



FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

July – September 2016

As I sit here to write my newsletter, I can't believe how fast the summer has gone and how closely winter is approaching. We are dealing with the usual issues at the county—the airport, the railroad, Siemens issue at Westmount and the geothermal at the county center. We appointed Joanne Conley as Director of Tourism, changed our Insurance broker from Capital to Jaeger & Flynn Associates and authorized compensation to our board chairman for the additional workload related to the duties of acting county administrator. In July I attended the Inter County meeting which was held in St. Lawrence County at the Ranger School. The School is located in a beautiful area in Wanakena, N. Y. and is the largest forestry/conservation/outdoor facility in the country. It has a staff of 6 faculty members who train approximately 50 rangers a year, of which 90% reside in NYS. They train about 50 rangers a year of which 90% reside in New York. The school has 6 faculty members and is the largest forestry conservation/ outdoor facility in the country. From there we went to a defunct County-owned industrial site with several buildings that were erected in the 1940's, but have not been operational since 1977. They closed basically due to a million gallon spill there over the years of the operation of J & L Steel. Today EPA officials are on site still getting it cleaned up. The Benson Mines are on this 3300 acre site. It was once the largest iron ore open pit mine in the world. Due to the ground water seeping up, it is now a huge lake that is 350-500 feet deep. What a spectacular view from the hills above! J & L Contractor is working to crush mountain sized piles of iron ore/stone materials for eventual transport by the adjacent railroad. The railroad is being refurbished through a \$10 million REDC grant awarded to the county and is critical to regional economic development. It definitely was a worthwhile day, however a very long one (7am until 5pm).

I need some input from you. I have contacted a company who will come remove Freon from air conditioners, refrigerators, dehumidifiers. Removal of the Freon from AC will be \$1 and they will take the AC away. They will remove Freon from refrigerators and it will cost you \$7.00. We would be able to have Casella haul them away. If this is a service you are in need of, please contact the front office at the CC -543-6161 and let Bertha know. Also, as a reminder, the county will be doing a hazardous waste collection again next year.

On the town level we have a few projects. Highway, with assistance from Warren County Soil & Water are working on ditch stabilization on Battle Hill Road, ditch and basin stabilization at Pudding Island, outfall stabilization and upsize culvert pipe on Silver Bay Road and planting a bio-retention area and drywell at the highway garage. Through a lot of effort on Steve Ramant's part we will be getting cable completed in the town. We had to replace the deep well pump down at the park this summer. Sunday, August 21st about 300 cyclists who are part of the Cycle Adirondacks biked down Graphite Mt. and made a pit stop at our park for water and snacks before continuing on their journey to Ticonderoga where they spent the night. They were impressed with the park and the lake. I talked to several who traveled from Chicago, Alaska, Saratoga, New Jersey as well as New York. For many this was their first time and for others it was the second year they participated. It is a week long trek where they average 60-65 miles a day. They started on Sunday from Hadley-Lake Luzerne, stopping in Ticonderoga for the night, then on to Keeseville, Saranac Lake, Lake Placid, Indian Lake, and Northville and ending up back in Hadley-Lake Luzerne next Saturday. They get 3 catered meals a day, free live entertainment at night, beer and wine, free baggage service and lodging shuttles. It was a great opportunity for them to see our town and perhaps come back to visit.

Our county board meeting on August 19th was just routine –awarded bids for tourism for printing and advertising, authorized agreement with MC Environmental to remove, transport and dispose of sludge from county owned bulk storage tanks, approved several public works agreements for road work, bridge repairs, declared Warren County SEQRA lead agency for the runway 1 extension at the airport and awarded bids and authorized agreements with several contactors and construction companies for the court addition and court renovation.

On August 18th we held a public meeting to begin to lay out our community roadmap that sets the future direction of Hague. We had at least 90 people in attendance. After a brief discussion on what we were attempting to do with our comprehensive plan we broke into working groups to discuss the needs and challenges and then list the solutions and actions to be taken. It was a good evening with lots of discussions and ideas. We are awaiting a summary from the LA Group and what would be the best way to keep the momentum going.

My husband and I had a much needed vacation traveling for a couple of weeks in September to Tennessee, Virginia and Pennsylvania. Not only did I get to recharge my batteries but really enjoyed seeing what's happening in other parts of our country. I learned upon my return that the Oktoberfest was a great success. The Director of Warren County Tourism attended and raved about what a great time she had. I want to give a big thank you to all those involved with making it such a success.

As I finish this off I am gazing out the window at the leaves that are an abundance of colors. Take a ride down the backside of Graphite Mountain to see the splendor of fall or a ride to the overlook at the foot of Tongue Mountain. Soon they will fall and the days of winter will be upon us.

Remember to VOTE on Election Day November 8th!

A good exercise is to try to approach a single day without expectations. Don't expect people to be friendly. When they are not, you won't be surprised or bothered. If they are, you'll be delighted. Don't expect your day to be problem-free. Instead, as problems come up, say to yourself, "Ah, another hurdle to overcome."