



The Guide

Town of Duane Newsletter
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Land Donated to Duane



From left to right:
Ned LeMieux, Town Supervisor
Dick Edwards, Attorney
Sharon Serzan
Tom Green, Husband

Recently the Town of Duane received a generous land donation from a former resident. In 1971 Warren and Winnifred Frahn purchased 26 acres of land along the Deer River Flow in the Town of Duane. Before selling the land in

1995 the property was subdivided into two lots. One lot was sold and the other was given to daughter Sharon. Recently Warren Frahn passed away. In memory of her father Sharon and husband Tom, decided to donate her 15 acres of land to the Town of Duane. Approximately 1,000 feet of water frontage is located on the Deer River Flow and 600 feet of frontage is located on the Deer River below the concrete dam (a football field is 300 ft. long). The town has no immediate plans for this land but encourages town residents to share their suggestions with Town Board Members.



My Hike on the Recently Donated Land

I had the pleasure of talking with Sharon Serzan during the town picnic. Her memories of the Deer River Flow spiked my interest, so two days later I decided to walk the property. Here is my brief account of that hike.

The Duane Highway department has created a nice pull off parking area surrounded by several large rocks. They created a walking path that starts between two of the rocks. The path goes a short distance then veers to the right and connects with an old service road that leads to the dam. The service road hasn't been used in years so the grass covered road looks more like a wide walking path. I can't see the water yet but the trail seems to be winding towards the shoreline. The road is level and easy to walk. Through the trees I see water and a small island that appears to be a short distance from the shoreline. What a beautiful view! The road continues, running a short distance not far from the shoreline. I see two wooden chairs sitting on a knoll looking out over the water. What a perfect spot to watch an evening sunset. Walking a little farther I noticed what appears to be a bridge. I stopped to notice the meticulous stonework that has withstood decades of weathering. Continuing my hike I see the dam just ahead. What a view looking from above, at the dam and the flow of water over the dam and into the Deer River. My hike took about 45 minutes round trip. Very enjoyable but I might think twice about taking it during our bug season.



Highway Department Purchases New Loader



The Duane Highway Department recently purchased a new loader. The old loader was 25 years old and still had some trade in value. During the course of a year the front-end loader is used to perform a variety of tasks. The new loader is larger and should make many of those jobs easier to complete.

First Annual Duane Picnic a Success

On a warm humid evening with a power outage 40 town residents turned out for the First Annual Duane Picnic. The picnic was held at the White Church/Community Center. The Church Committee sponsored the picnic through donations and many individuals brought their favorite dish to pass. There was plenty of good food and friendly conversations filled the air. Ned LeMieux Jr. was the winner of a dart throwing contest. He was observed practicing prior to the event! Bill Brunelle did a super job cooking the hots and burgers. Many new residents appreciated the opportunity to meet neighbors. All in all everyone had a great time and felt this picnic needs to occur every year!



Historical Notes

Prepared by: Gloria Gori, Town Historian

The Two MacArthurs of McCollum's (Part 2)

Amiel McCollum worked so well together with Clarence MacArthur on their various business ventures, it was no surprise that Clarence would take over the hotel after Amiel's death. The business was doing well until March 15, 1906. A fire broke out in the cellar during the predawn. The owners and guest had to jump from second story windows to save themselves. There was no loss of life, but the building was completely destroyed and was only partially covered by insurance.

Clarence harvested trees on his property and sawed lumber in his own mill. A new hotel was built and the business prospered for the woods, lakes and streams continued to provide wild game and excellent fishing for the sportsman. Improvements had been made including a 9 hole golf course and tennis courts. A row of housekeeping cottages was built along with other service buildings. The hotel property included 600 acres of farm and timberland. During this time Earl MacArthur, the third "Mac", assisted his father. He went on to graduate from Yale. After graduation, he went on to become a Master at a Prep School in New Jersey. For several years he was in charge of the schools summer camp at Osgood Pond, later he served as interim president at the newly founded Paul Smith's College. From there he served on the faculty of Keuka College in the Finger Lakes region.

When Clarence died in 1913, Col. William Skinner of Hartford CT. bought McCollum's from the creditors. Robert Stevens managed the hotel for 4 years and then from there he went to Meacham Hotel.

In 1920, Earl regained ownership of McCollum's and operated it during the summer seasons. His mother and sister managed it the rest of the year. On June 11, 1924, fire broke out again and destroyed the entire hotel. The flames and smoke was clearly visible from the Meacham Lake Hotel. The barns, cabin and garages were saved, but the hotel was never rebuilt. In 1955 Francis Oehemke bought the property from Earl who later died May 26, 1965.

The property in 1969 consisted of 350 acres and was sold to Dr. Lawrence Sherman and Dr. Thomas Brown of Plattsburgh. Apartments were made in the former manager's cottage and rented out to married Paul Smith's students.

The three Macs had all strong and colorful personalities that gave the McCollum's the ranking as an outstanding sportsmen resort. Maitland C. DeSormo stated, "All three were industrious, genial and memorable, but the story telling prowess of Earl, last of the line, has become legendary in the Northern Adirondacks. Assuredly these were men to match the mountains."

Source: The Heydays of the Adirondacks, by Maitland C. DeSormo

Highlights from Town Board Meetings

June 20th meeting:

Absent: None

Kevin Lynch, representative from SLIC addressed the Duane Town Board and guests regarding the implementation of broadband in the Town of Duane. He described the NYS grant which will fund the project. Kevin explained that construction would likely begin in early spring of 2019 with a completion date in the summer of 2019. This service will provide phone and Internet only, not television. The board passed a motion to accept the offered property donation from Susan Serzan. The property consists of 15 acres along the shoreline of Deer River Flow. Gil Paddock spoke to the board regarding the milfoil issue in Horseshoe Pond/Deer River Flow. Gil would like to investigate the creation of a special tax district as a way to generate funds.

July 18th meeting:

Absent: None

The board passed a motion agreeing to the town paying attorney fees associated with the donation and acquisition of property from Sharon Serzan. The 15 acres are located along the shoreline of Deer River Flow.

The board agreed to grant permission to Pam LeMieux to work with Tish Biesemeyer and Burnham Benefit Advisors to discuss various health insurance options.

August 15th meeting:

Absent: None

Keith McKeever and Matt Kendall from the DEC provided the board with a presentation regarding land classifications and subdividing land plots. The explanations were very clear and the process involved to subdivide was explained. Gil Paddock addressed the board regarding the milfoil issue in Deer River and Horseshoe Pond. He is exploring the feasibility of creating a separate tax district as a way to raise needed funds.

Supervisor LeMieux informed the board that Town Historian Gloria Gori will be resigning. He asked for requests or suggestions for a replacement.

September 19th meeting:

Absent: None

The board adopted the 2019 Town of Duane Budget.

Gil Paddock addressed the board with an update on the creation of a separate tax district for Deer River Flow. At his request, Senator Betty Little has written a letter to the NY State Attorney General asking for clarification in regards to possible tax payments from the state.

The board adopted a revised Sexual Harassment Policy. It also adopted an addition to the Personal Policy related to Health Insurance Buyout for employees.

The November Town Board meeting will be moved to November 28th at 7PM.

Dates of Upcoming Meetings and Events

October 17th – Town Board Meeting at Fire Station 7 PM

October 27th – Halloween Party at Fire Station

November 28st – Town Board Meeting at Fire Station 7 PM

December 8th – Christmas Party at Fire Station

December 19th – Town Board Meeting at Fire Station 7 PM

January 16th – Town Board Meeting at Fire Station 7 PM

Election Day

Election Day is Tuesday, November 6th. Voting will take place at the Duane Fire Station from 6 AM to 9 PM. There are no local town positions on the voting ballot this November.

Successful Tag Sale at White Church

On September 8th the White Church/Community Center Committee sponsored a Tag Sale to raise funds for needed improvements to the church. The money from the sale will be used to finish the bathroom and help purchase carpeting. The committee would like to thank everyone for their support and generous donations to make this possible.

Thank You Pam LeMeiux

On June 29th Pam LeMieux officially retired from the Duane Highway Department. Her years of service to our community are greatly appreciated and the town wishes her the best in retirement.

Town Budget for 2019

At the September 19th Town Board meeting the board adopted a budget for 2019. The budget was increased by \$5,639 from the 2018 budget. The tax rate went from \$6.26 to \$6.37 an increase in the tax rate of 11 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. A home assessed at \$100,000 will see a tax increase of \$11.