



TOWN OF COHOCTON INFORMATIONAL NEWSLETTER Vol. 2 Issue 1

This is the second newsletter we have sent out in as many years. Many people have approached the Town and thought it would be helpful if we published more information on different topics important to residents. We hope that the information included in this newsletter will let you know what is happening but also give you some facts about your Town that you might otherwise not have known about.

Topics in this newsletter include information about how to contact different offices, question and answers about the wind project, cooperative projects, and how your tax dollars are being put to use. Articles about dog control, our recreational program, and where you can get this information has been included.

The Town of Cohocton maintains a websight which is www.Cohoctonny.com which also includes this information.

We hope that this newsletter is informative and useful for you as a resident and taxpayer of our town. Your comments are always welcome.

Cohocton Town Board

COHOCTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PURCHASES THE LARROWE HOUSE

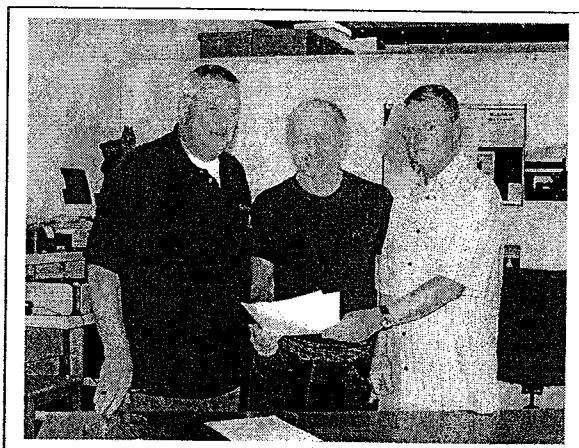
Several months ago the Town and Village boards received an offer from the Cohocton Historical Society expressing an interest in the Larrowe House. Following several back and forth proposals, agreements were reached and approved by both the Town and Village boards for the sale of the building and some of the grounds for the Society. The thought behind this is that they could seek funds for preservation of the

building and set up a special building fund to which people could contribute.

As you may recall, \$150,000 was received from the wind project for the sole purpose of such preservation. That money, coupled with other monies, which can be raised, could help restore the building (inside and out) to its original condition.

Under the agreement if for some reason the building and grounds are no longer of use to the Historical Society, the building and grounds revert back to the Town and Village of Cohocton. The agreement also preserves the use of the grounds for use by the CDC for the annual Fall Foliage Festival. The gazebo and grounds remains under ownership of the Town and Village of Cohocton.

Final sale of the Larrowe House to Historical Society took place on August 21, 2009. With this done, we all believe that this is a win, win situation for the Historical Society, and the Town and Village of Cohocton, and for the people of Cohocton.



Above: Tom Cox- Village Mayor, Ron Towner President- Cohocton Historical Society and Jack Zigenfus- Town Supervisor transferring deed of the Larrowe House.

DOG CONTROL INFORMATION

The Towns of Cohocton and Wayland work together for its dog control program. The dog pound is located just behind the Wayland Town Highway Department. Wayland and Cohocton have been working together on the costs of running the pound. Wayland contracts with Cohocton for a dog control officer. Mike and Deb Matthews are the control officers and they can be contacted by calling either (585)384-9501 or (607)661-0727. This joint effort has been very beneficial to both towns.

If a dog has been picked up it is taken to the Wayland pound where it is held until one of the following occurs: The owner claims the dog. All dogs are held for 10 days.

- Adoption after 10 days. We work with hometown Heroes, a group of students from Wayland-Cohocton School who try to find homes.
- Euthanasia is a last resort.

Please be sure to keep an identification tag on your dog so that if it is picked up, it makes redemption easier and faster. It is also important to remember that in order to pick up your dog, it must have a license and had up-to-date rabies shots. Also as a reminder we hold free rabies clinics two times a year in Cohocton and Wayland.

The current pound is over 20 years old and in need of some major repairs. Wayland and Cohocton will be working together to make sure that the facility is adequate for the safety and well being of the dogs that are held there. If you wish to make donations please feel free to. Items such as old sheets, bones, chew sticks, large water bowls, used toys, balls, leashes and collars are always needed. Please contact the dog control officer at the above number if you would like further information.

EMS CONSOLIDATION COHOCTON-WAYLAND-ATLANTA- NORTH COHOCTON FEASIBILITY STUDY

Back in December 2008, the Towns, Villages, fire departments, and the Atlanta North Cohocton Fire District got together and applied for a Local Government Efficiency Grant from the New York State Dept. of State. The purpose of the grant was to undertake a feasibility study to identify cost savings, productivity enhancements, which would result in much improved ambulance service. Some of the goals are to help make ambulance service (especially during the daytime hours) more efficient. Reducing response times, availability of EMS personnel, and increased cooperation are key objectives.

The grant was successful for the "Cohocton-Wayland-Atlanta-North Cohocton EMS Feasibility Study". The grant amount was \$23,274.00. Over the past several months the town supervisors and the village mayors have met with the fire chiefs and key ambulance personnel to discuss the needs and the grant. At our last meeting it was decided that each municipal entity and each fire department would form a steering committee to help work on the grant.

We look forward to the completion of the study and its findings and hope that it will lead to better ambulance service, especially during daytime hours when many of our emergency medical technicians are either working or not available. It has become increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers to serve as EMT's due to the fact that training standards have become more rigorous and time consuming. Response times to calls suffer when personnel are not available and more time is required to redirect a call to another district, which is a critical issue in life threatening situations. We look forward to this truly cooperative effort between local governments.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE WIND PROJECT AND ITS BENEFITS

Back in August of 2007 the Town Board sent out a newsletter to all citizens of Cohocton. At that time the board explained the different aspects of the wind project and the benefits to the Town. The benefits to the Town and the plan of the Board were to:

- Pay off the debt of the Town of Cohocton.
- Reduce Taxes.
- Provide better services and upgrade equipment.
- Restore and Preserve the "Larrowe House" and Village Green.
- Maintain adequate reserve funds.

Now, two years later, we wanted to give you an update on the economic situation of the Town and its future plans. We thought that the best way to explain some of the questions that have been asked over the last two years was to put them in a question and answer format. We have tried to cover most of the aspects of the Town financial status and how we have used your taxes and income from the wind project to best serve the needs of the Town.

Q. How much money has the Town received from the wind project in host money?

A. The Town has received \$ 1,662,500.00 in the first two years of the project.

In 2008 the Town received \$725,000.00 and in 2009 we received \$937,000.00. In addition we also received \$6443.40 from the Steuben County IDA for our share of the PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes).

Q. How has the Town used the money it received from the wind project?

A. The first thing that the Town Board did was to reduce the Town Taxes.

Over the last two years the Board used \$293,485.00 to reduce the Town Property taxes. This resulted in an average reduction in taxes of 30% in both 2008 and 2009. In 2008 we used \$173,493.00 and in 2009 we used \$119,992.00. We have no control over your County taxes, which are on the same tax bill, the reduction stated is only for the Town portion of your taxes.

The Town has also used the money for various projects and equipment improvements for the past 2 years. The Town, County, and State worked on drainage improvement project for the North Cohocton/Atlanta area. The total cost of the project was 1.7 Million dollars. The town share of this was \$115,000.00. We were able to pay this without raising taxes. Other improvements and upgrades are:

- Replaced 2 of the roofs on the pavilions at the Lawrence Parks Recreational Area and mandated by law to retrofit the large drain in the bottom of the pool with one that would not be able to hold a child down. We also made use of the park, free to all Cohocton residents.
- Purchased a new fully equipped police car at a cost of \$24,897.00.
- Purchased 2 new Highway Department snowplow trucks as a cost of \$304,000.00. These new trucks replaced ones that were over 10 years old.
- Purchased a new grader at a cost of \$185,605.00.
- Eliminated all of the Towns debt, which ended interest payments. This resulted in savings of thousands of dollars over several years.
- Replaced the roof on the Larrowe House at a total cost of \$48,078.00 of which the Town paid \$37,058.00.

Q. Is the town going to receive any other money from the project?

A. Yes, The Town has worked with First Wind to help fund road repairs. The town has worked out a highway use and repair agreement with the company. As you may know the company had to bring in heavy equipment again to repair some of the turbines. The town is going to receive money now and in future years for the maintenance of our roads. We also were able to secure \$20,000.00 for the Village of Cohocton to repave Warner Avenue that was used extensively during the project. The Town will get \$315,000.00 this year and \$100,000.00 in each of the next 3 years. This is in addition to the town's annual payments.

Q. What are the Town's plans for the future?

A. As we said from the beginning, it would not be prudent to spend all the money.

As we all know this Country and our State is in the largest financial crisis in history. As a Town, we are fortunate to have had the money income that we have during the crisis. However, no one can predict the future and we must be careful and be prepared for what might happen down the road. We must maintain reserve funds for the Town. Funds such as Highway Equipment, Building Reserves, and other such funds will help insure that we'll have some money available for future use. We are hoping to end this year with a balance of approximately \$600,000.00.

One of the major problems facing the Town at this time is the present highway facility. The building is over 50 years old. We recently had Labella Associates look at the building and give the board a report on it. They advised us that the building is in need of some major repairs including some that would be required to make it OSHA compliant. We will have to either repair or replace the building at a cost of over one million dollars.

Town Clerk News

On June 1, 2009, the town clerk office moved from its former location in the Larowe House to its new location at the Village of Cohocton office located at 28 Maple Ave in the Village of Cohocton and at the Town Court Facility in Atlanta. Office hours are as follows:

On Monday (9-12 & 1-4), Wednesday (9-12), Friday (9-12 & 1-4) at the **Cohocton Office**

On Tuesday (9-12 & 1-4), Thursday (9-12 & 1-4), Saturday (9-12) at the **Atlanta Office**

The clerk can be reached by calling either 384-5330 or 534-5100 ext 3 or via email at cohoctonclerk@aol.com. Hunting Licenses and Dump Tickets are available at both locations. Further information is available on the Town of Cohocton web page cohoctonny.com. We are pleased that the Village of Cohocton offered to let us share their office facility and at the same time we are pleased that the Town Clerk's office is available at both locations.

From the Files of the Town Historian

The First Presbyterian Church of Cohocton was organized on October 8, 1809 as a Congregational Society with 9 members under the direction of Rev. Abijah Warren. The first edifice was erected and dedicated on South Main Street on Feb. 3, 1830.

The present church on Maple Avenue was dedicated on November 14, 1872.

The First Presbyterian Church of Cohocton will celebrate their Bicentennial during Cohocton's Fall Foliage Festival with "open house" on Saturday and "Celebration Service" on Sunday, October 4, 2009 at 2:00 PM.

Events to Remember – Cohocton Fall Foliage Festival (October 2- 4, 2009). For more information see the website at www.fallfoliagefestival.com

A special thanks to Geraldine Deusenbery and Sandy Riley for their extra time and effort in putting this newsletter together.

**LAWRENCE PARK
RECREATIONAL AREA
SUMMER PROGRAM**

The Cohocton Summer Program was very busy this summer even though the weather was not the best. There was an average of 60-80 students attending the six week program. Students were offered crafts, games, and participated in swim lessons.

This season the Summer Program director of the park collaborated with the Wayland-Cohocton Central School on a new venture, an Enrichment Program that ran for four weeks. The students of the Wayland Cohocton District had the opportunity to attend educational programs in Science, Gourmet Cooking, Nutrition and Language Arts to name a few of the courses that were offered.

Two days a week students were bussed to the park so that the students could participate in the Summer Program. During the last week, Summer Olympics were held. All students had an opportunity to participate in land and water activities like potato sack races, Frisbee throw, spoon and egg relays, and water activities such as noodle races, wet clothes exchange relay and the greased watermelon race. Students received certificates for their swimming accomplishments and a pizza party for all participants.

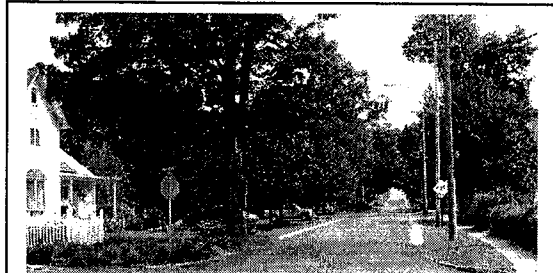
The Avoca Central School brought their Summer Program to the Park on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays for the season to participate in swimming lessons and to use the other facilities our park has to offer. An average of 75 students attended daily for their four week program.

**VILLAGE RECEIVES \$20,000.00
TO FIX TRAFFIC DAMAGED
STREET**

A couple of months ago, mayor Tom Cox, Village street and water supervisor Leon Sabins and Supervisor, Jack Zigenfus looked at Warner avenue relating to repairs that were needed due to heavy construction traffic. It was a major route from State Route 371 to County Road 35.

Jack and Tom worked with First Wind to come up with a solution to help the Village pay for the repaving of the street. The Town made an offer to First Wind that it was willing to take \$20,000.00 out of the Towns first year road repair money and give it to the Village.

The Town had to renegotiate that with First Wind because the law does not allow the Town to simply give money to the Village. The Mayor and Supervisor believe that this is just another example of how the Town and Village work together to help each other out. On many occasions, the Town and Village help each other out when one or the other needs help with equipment or manpower. The road has been repaired and paved and should be in excellent condition for some years.



Warner Avenue repaired

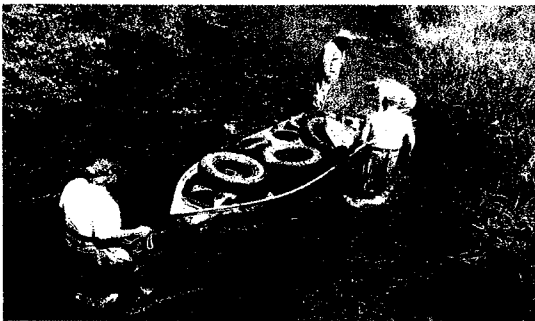
Town of Cohocton Newsletter



Lawrence Parks Recreation Area Pool



Summer Recreation Program



Cohocton River Cleanup



Trouts Unlimited Cohocton River Cleanup



Sidewalk Replacement in Atlanta



Mill Street Road Project



**Village and Town Clerks Relocation
next to Cohocton Post Office**



HANDING OVER THE KEY
Dave Simolo, Ron Towner, Janice Sahrle
Jack Zigenfus, Bill Mehlenbacher

COHOCTON SHINES ON RIVER CLEAN-UP PROJECT

By Tom Cox

Cleanup and restoration of five miles of the Cohocton River took place on August 1st and 2nd of this year. The project started at the DEC fishing area on Route 371 and ended at Jones Road. On Saturday, 79 volunteers showed up and 47 more on Sunday. They traveled the river either by boat or walking the banks, cleaning debris as they went. This was probably the single largest clean up project that has ever been undertaken of this type.

It started by the Town being contacted by the Canandaigua chapter of Trout Unlimited asking if we would be partners. We have been meeting for months on the plans. Many logistical issues had to be worked out. We needed boats, boat trailers, gators, food, emergency personnel on standby, transportation of the volunteers, places to haul the debris to and trucks to pick it up and dispose of it properly. All of these were worked out by having many meetings over several months.

This was a complete partnership all the way. Organizations, including volunteers were: NYS DEC, All Cohocton Churches, SAL Post No. 805, Cohocton Lions Club, WCCS, Cohocton Sports Boosters, Cohocton Development Corp., Town and Village Highway Dept.s and the Cohocton Fire and EMS service. Special thanks goes out to Grant Wallace and Alan Moore for all the time they put into this great project.

In talking to Al Kraus of Trout Unlimited, he said that he was totally amazed at the huge community turnout and support. He hopes that in the future we can continue with another project for the Cohocton River.

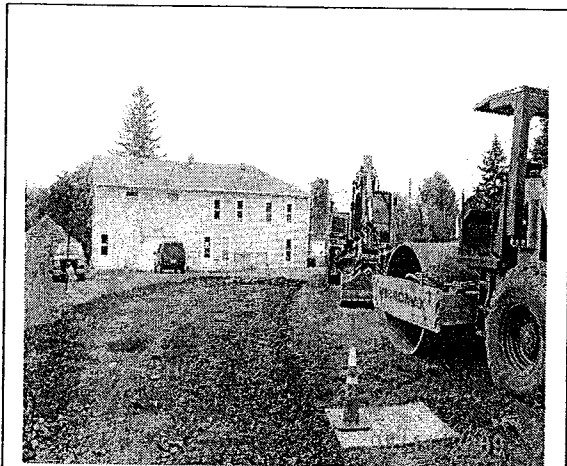
Highway Department Report

The Highway Department has been very busy with many projects this season. The work has been finished on McClean Hollow and Ryan Hollow Roads by surface treating approximately 1 ½ mile of road. This was a C.H.I.P.S. project with a cost of approximately \$67,000.00.

There are plans to re-gravel the North end & South end of Pine Hill Road & Moore Road yet this season. This will involve renting more trucks to haul gravel for the 3 7/10ths mile of road. It is estimated it will take a month to complete the project at a cost of \$216,000.00.

Some of the highway work will be contracted out on Dutch Hill & Davis Hollow Road. The roads will be ground down & reshaped this year with a cost of approximately \$60,000.00 and a minimum of 1 week to do the work.

The Mill Street project in Atlanta is scheduled to be paved at the end of September.



Removing the curve of Mill Street, Atlanta

**TOWN UPDATE
ENCLOSED**

**TOWN OF COHOCTON
PO BOX 327
COHOCTON, NY 14826-0327**

ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS – TOWN AND VILLAGE

Supervisor Jack Zigenfus
585-534-5100 (ext.4)

Town Board Jeff Wise (Deputy)
Wayne Hunt
Milt LeVesque
Joe Dyckman

Town Clerk Sandy Riley
585-384-5330, 585-534-5100(ext.3)

Highway Supt. Thomas Simons
585-384-5290

Justices Ronald Snyder
Hal Graham
585-534-5100 (ext. 2)

Assessors Joanne Damboise,
Dave Domm
Mark Densmore
585-534-5100 (ext.6)

Planning Board
Ray Schrader (Chairman)
Arnold Brunswick Freda Feely
Ted Walker Thomas Carey
David Harrold Steve Holley

Zoning Board of Appeals
Anita Putnam, Chairman
Karen Wheaton Sandy Wheaton
Terry Wilkins Andrew Wise
Clair Fairbrother Verna Barber

Historian Geraldine Deusenbery

VILLAGE OF COHOCTON OFFICIALS

Mayor Tom Cox
Trustees- Janice Sahrle (Deputy Mayor)
Dan McClure Sandy Azzi
Bonnie Burdin

Village Clerk Katie Wise
585-384-5252 Fax# 585-384-5454