

SELECT BOARD REPORT

A Review of 2007 and a Look Towards 2008

There has been much activity in the Town of Lyndon in 2007 as a result of efforts of elected and appointed officials, employees, and many volunteers. All working together have been able to accomplish a variety of projects for the benefit of the townspeople. These same groups also have significant plans for 2008.

The major activities with regards to our physical infrastructure in 2007 include:

- York and Cross Streets were reconstructed and newly paved after the completion of the water system upgrade. Portions of the sidewalk were reconfigured and are to be reconstructed in 2008.
- Conversion of McGoff Hill Road from gravel surface to asphalt was accomplished in an effort to better serve Lyndon State College and the surrounding neighborhoods by eliminating the ravages of mud season.
- “Class A” sludge certification was achieved at the wastewater treatment plant. This allows disposal of the solids in any location we have a willing recipient. There will be no additional testing or application monitoring required in the future. Engineering design continues to significantly upgrade the processing plant.
- The Lily Pond Road Bridge was rehabilitated with abutment reinforcement and a new deck. The access off the bridge onto Route 114 was widened to allow safer turning movements for the school busses.
- The \$100,000 voter approval to bond for a new emergency/hazmat fire truck resulted in a successful matching federal grant of \$50,000. The truck has been ordered and should be on the road by spring of 2008.
- The gymnasium received a much needed paint job. The work of the Corrections Department work crew has brightened every user’s day.

Highlights regarding staffing include:

- A special commendation goes to Officer James Hemond who completed the Vermont Police Academy certification as a full-time officer.
- Rob Nutting continues to skillfully manage the highway department. The workforce has been stable at six full time crew members and a winter plow driver. The department delivers the best quality in the kingdom to the traveling public.
- A new part-time position was added to the Clerk’s staff to administer the new website and allow time to perform increased human resource duties.
- The Select board approved offering Health Savings Account incentives to employees as an alternative to traditional health insurance coverages. Of the 17 eligible employees, 9 elected the HSA, saving the town \$15,581.

Highlights of Governing issues include:

- Two new Selectmen were chosen in 2007. Kermit Fisher was elected to serve a 3- year term and Kevin Calkins a 1-year term.
- Our Planning Commission has followed a detailed schedule and has nearly finished its draft of a new town plan. The public hearings and adoption process will be completed during 2008.
- The committee reviewing Ancient Roads has completed research up to 1927 and now must do field visits to confirm those findings. New members are needed and welcomed.

- The Select Board completed a contract renewal with Myer's Trucking, the successor to Vermont Hauling, our former curbside trash contractor. Myer's bought out Vermont Hauling in mid 2007.
- The issue of ATV use on certain town roads was addressed by establishing the first (and very short) transit zone on Buchler Road. Future requests will be done on a case by case basis.
- The 5-year Intermunicipal Police Agreement between the town and village expired. A renewal for 2008 was approved by the town and village boards.

Official town support for initiatives carried on by others has resulted in significant positive developments that benefit us all. These include:

- Continued availability of funds through Gilman Housing Trust for housing rehabilitation efforts for low income residents
- \$260,000 in grant funding to assist Gilman Housing Trust's purchase of The Maple Ridge Mobile Home Park to assure long-term rent stabilization.
- The completion of a study and design for an early childhood development center to be located at Lyndon State College will now focus on funding.
- An additional \$30,000 in funding for the PAL project engineering.
- Lyndonville Rotary's successful grant for \$30,000 to establish a "riverwalk" along the Passumpsic River on land owned by Lyndon Institute.
- NVDA has completed an electrical consumption and needs analysis for the industrial park and adjacent businesses to recommend cost saving measures to benefit our manufacturers.

We anticipate the major activities and objectives for 2008 to include:

- Continuing work on redesign of Broad Street led by the Agency of Transportation, which has appropriated \$500,000 for preliminary engineering. We will seek considerable local input in order to resolve this growing problem area.
- The pedestrian bridge behind the municipal building will be further enhanced to ensure its continued utility.
- Voters will be presented with the option of designating a different funding mechanism for the Police Department beginning in 2009.
- Review and adoption of a new Town Plan will be accomplished. This will be followed by development of supporting zoning bylaws.
- The town's website will be further developed in order to provide another avenue for needed public information.

It takes the efforts of many to keep our community running smoothly and successfully. We are blessed with positive minded, interested citizens. Your attention to community affairs and help in defining solutions to problems are a significant part of the success of our community. As always we solicit your input.

Sincerely,
The Lyndon Select Board:

Marty Feltus, Chair
Kermit Fisher
Kevin Calkins