

November 2014



# MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Town of Milton Vermont, 43 Bombardier Road, Milton, VT 05468  
[www.miltonvt.org](http://www.miltonvt.org) | [bpalaia@town.milton.vt.us](mailto:bpalaia@town.milton.vt.us) | 893-6655

## Manager's Report

By Brian Palaia, Town Manager

Dear Residents,

I would like to take this opportunity to share an update on some events happening in Town.

## Capital Projects

**Paving and Road Reconstruction:** The Selectboard awarded a small paving bid this month for work in proximity to the railroad crossing on Main Street and resurfacing a portion of the north bound lane on Railroad Street.

The Town also contracted to have a 500' portion of Everest Road and Algonquin Reef reconstructed; this work was approximately 80% grant funded by the State. This work was substantially completed this week.

**Route 7/Middle Road/Railroad Street Intersection Redesign:** The Secretary of the Vermont Agency on Transportation asked for additional consulting work to be done to support his decision to review which design option the Agency will support. The Regional Planning Commission has tasked a traffic consultant to complete this work.

**Park & Ride:** Last week the Town met with staff from the Vermont Agency on Transportation regarding our grant application to formalize a park and ride area with an electric vehicle charging station near the municipal complex. The Town should hear this month whether that application will be funded.

**Dog Park:** This month the Selectboard authorized a grant application to the State of Vermont to obtain 50% of the funding needed to build a dog park within Bombardier Park.

**Fleet:** The Town took receipt of its second 14 yard tandem dump truck replacement this month. An additional 7 yard dump truck is currently being built for the Town with delivery expected this winter. The Town also took delivery of a tractor that supports park maintenance. With these purchases, the Town is making steady progress on updating its aging fleet, which is expensive to maintain. These purchases were deferred when the recession was making its strongest impact on Milton.

**Solar Project:** The Town issued a request for proposals for solar net metering at Town facilities and a community solar park at the former landfill. The Town received 6 responses and will be reviewing these proposals.

**Sidewalk Projects:** The Town is currently working toward getting approvals for two state grant funded sidewalk projects. The first one, an extension of the sidewalk from Hobbs Road along McMullen to



*Town Public Works Staff Installing New Swing Sets and Border at the Playground*

Railroad Street is awaiting design approval from the State Agency on Transportation. Construction is expected in the spring. We are currently working with the railroad to also extend a sidewalk along Cherry Street to connect with Railroad Street; our engineer is currently working through some design requirements and extra costs being imposed by the railroad. The Town was also awarded a grant recently to do some scoping work to complete the sidewalk connection for the gap on Railroad Street near the crossing. In addition, the Town recently applied for a Transportation Alternatives grant to fund construction of two large sidewalk gaps on the north side of Route 7.



*Site 2 and Site 3 are the areas the Town has applied for a grant to partially fund construction sidewalks on Route 7*



## Department Updates

### Finance

**Water and sewer bills** are due November 14. You can make your tax or utility payments through the town website at <http://www.miltonvt.org/onlinepayments.html>.

**Brenda Estus** is retiring at the end of the month. We thank her for her many years of service and wish her much happiness in her retirement. We welcome Jennifer Willingham as our new Accounts Payable/Payroll Clerk.

### Public Works

The public works department has been busy **hauling in sand** to prepare for winter operations, doing road maintenance, and working on park improvements among other things. We welcome two new employees: Nicholas Barella to the water/wastewater division and Dan Sweeney to the public works division.

**If you see a problem** or area that needs service you may request service online at <http://request.miltonvt.org/request.html> or you can call 893-6030 between 8 am and 5 pm.

### Planning & Economic Development

**Route 7 Planning:** The Selectboard and Planning Commission hosted a public input session facilitated by the Regional Planning Commission at their October 6th meeting. The session focused on reviewing existing conditions and issues along the Route 7 Corridor from the intersection of Forbes Road to Main Street. The Route 7 Advisory Committee will meet in December to review feedback and potential short and long term recommendations. A second public input session will be held during the winter to discuss potential recommendations.

The Planning Commission began the process of developing a round of amendments for the **Zoning Ordinance**

this past spring. They held their public hearing on the draft in October and the Selectboard will have their public hearing on the draft amendments on November 17th at 6:00 p m in the Community Room of the Municipal Building. The Planning Commission would characterize the amendments into two general categories: 1) amendments to enhance the regulations to carry out the vision of the Comprehensive Plan and other Town plans and 2) amendments that strive to make the regulations more user friendly and understandable. The amendments to enhance, include the addition of some uses in the General Industrial (I2) district, the reworking of the bonus density section, and the addition of an Adult Oriented Business regulation, to limit the secondary negative effects that are often associated with these types of businesses.

**Have a project of your own planned?** We're here to help you do it right, so you and your neighbors can protect your real estate investment. You can reach us by phone at 893-1186.

**Home Improvement Loans:** Increased low-interest loans are now available through Milton's sponsorship of a grant application on behalf of Champlain Housing Trust. Please contact Champlain Housing Trust at 802-862-6244 or visit [www.getahome.org/loans](http://www.getahome.org/loans) for more information.

## Recreation

**Park Improvements:** The Town and Recreation Department celebrated the many improvements made to the park over the last year on October 11th including the refurbished tennis courts, a shade structure near the playground, a makeover to the field house, additional swing sets, a paved parking lot and more! Thank you to Artist Guild member Amy Cook for her energetic assistance with the field house make over.



*Selectboard members, Town Manager, and Recreation staff at the Park Improvements Celebration*

## The Spirit of Milton

The **Town of Milton** is one of 26 communities in Vermont that the Air National Guard has named a plane after. Aircraft 312 has been named the Spirit of Milton! Milton was chosen for this honor as the community in Vermont having the most men and women who serve their country in the Air National Guard.

## Upcoming Meetings

(Meetings subject to cancellation or change)

- Selectboard – November 3 & November 17 at 6pm
- Development Review Board – November 13 at 7pm
- Recreation Commission – November 12 at 6pm
- Planning Commission – November 4 & November 18 at 7pm
- Conservation Commission – November 25 at 6:30pm
- Library Trustees – November 4 at 6:30pm



The **Municipal Building** will be closed November 11th for Veterans Day and November 27th and November 28th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

**Thank you** to the elected officials, appointed Board and Commission members, volunteer fire and rescue members, and staff whose work is making Milton a better place.

## Board and Commission Positions and Vacancies

The Town is accepting applications for the following positions:

- Community Champion Awards Committee – two 1-year terms
- Development Review Board Alternates – two unexpired 1-year terms

You can download an application for these positions at

<http://www.miltonvt.org/images/pdf/files/apps/Comm-BoardApp.pdf>.

You can turn in your application to the Town Manager's Office by mail at 43 Bombardier Road or by email to [ajanda@town.milton.vt.us](mailto:ajanda@town.milton.vt.us).

