be returned to most stores, all other plastic bags should be placed in the trash. Many people are not aware that the only glass that is recyclable curbside is glass jars or glass bottles (clear, green or brown in color); all other glass goes into the trash. No Styrofoam or cardboard with Styrofoam attached to it. Remove Styrofoam before recycling the cardboard. You no longer have to sort your recycling material curbside. The new facility does all the sorting for you, so mix all your recycling together in one container now. If you have questions on what material can be recycled curbside go to www.tiogacounty.com and click on (RECYCLING DEPT).

PROGRAM ON GAS DRILLING

The Berkshire Alliance for Sustainable Energy is presenting an informational program on gas drilling on May 21 from 7 – 9 pm in the Berkshire Community Hall, 11 Jewett Hill Rd. (right behind the Library) in Berkshire. Topics include: Drinking Water Protection, PA Farm Owner Experience, and Community Responsibilities. Everyone is welcome.

FOOD TRUCK

The mobile food truck from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier is in Richford the first Thursday of each month (except July) distributing free food, and has been a helpful resource for many families. For several years the Richford Congregational

Church has helped finance this worthy program. Additional contributions would be welcomed. Contributions can be sent to the Richford Congregational Church, P.O. Box 159, Richford, NY 13835. Please indicate that the funds are to be used for the food truck. Over 100 families visit the truck each month, and 100 to 200 adults are served each time.

Northern Tioga Neighbors Network (NTNN)

NTNN will hold its Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Event, Wednesday evening May 15 from 6 to 9 in the Town Hall. NTNN is made up of volunteers from Richford, Berkshire and Newark Valley who provide free services to residents, including friendly visits, help around the home and trips for medical needs, groceries, etc. For more information call: 657-2823 or toll free [1-877-675-2823](tel:1-877-675-2823)

This year's NTNN senior citizen spring exercise program ends May 1, 2013 with a celebration and awards for the 19 participants who completed the program.

BERKSHIRE FREE LIBRARY

Story Time will be held in Richford every Friday, May 10 – August 2, from 10-11am, in the Hubbard Building behind the Lourdes Family Health Clinic. This program is geared for children 2-5 years old, and is funded by the Bernard Carl & Shirley Rosen Library Fund. We will also have a Summer Reading Program for children attending the Summer Youth Program in Richford. Every child is welcome to take part in the Summer Reading Program, sponsored by Senator Libous's BOOKS Program. Contact the Library for more information on any of our programs.

Located on the corner of Route 38 and Jewett Hill Rd.

Phone # 607-657-4418

Hours: Tues. 12-5, Wed. 1:30-7, Thurs. 1-5, Fri. 1:30-7 and Sat. 9-2

Email: bfl@htva.net

Liberian: LuAnn Whirl

Board of Trustee members from Town of Richford:

Kathy Hartman

John Knieriem

Emilie Stuhlmiller

Sandy Negus

GIRL SCOUTS

The Richford Girl Scout troop wishes to thank the community for all their support this year! The Quickway management staff allowed our girls to sell their cookies in the parking lot in March and many "drive-by" customers stopped to get a sweet treat on the way home. In April, Judge Peggy Andersen gave the girls a tour of her courtroom and helped them understand about respecting authority. Also, our wonderful volunteer fire department personnel, led by John Keener, showed our Brownies and Daisy what they wear to a fire, how to prepare a first aid kit, what to do in an emergency and explained what they do at a fire. A special THANK YOU, to Judy Thurston for her great support to our troop every Thursday night. What a great community we are a part of!

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Calendar of Events:

May 2 Food giveaway, Richford Congregational church, Route 38, 12:30 till gone; bring containers.

May 4 Smorgasbord, Richford Congregational Church, 4 - 7 pm, Adults \$8, age 5 - 12 \$4, Children under 5 free. Takeouts available.

May 4 Highland Cemetery Assoc Annual Meeting, 7 pm, Town Hall

May 9 Rabies Clinic, Fire station, Newark Valley 6-7pm (see article)

May 10 Story Time, 10 - 11 am, Hubbard Center, Bowery Lane. Weekly story time for preschoolers age 2 to 5 and family members or day care providers. Sponsored by Berkshire Free Library

May 11 Scholarship Chicken Barbeque, Fire Station, 12 noon till gone. Sponsored by Community Auxiliary. Dinner \$8, half \$6

May 11 Berkshire Library: free memoir writing workshop, 12:30 - 2 pm. Signup by May 8, for information 657-4418.

May 11 Tire collection day, Town Hall Garage, 8 - 2 pm, charge (see article).

May 14 Town Board Meeting, 7 pm, Town Hall, Bowery Lane

May 15 Volunteer Recognition Time, NTNN, 6:30 - 9 pm, Town Hall

May 18 Berkshire Library, Plant Swap, 10 - 2 pm, Swap plants and master gardeners on hand to answer gardening questions.

May 28 Grievance Day, Town Hall, 4 - 8 pm. Call Assessor ([607-849-6966](tel:607-849-6966)) for information (see article).

June 6 Food giveaway - see May 2 for information, no food giveaway in July.

June 29 Jam Day sponsored by Community Auxiliary at Rawley Park, from 12 noon on. Refreshments available. Come and jam - play.

July 8 Summer Youth Program starts. Monday - Wednesday - Friday afternoon, contact Director Becky Randall (657-8254) for details.

July 11 - Aug 1 Summer reading program at the Berkshire Library including reading, games and crafts. Thursdays, 10am - noon

July 20 Kiddies Day sponsored by Community Auxiliary. 9 am registration for King and Queen (Richford kids only). Six bikes to be given away.

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Representative Contact Information:

Assemblyman Christopher S. Friend
124th District Office, 476 Maple St., P.O. Box 441
Big Flats, NY 14814-0441
Elmira, NY 607-301-0302, Fax: 607-348-1500
friendc@assembly.state.ny.us

Senator Thomas W. Libous, 52nd District Office
1607 State Office Building, 44 Hawley St.
Binghamton, NY 13901, 607-773-8771
Senator@SenatorLibous.com

Congressman Tom Reed, 23rd District
89 W. Market St., Corning, NY 14830
607-654-7566; Fax 607-654-7566

Congressman Reed will have staff at the Tioga County Office Building 56 Main St., on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month to assist people with questions and concerns regarding federal government agencies.