

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

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USE OF PRIVATE LANDS - ADIRONDACK PARK

The Adirondack Park Agency is presently engaged in gathering all the data which will form the base for its land use and development plan for the private lands within the Adirondack Park. When completed the proposals will be submitted to the state legislature and the governor for their consideration.

To assist it in developing its plans, the agency has asked local public officials to express themselves relative to the following subjects:

1. Lake front or river front development.
2. Mobile homes.
3. Public facilities and services.
4. What industry might be possible and where.
5. Agricultural resources.
6. Natural resources - adequately protected? How?
7. Areas that should be purchased by state or local government?
8. Maximum desirable population of town.
9. What could do most to bolster the economy?
10. What should be the town's long range objectives?

In concluding its requests for comments the Agency says, "We don't pretend to be miracle workers, but in order to make a start, we must have the benefit of your thoughts. This information will be the most important single item of input in our planning effort."

All of us who own property in the Adirondack Park will be affected by the con-

clusions reached by the Park Agency and it behooves us to let our public officials know how we feel about regulations which will affect the use and ownership of land which we own.

LAKE GEORGE

Lake George is probably our most valuable natural resource. In addition to its natural beauty and unequalled recreational values, it provides drinking water for most of the people who live along its shores.

In material recently made available by the Lake George Association we learn that the lake covers 44 square miles of surface area. The volume of water in the lake is estimated to be one and one-third cubic miles. This means that all the water in the lake could be stored in a tank measuring 1.3 x 1.3 x 1.3 miles.

Approximately .065 cu miles of precipitation falls each year on the surface of the lake. An estimated .274 cu miles falls on the land areas surrounding the lake and about 40% of this finds its way into the lake.

No matter how you measure it - there's a lot of water in the lake!

It is estimated that about one-tenth of the volume of the lake is discharged each year at Timonkroga, which means that the equivalent of the entire volume of the lake is discharged over a period of ten years.

So much for the statistics. These were developed by scientists who, having found that nitrogen and phosphorus are the major nutrients which are stimulating the growth of algae, are now determining where it is coming from, how much there is in the lake, and how to limit the amount that gets in there in the future. This is important research. Unless the answers are soon found, our lake will die, just as so many others already have.

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The following paragraph from a recent study is significant:

"Of very recent concern has been the occurrence of an apparent "algal bloom" in the southern portion of Lake George, first observed during the weekend of Friday, May 19, 1972. Large numbers of Volvox have been identified in samples secured from the lake. Volvox is a green flagellated alga which forms colonies of up to 100,000 individual organisms in a hollow ball. The larger colonies are up to a millimeter in size and can be readily seen by the naked eye.... Volvox is notorious for its fishy odor. Reports during this indicated week-end are that there was a definite fishy odor in the waters of Lake George. Thus it may be that the combination of factors of increased nutrient input and the large spring runoff during May, 1972 have pushed Lake George over the brink of being a clear oligotrophic lake to a mesotrophic lake of less desirable quality.... The situation is critical and a close examination of all inputs must be made immediately. There definitely cannot be any increased input of phosphorus to the lake until steps are made to reduce the present inflow of phosphorus to the lake."

OLD AGE TAX EXEMPTIONS

Section 467 of the New York State Real Property Law provides for exemptions from a portion of real property taxes for persons 65 years of age and over where the income of the owner or combined income of the owners does not exceed \$3,000, or such other sum between \$3,000 and \$6,000, as is provided by the local law, ordinance, or resolution authorizing the exemption. Warren County has adopted a resolution authorizing an exemption of 50% of the assessed value for persons 65 years of age and over whose income does not exceed \$5,000 a year. However, this applies to the county portion

of the tax only and amounts to a reduction of only about 9% of the tax bill of qualified taxpayers.

The Town of Hague has not seen fit to authorize tax exemptions to the aged and while we do not necessarily advocate that the town do so, we feel that the Town Board should set the matter for public hearing, as required under the law, and then take whatever action it deems is in the best interests of the town and its citizens.

Should the town adopt the necessary resolution, the law provides that the exemption can apply only to the taxes on the taxpayers "legal residence" which has been occupied by the owners for at least 60 consecutive months prior to the filing of an application. The property must be used solely for residential purposes. Also, income includes social security payments, salary, wages, interest (including non-taxable interest on state and local bonds), dividends, rents, capital gains, disability payments, etc.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the school board was held on July 10 with all members present. Visitors in attendance included Mr. Peter Chmery whose term as board member ended on June 30.

An organizational meeting of the board had been held on July 5 at which time Robert Danno was elected president to succeed Mr. McKee who had served as president continuously since 1967. Martin Fitzgerald was elected vice-president. Other officers who will serve during the current year are: Miss Lela Foote, Clerk; Mrs. Mary Scripture, Treasurer; Mrs. Jean McKee, Tax Collector; and Raymond Telling, Auditor.

Other appointments were as follows: Dr. James Walsh, School Physician; Mrs. Ruth Robinson, Census Taker; Mrs. Blanchard, nurse and attendance officer; Dr. G.P. Cook School Dentist; and Dominick Viscardi, School Attorney. The state Bank of Albany at Ticonderoga and the Glens Falls National Bank at Dalton Landing were selected as depositories and the Times of TI and the Glens Falls Post Star were named the official newspapers.

The president announced the appointment of members of the board to standing committees as follows with the first named to act as chairman.

Buildings and Grounds - Fitzgerald & May

Personnel - Frasier and McKee

Transportation - May & McKee

Co-op and Cafeteria - McKee & Frasier

Insurance - Fitzgerald and Frasier

Mr. Fitzgerald was appointed representative to the County School Board Association with power to cast the Hague vote.

Mr. McKee referred to various items which require attention and was advised as to their status, as follows: repairs to roof - awaiting an estimate of cost; dropped acoustical ceiling in open class room - contract let and work to be undertaken shortly; two shower stalls - authorized but no action has yet been taken. Mr. McKee also directed the board's attention to the flagpole which is badly in need of paint. This was referred to the building and grounds committee. He also inquired as to proposed carpeting of the first grade classroom. No action has been taken pending settlement of dispute with contractor who furnished carpeting for open classroom.

As to the status of controversy with contractor's relative to unfinished contract items, the president stated that all plumbing work has been completed and accepted by the board. Still in dispute is the matter of the gym floor and responsibility for water damage to parts of the building.

The surprise of the evening was the treasurer's report which revealed a balance of \$73,170.95 at the close of the last fiscal year. This was \$28,170.95 more than the \$45,000. balance which was anticipated when the 1972-73 budget was presented to the voters in May.

The members of the board expressed considerable surprise at the size of the balance to be carried over but after considerable study and many questions, the report was approved as presented. It must be

assumed, therefore, that there was an unexpected windfall of \$28,170.95 in the school treasury.

A proposal was made that \$20,000. be set aside into a contingency fund but when it was suggested that this could not lawfully be done without a referendum, the proposal was tentatively shelved. It was suggested that the balance in excess of that shown in the budget could be used only to reduce taxes. If this were done, the amount to be raised by taxes would be \$240,603. or about \$15,000. less than the amount raised by taxes last year. This would bring our rate down to about \$30. per thousand as compared with \$32.57, the rate last year.

No final decision was reached by the board. The question was to be referred to the school attorney for an opinion. The school tax bill which will be out in August should tell the story.

TOWN BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the town board was held on July 11 with all members present except Charles F. Fitzgerald.

Mr. Ted Woods who had commenced his duties as town policeman on June 29 submitted his resignation the following week. No reason was given. The board accepted the resignation and appointed the two assistants, Terry Gallant and Calvin Gress, to serve for the remainder of the summer. They will share equally in the salary appropriated for the town policeman.

By resolution submitted by the supervisor and approved by the board the duties of the town constable were extended to include "ordinance enforcement". As part of the resolution, the salary of the town constable was increased by \$200. per year plus mileage. Where violations of the town ordinances are brought to the attention of the constable it will be his duty to bring a complaint before one of the town justices.

Also by resolution introduced by the supervisor and approved by the board, the position of "Sanitary Inspector" was created "to enforce local sanitation ordinances and to comply with sewage disposal systems requirements as published by the New York State Department of Health". The

sanitary inspector "will work closely with the late George Park Commission and with the town health officer to enforce ordinances and comply with regulations". No appointment was made and the matter of salary was deferred to a later date.

Re-surfacing of designated town roads will be deferred until August because of the unavailability until then of the county paving equipment. It was also made clear that portions of the designated roads, Decker Hill, Dodd Hill, and Silver Bay, will actually be resurfaced. About \$3500. to \$4000. of the \$7000. available will be spent on the Silver Bay Road with the balance being spent on the other roads as far as the money will go. The supervisor advised that he had located a town resolution dated February 14, 1956 in which the town board had approved the re-location of the Abbott Bay Road. However no map or other document locating the road has been found. Accordingly, the road will be surveyed and hereafter consideration will be given to that repairs will be made.

A new truck which meets the town's specifications is on order. Delivery will be made in about 90 days.

The next meeting of the town board will be held on August 8.

CITIZENS GROUP OF HAGUE

The annual meeting of the Citizens Group at Hague was held at the town hall on July 20. In addition to the regular year-round

members, a number of summer residents were present. The activities of the group during the past year were reviewed and among other things, it was decided to continue to provide financial support to the Hague Chronicle. Monthly meetings will be discontinued, provided, that should an issue arise which would call for action on the part of the group, the officers have been authorized to arrange for such meetings as in their judgment are necessary. Meanwhile annual dues of \$2.50 per member are being solicited. Checks should be made payable to the Citizens Group of Hague and mailed to Box 101, Hague, New York 12836. Copies of the Chronicle will be mailed to all dues-paying members.

SILVER BAY PROPERTY OWNERS MEET

The Silver Bay Property Owners met at the Hague firehouse on Saturday morning, July 8. About forty members and guests were present. Reports were submitted by all officers and committee chairmen. Mr. Seavap reviewed the important local events which had occurred during the past year. He advised the group that the Fire Department was celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year and a committee was appointed to consider how best the association might express its appreciation to the fire department on this occasion. A proposal to financially assist in the publication of the Hague Chronicle will be considered at the August meeting which will be held on August 12 at 10:00 A.M. As usual, coffee and doughnuts will be served beginning at 9:30 A.M.

return to:

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