
RICHFORD QUARTERLY

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July - Sept. 2011

FROM THE SUPERVISOR

Summer can be a busy time in Richford. There are parties and reunions at the Rawley Park pavilion. The rental fees that the Town collects is an important source of revenue. An infant bucket swing seat that was defective was replaced and fallen trees were removed at the park. The Town provides support for the Summer Youth Program, Community Auxiliary and the Northern Tioga Neighbor To Neighbor Program and also supports the Potato Festival in September. The Town received a grant from New York State for the purchase of new chairs for the town court and also a check for over \$3,500 to help maintain full value assessment. New York State continues to reduce aid to local governments, in particular highway aid.

TOWN BOARD NEWS

May 10, 2011

The regular Town of Richford Board meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. All Board members were present except for Councilwoman Brown. Five townspeople were also in attendance. The minutes of the April 12, 2011 meeting were presented and approved.

The Town Clerk's and Supervisor's reports for April 2011 were presented. The Highway Superintendent's report for April 2011 was given. Mr. Holt stated that paint and undercoating was done on trucks and all trucks were inspected. They are starting on road work. Mr. Holt also informed the Board of the damage done at Rawley Park. A Code Enforcement Report, Dog Control Report and a Justice Court report for April 2011 were presented. The amount collected from the Justice Court for April 2011 was \$5,320. A Town Planning Board report was given. They continue to work on the Town Comprehensive Plan. The Town Newsletter can be sent via email if so requested.

June 14, 2011

The regular Town of Richford Board meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. All Board members were present except for Councilman Miller. Eight townspeople were also in attendance. The minutes of the May 10, 2011 meeting were presented, amended and approved as amended. The Town Clerk's and Supervisor's reports for May 2011 were presented. The Highway Superintendent's report for May 2011 was given. Mr. Holt stated that he has purchased two secure storage containers for use at the Town Highway Garage. When there is no rain, work is being done on roads (Rockefeller, Tubbs Hill and then Barden). Sand and stone is also being hauled. Mr. Holt attended 3 days of

highway school at Cornell. At the school Mr. Holt learned that CHIPS money can no longer be used for resealing roads -- whatever is done with CHIPS money must last 10 years. He also learned that the State does not require a bid on any purchase up to \$20,000. Supervisor Wilcox reminded Superintendent Holt that the Town does have a procurement policy. Mr. Holt also discussed rebuilding the holding cage/area for used metal with blocks. A Code Enforcement Report, Dog Control Report and a Justice Court report for May 2011 were presented. The amount collected from the Justice Court for May 2011 was \$5,032.

July 12, 2011

The regular Town of Richford Board meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Supervisor Wilcox. All Board members were present. Five townspeople were also in attendance.

Doug Barton, EDP Director-CPOC and member of TING (Tioga Investigates Natural Gas), was present and discussed the Natural Gas Exploration & Development Municipal Resource Binder. The copy of this report can be signed out at the Town Clerks office.

The minutes of the June 10, 2011 meeting were presented and approved. The Town Clerk's and Supervisor's reports for June 2011 were presented. The Highway Superintendent's report for June 2011 was given. Mr. Holt stated that he had purchased the blocks for the storage area for metal at a lower price than anticipated. The truck sold at auction for \$5611. The crew will move to Barden Road next for road work. Gravel making is also being done. Mr. Holt also reported that he met with Mr. Pendell at Rawley Park to determine the location of the septic tank. It appears that it is located under the playground, but the specific location is still unknown. Superintendent Holt will have sand taken to Rawley Park for horseshoe pits. A Code Enforcement Report, Dog Control Report, and Justice Court report for June 2011 were given. The amount collected from the Justice Court for June 2011 was \$5,435. A Town Planning Board report was given. They continue to work on the Town Comprehensive Plan. The meeting was adjourned 9:15 p.m.

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

NOTE: the regular Town Board Meeting will moved to September 20, due to the Primary Election being held at the Town Hall on September 13th. A Public Hearing for the Proposed Property Identification Law will be held at 7:00 p.m.. Copies of the proposed law can be obtained from the Town Clerk during regular office hours or at www.richfordny.com. The rescheduled Town Board Meeting will start after the hearing. Town Hall, 7 Bowery Lane, Richford. This is an Open Public Meeting.

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19th ANNUAL POTATO FESTIVAL

The Richford Historical Society is busy planning their part of this year's 19th annual Potato Festival. We are expanding our children's activities this year to include a bounce house, story tellers, a potato derby contest, a mashed potato eating contest (adults can participate in this as well!), Potato Princess and Mr. Tater Tot contests, and coloring contest. There will be a "honk" band making one of their first appearances! As well, Mike the Magician and Cayuga Twister will be back to entertain! We will also have the quilt show, face painting, bell ringing, a living history civil war exhibit, a silent auction, new Richford historical exhibits, presentations regarding potatoes by Professor Halseth from Cornell, and last, but not least, POTATOES!!

The bounce house, mashed potato contest, potato derby, and bell ringing each costing \$1. You can register for the mashed potato contest and potato derby the day of the potato festival. Derby cars must be made out of potatoes (and can be made the day of the festival). For the Potato Princess and Mr. Tater Tot contests, there will be a \$3 entrance fee and you can register until 9:30 a.m. on the day of the festival. All entrants must be between the ages of 5-8 as of September 17, 2011. Registration forms for this contest will be available on the bulletin boards at the health center and the post office soon and are available at www.richfordny.com. Please mail completed forms to the Richford Historical Society, 66 Robinson Hollow Road, Richford NY 13835 by September 1, 2011.

Other planned activities for the Potato Festival include, a breakfast featuring potato pancakes at the Fire Station, potato doughnuts at the Town Hall (Community Auxiliary), multiple activities at the Health Center; potato soup, potato salad and other foods with musical entertainment at the Congregational Church. A used book sale sponsored by the Berkshire Library on the lawn of the Graded School.

If you have any questions or would like to help with the potato festival on September 17, 2011, please contact Bill Sherwood @ (539-6283) or Kellie Campbell @ (539-6505), kecampbell@frontiernet.net. There are lots of things you could do – anything from serving food to running a game, set up, clean up, etc. Planning meetings are scheduled for August 22, 2011 and September 12, 2011. All meetings are at the graded school house in Richford at 7 p.m.

VACANCIES

The Town of Richford currently has two vacant positions in our local government, that provide volunteers an opportunity to be involved. One seat is open on the Town of Richford Planning Board and one on the Board of Appeals.

If you are interested, please send a brief résumé to the Richford Town Board, P.O. Box 80 Richford, 13835.

TIOGA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The museum, located at 110 Front St. in Owego, still has an
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exhibit of clocks on display along with an exhibit commemorating the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Mello-Dears All-Girl Drum and Bugle Corps. At the end of August the museum will open an exhibit of quilts based on the design of quilts supplied to Civil War soldiers by the United States Sanitary Commission. The museum is open Tuesday-Saturday 10AM to 4PM.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

On Tuesday, November 8, registered Richford residents will vote for a supervisor, town clerk, highway superintendent and two town board members. The term of office for the supervisor and highway superintendent is two years; town board members serve for four years. Information about local candidates will be included in the October - December newsletter.

Any independent nominating petition must be filed at the Board of Elections from August 16-23, 2011. A name for any independent party needs be created.

Information about registering to vote can also be obtained from the Board of Elections. Registration forms can be obtained from the Board of Elections Office, website, town clerks' offices, post offices, and libraries. The last day to register to vote in primary election is August 19; and the last day to register to vote in the general election is October 14.

Detailed information about running for an elective office or voting in can be obtained from the Tioga County website: tiogacountyny.com/departments/legislature/boe/index.php. or the Board of Elections is located at 56 Main St., Owego, NY 13827. Phone: 687-8261, toll free (877-882-8313).

ATTENTION DOG OWNERS

Please remember that all dogs 4 months and older must be licensed. When applying for a license at the Town Clerk's Office, please bring proof of current rabies vaccination (it should be good for at least one year from date of license purchase). When a dog census is done any dog found unlicensed will have a \$5.00 additional charge added to the dog license fee (\$11.00 for spayed and neutered dogs and \$20.00 for un-spayed and un-neutered dogs).

A dog census will probably be done in September. If you have any questions regarding dog licensing please call the Town Clerk at 608-657-8090. The Town Clerk's Office is open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 7- 9 p.m.

ASSESSMENT ROLL BOOK

Frances Butler, Assessor, has announced that the 2011 Assessment Roll Book is available at the Town Clerk's Office, for review during office hours. A copy of the books is also available at the Real Property Tax Office, 16 Court St., Owego, NY. You can also view the 2011 Assessment Roll online at <http://www.tiogacountyny.com/images/stories/PDFs/departments/real/Richford2011taxroll.txt> or go to <http://www.richfordny.com/assessment.html> and click on, 2011 Assessment Roll.

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RICHFORD SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

This six-week program started on July 6 and ended on Friday, August 12. The program was available three days a week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday, with lunch from 12 to 1 p.m. and activities from 1 to 3 p.m. Lunch was provided for ages 18 months - 18 years of age by the Owego Apalachian School lunch program. Funding for the program came from the Town of Richford, the Bassett Foundation, chicken barbeque sponsored by the Fire Department and Haefele TV Inc.. The youth program serves youth from ages 4 - 16 years.

Games, crafts, speakers, reading were among the activities planned by Director Becky Randall. Snacks and exercise activities are also part of each day's program. The Berkshire Library Books provided books funded by the Books Program, Senator Libous' Office in partnership with Morrisville State College.

A family fun night was held at Rawley Park with a dish to pass dinner, games, prizes, water fun and fire trucks from the Richford Fire Department. Thanks to Becky Randall and all who provided this enriching summer program for our local youth,

COMMUNITY AUXILIARY NEWS

A successful Kiddies Day was sponsored by the Auxiliary on Sunday July 17 at Rawley Park. Approximately 30 youngsters attended the activities. The day featured the awarding of bicycles and helmets to Richford youth. These prizes were supplied by the Auxiliary. Thanks to the Ithaca Dirt Riders and Victory Mountain Dirt Riders who supplied additional helmets so that each child attending received a helmet.

Another attraction of the day was the selection of the Queen and King of Richford: Lacey Cunningham and David Mincher. Dan the Snakeman entertained the children with his program on snakes.

Future activities planned are:

Sat., Sept. 17 Potato Festival, potato doughnuts for sale at Town (Community) Hall, 50/50 tickets on sale for a 8x10 building shed

Sat., Oct. 29 Halloween Dance

Persons interested in becoming a member of the Auxiliary should contact President Chris Craft at 844-8969.1

HEALTH CENTER NEWS

The NorthernTioga Center for Family Health serves established patients and is not a walk-in clinic or an emergency facility. It is staffed by Lynn Verduin FNP, who has served clients from the time the Clinic was first established by Lourdes Hospital. Trichelle Kirchner, FNP, has joined the staff on a part-time basis. Clinic hours are from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Friday.

Staffing at the Health Center also includes the services of Americorps service workers, provided by the Rural Health Network, Whitney Point. Emily Hotchkiss completed her time in early August and is now attending graduate school, studying for a degree in public health.

Joining the staff in June was Meghan Kielley whose assignments include assisting staff at the Health Center and answering the telephone and scheduling volunteers to meet clients' requests for transportation and other needs for the Northern Tioga Neighbors Network (NTNN). Meghan will be at the Health Center through December.

We thank Emily for her dedicated service to the Health Center and NTNN and wish her well in graduate school. We also welcome Meghan to Richford and wish her a fruitful experience in providing health care services in a rural community.

GRANT AWARDS - BASSETT FOUNDATION

The Charles H. Bassett Foundation awarded two \$500 grants to Richford this year - one grant to the Richford Summer Youth Program and the other to the Community Auxiliary to help finance the youth programs sponsored by the Auxiliary (Bike Program, dances, Easter, Halloween and Christmas activities).

The summer youth program has received grants from the Bassett Foundation for several years; the award to the Auxiliary is a first time award. The Bassett Foundation, located in Owego, has supported various programs in Tioga County for youth, with grants awarded to organizations that support the development of youth. Our appreciation and thanks to the Bassett Foundation for the awards made to our local programs and for their support over the years of other programs in Tioga County that help with youth development.

DEPARTMENT OF AGING

Tioga Opportunities, Inc., Department of Aging, is located in the Country Side Community Center, Sheldon Guile Blvd, (turn off George Street), Owego, NY. For information about programs, benefits, and services available to older adults, please contact the Information and Assistance Specialist at 1-866- 352-3680.

The Countryside Cafe has a noon meal, from 11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. for \$3.00 suggested donation for Age 60+; Under Age 60 cost \$4.50. The Office of Aging publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, (Senior Scoop) available free to seniors.

Program Long-term care under Medicaid Planning Options, Office of Aging, Sheldon Guile blvd, Owego. 9:30 - 11 a.m. Speaker: attorney. To register call 687-4120, ext. 344 or 1-866-353-3680.

CLOTHES CLOSET

The Clothes Closet, located in the Hubbard Center, has women's and children's clothing in good repair available free of charge. Clothing can be brought during open hours (6 to 8 p.m.) on the first and third Thursday of each month. Items can also be left in the large storage container located between the Health Center and the Hubbard Center. Further information can be obtained by calling 657-8254 or 657-8521. Parents will be coming soon to the Closet for school clothing for their children.

GAS DRILLING

Fresh clean water is a concern of people everywhere. On July 8, 2011 the Department of Environmental Conservation released the draft Supplementary Generic Environmental Impact Statement (dSGEIS) standards. If a drilling company follows the SGEIS, it does not have to develop a specific Environmental Impact Statement. However, a site-specific environmental review will be required for:

- Drilling within 150 feet of a perennial or intermittent stream that is not a tributary to a public drinking water supply, storm drain, lake or pond.
- Any proposed well pad within the boundaries of a principal aquifer, or outside but within 500 feet of the boundaries of a principal aquifer.
- A proposed surface water withdrawal that is found not to be consistent with the Department's preferred methodology. In addition, The Department would not issue permits for proposed high-volume hydraulic fracturing
- At any well pad "wholly or partially within in a 100-year flood-plains."
- For wells within 500 feet of a private water well or domestic use spring, unless allowed by the owner. Distance limits on gas well pad locations are measured from the nearest edge of the well pad.

The dSGEIS also states that in order to receive a permit, the operator, at its own expense, must sample and test all residential water wells within 1,000 feet of the well pad, subject to the property owner's permission, or within 2,000 feet of the well pad if no wells are available for sampling within 1,000 feet. The Department of Environmental Conservation would require that results of each test be provided to the property owner within 30 days of the operator's receipt of laboratory results. The data must also be available to the Department and local health department upon request for complaint investigation purposes.

These proposed regulations are a good start, but additional protection will be needed to ensure that water quality and quantity in Richford are protected if and when gas drilling begins.

Town Newsletter
P.O. Box 80
Richford, NY 13835

Richford Resident
PO Box
Richford, NY 13835

Learn. Laugh. Lead... Be a Girl Scouts!

Good news for girls in 2nd and 3rd grade! A NEW Girl Scout Brownie troop will be starting up in Richford. Meetings will be held in the Richford Town Hall on Bowery Lane, Thursday's from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. the first three Thursday's of every month throughout the school year. Parent meeting and registration will be held on Thurs Oct. 6 at 6:00 p.m. and the first troop meeting will be held on Oct. 13 at 6:00 p.m. also, at the Town Hall. Do you have a kindergartener or 1st grader and want to get them involved?

Think Girl Scout Daisies. We may be starting a troop, but could use an extra pair of hands. If interested in any of the above and for more information, please contact at Vicki Davis at 657-8248 or vdavis@cornell.edu.

Note: If you have ancestors who fought in the civil war or otherwise participated in civil war activities, and have pictures, letters, or other memorabilia, please contact Jerry Marsh at jlmarsh15@frontiernet.net. He is writing a book about people in the Richford/Berkshire area who fought in the civil war and would be honored to include your relatives and their history in the book, too!

Calendar of Events

Sept. 17 Potato Festival Richford, various activities and foods at Town Hall, Congregational Church and old school.

Sept. 13 Public hearing on Proposed Property ID Law and Rescheduled Town Board Meeting, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Sept. 22, 29 Program Long-term care under Medicaid Planning Options, Office of Aging, Sheldon Guile blvd, Owego. 9:30 - 11 a.m. Speaker: attorney. To register call 687-4120, ext. 344 or 1-866-353-3680.

Sept. 21 Advisory Board Meeting, Northern Tioga Neighbors Network, 7 p.m., Hubbard Center.

Sept. 27 Diabetic Support Group, 7 p.m., see August 30 for info.

Oct. 1 Pork Dinner, Richford Congregational Church., 4-7 p.m.

Oct. 6 Food giveaway, see Sept 1 for info.

Check for more local events at www.richfordny.com