

TOWN OF NORTH HUDSON

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"HUB OF THE ADIRONDACKS"

Founded 1848

September 8, 2017

Fellow Citizens,

It's been a while since my last newsletter and I thought that I'd update you on a few of the more important issues at hand.

We've been waiting for a few months now to hear the APA's decision on the Boreas Ponds classification. I'm not sure if it will be this month or not, but hopefully no later than October. We have fought hard for proximate access to the ponds, especially for the disabled, elderly and those that just cannot walk long distances. We have also asked for a classification that would permit a wide variety of recreational opportunities, including bicycling, in an area if classified as Wilderness, would not be permitted, though horseback riding and horse and wagon would be. Following classification is the Unit Manage Plan (UMP) process which basically defines what recreations can be done and where. It's our hope that being able to access these lands with new recreational opportunities will bring more people to the area, create new business opportunities and provide a boost to the businesses that we have.

The Frontier Town project, or Gateway to the Adirondacks at Exit 29 in North Hudson as it has been dubbed, is also something that we have worked very hard for and are excited to see it begin. The Paradox Brewery will anchor the project and hopefully will be able to break ground in the next few months. Grants have been awarded and approved that will allow for the buildings along Route 9 and Frontier Town Road to be demolished. September 15th is the deadline for submittal of proposals from the private sector for the development of the area. This would be in conjunction with the DEC's plan for a camping and equestrian area. This will all take time, but my hope is that jobs will be created, new businesses will be established and our current businesses will be sustained and realize greater success.

After more than four years, it seems that we will finally have high-speed broadband available. I am hopeful that those installations will begin in the next month or two.

I also want to speak about the three propositions that you will see on the ballot this November.

Number one has to do with whether or not we should hold a convention to revise the Constitution and amend the same.

Number two has to do with the complete or partial forfeiture of a Public Officer's pension if he or she is convicted of a certain type of felony.

Number three has to do with a Health and Safety Land Bank Account that would create a 250-acre land bank that would be used for approved local municipal projects on state forest preserve in the Adirondack and Catskill State Park. Such projects could include broadband infrastructure, utility lines, highway and bridge improvements and municipal water supplies. It is important to us in the park that this amendment be approved, as it now takes an amendment to the constitution, a minimum of 2-3 years, to be able to begin these projects that would cross the forest preserve.

Lastly, and as I said above, what has been started will take a few years, longer than I have left on this term and I will not seek reelection. Because of that, I believe that it would be best for someone to come into

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these projects now and provide the continuity through the next few years to see these projects through to completion. And so, after months of thought and anguish, I have decided to retire at the end of this year. I have worked as hard as I ever have for the past 5 plus years to try to make things better for the town and you, the people who live here. I've given my all and did the best I knew how to do the things that I thought were in the best interest of our town, not only for the now, but also for the future. I'm proud of what we've accomplished and I thank all who have served on the board and have helped steer the course. Special, heartfelt thanks to Jean McKee. Without your support, this job would have been so much more difficult.

So thank you all for allowing me the privilege of serving you as your Supervisor. It's truly been an honor, sometimes painful, but well worth the ride. After nineteen years as an Assessor, Councilman and Supervisor, it's time for Claire and I to move on. We look forward to the freedom that hopefully retirement will bring and to seeing what the future holds.

Best to all,

Ron