

# **HILLSDALE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

## **April 2, 2008**

Our Hillsdale Town Supervisor, Art Baer, is also the new Chairman of the Board of Supervisors in the county. Since this is a very time consuming position, he has asked the Communication Committee to publish a quarterly newsletter. This will replace the bi-monthly letter he wrote in previous years.

### **THE HILLSDALE SEWER PROJECT**

Construction will begin again when the weather improves.

The New York State Office of Small Cities agreed to change the grant from affordable housing to public facilities. Therefore the town can be reimbursed for all expenses, not just those related to residents' homes.

The Hillsdale Town Board increased the budget to enable the receipt of more grants to meet the additional costs.

Larry and Bob Edelman were granted \$170,000.00 (minus the amount previously paid to them) as the total value of the land used for the sewer treatment facility and their adjacent property. The Court considered two residential homes to be the best use of the remaining property, rather than affordable housing the town recommended.

### **THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

John Florio and Peter Goldman are no longer employed as Code Enforcement Officers for the town. John left in February, and Peter resigned effective March 6. Peter Wurster, a CEO from Hudson, has agreed to do all the apartment inspections and Ed Ferratto has increased his hours in order to do building inspections, as well as his duties as Zoning Enforcement Officer. Theresa Kisselbrack and Ruth Dodds are completing the necessary paper work involved. The Town Board is very grateful to all four people for their efforts and commitment to the town.

## **THE ROELIFF JANSEN PARK**

The new park, located on Route 22 one-half mile south of the town line, will open on May 31, 2008. Caroline Stewart is the chairperson of the park steering committee.

One hundred thirty-seven acres will remain farmland. The Markrista Organic Farm will rent twenty acres and Berkshire Valley Dairies will work the remaining acreage. There will be no cattle grazing on the property. The \$17,000.00 rental fees will be used for park planning and developing.

Volunteers came with their chain saws on Sat. March 29 to remove dead trees. Additional workdays are scheduled for April 12 and 26. Volunteers are needed to trim bushes and mark walking and hiking trails.

## **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW**

The Steering Committee of the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee met recently, and Tom Carty, Chairman, reported to the Town Board on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee is researching grants for an Aquifer study. The cost is estimated at \$8,000.00. The study will discover and analyze the location and amount of the underground water supply in the town. This knowledge is essential for planning future development.

The Hamlet Subcommittee has written a Request for Proposal for a hamlet planner. Volunteers are needed on April 5<sup>th</sup> to help pick up litter left from the wintertime.

The Scenic Overlay Subcommittee is meeting with people of surrounding towns to learn how they regulate the ridgeline.

## **HERITAGE PRESERVATION**

On Saturday, March 15, the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area sponsored an event on Route 71 near the New York Massachusetts border to celebrate the unveiling of the restored marker on the historic Henry Knox Cannon Trail. The trail extends from Fort Ticonderoga to Dorchester Heights, near Boston. The event featured Revolutionary War re-enactors, and the Fort Ticonderoga Fife and Drum Corps. This was part of a project to conserve the New York State Knox Trail monuments.

## **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

The large amount of rainfall in March has increased the amount of material needed for surfacing the unpaved roads. Richard Briggs, Highway Superintendent, hopes to receive multi-modal funds from the state to help defray the cost to the town.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the town Clean-up Day. All Hillsdale residents can bring their trash (no garbage or toxic substances please) to the town garage. It will be taken to the Barbato transfer station, with no charge to the individual residents.

A new Renewable Energy Committee has been established to determine possible ways for the town to conserve energy. Volunteers are welcome. Call Bob Kessler or Pat Baer.

The Town Board agreed to purchase a new security system for the town hall. It will be installed by A-1 Security from Great Barrington.

Look for more news on July 1!!!