

# TOWN OF NORTH HUDSON

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## "HUB OF THE ADIRONDACKS"

*Founded 1848*

December 18, 2015

Fellow Citizens,

As we come to the end of the year, I wanted to update you on a few of the most recent happenings that have come about.

First, as I am sure you have read the County tax rate will increase by 6.06% this year. This results in an increase from \$3.01 per thousand in assessment last year to \$3.17 this year. A property assessed at \$100,000 would see an approximate increase of \$16.00 over last year's county property tax.

The 5 towns of North Hudson, Newcomb, Minerva, Indian Lake, and Long Lake known as the Upper Hudson Recreation Hub continue to work together to gain maximum access and recreational opportunities to the former Finch Pruyn lands now owned by The Nature Conservancy. Many of these lands have already been acquired by the state with the Boreas Ponds Tract here in North Hudson remaining. We have been told that this will be sold to the State this fiscal year, no later than March 31, 2016. Even though this sale has not been completed, environmental groups have launched a media campaign advocating this area to be classified as Wilderness, the most restrictive classification. And so, negotiations have begun with all stakeholders, including the DEC Commissioner and staff, APA officials, the conservation groups, the environmental leaders and the 5 Towns being present. We support reasonable access to these lands for all, young and old, the physically fit and the disabled. We support a vast array of recreational opportunities to bring visitors to our towns and sustain those businesses we have and to create new opportunities for business growth and the creation of new jobs. We support the Wild Forest classification and will work with the DEC to create a Unit Management Plan (UMP) that will create these recreational opportunities, breath life into our struggling economies, and protect the environment. We seek the BALANCE between protecting both the environment and our local economies that has been non-existent for so many years.

As to Frontier Town, I have received many questions as to it's future. At this time, the property that was in litigation is owned by Essex County. The DEC has expressed a high level of interest as to the future of the property as it could play an important role in the success of the Community Connector Trails system they are planning. Right now the DEC is offering assistance to help the Town and County create a gateway at this site, including opportunities for enhancing public access to the site and connecting the site to

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surrounding trail systems and public land recreation opportunities. I will continue to work in trying to get this property back on the tax rolls, create new business opportunities and create jobs. It is what I have always strived for and will continue to do what is in the best interest of North Hudson, Essex County and the 5 Towns Community Connector Trail Plan. In the end, if we can create four season recreational opportunities, I believe we can become the "Gateway" to this new system.

We have completed another year of repair to our Town roads. In 2013 we were able to repave Lazy Street and Liberty Road, in 2014 we repaved Wonder View Road. This year we constructed an 8-inch asphalt base on .5 miles of Greenough Road making it ready for resurfacing next year. Additionally, we plan to do the same process on one mile of Elk Lake Road next year and each year thereafter until that road is complete. Many thanks to our Highway Department for what they have done, not only on these roads, but also on the many other projects that they work on throughout the year. We can consider ourselves very fortunate to have such an outstanding crew.

Lastly, beginning on January 19, 2016 at 6:00 PM, our regular monthly board meetings will be on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM

I'll sign off by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best in the coming New Year.

Sincerely,

Ron