

SELECTMEN'S NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2017

Greetings once again from the northeast corner office of the Lyme Town Hall. With adoption of the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget in May at the Annual Budget Meeting where the Board of Finance held our mil rate at 18.25, the Board of Selectmen felt it timely to update residents on projected road and bridge maintenance projects scheduled for this summer as well as other items which might be of interest.

Three roads are scheduled for chip sealing including: Blood Street, Beckett Hill and Salem Road. There is no time table in place as yet, but we will try to give folks as much advance notice as possible utilizing the town's web page as well as posting signage on the respective streets when dates are firmed up. Some reconditioning and drainage upgrades are also planned for a deteriorating portion of pavement in the vicinity of 138 Joshuatown Road as well as repair and painting of the Joshatown Bridge which has developed curbing and spalling issues over the past few years.

As many residents are already aware, the landfill on Brush Hill Road is now officially closed as a bulky waste site and is exclusively permitted as a transfer station which essentially means anything coming in to the facility must now be shipped out to alternative locations. The mandated transition was made possible in large measure by virtue of a \$650,000 grant from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. A new recycling option has been added as well. A compacting unit has been installed which will now provide residents with an alternative location to dispose of recyclables normally dropped off at the town garage. This is a true single stream unit and our hope is that a sufficient amount of recyclables will be diverted over time from the garage location to the landfill thus reducing escalating hauling fees which are the downside to a remarkable town wide recycling ethic. In order to maximize potential use of the new compacting system, effective July 1st, the landfill will no longer close from noon to 1 p.m. with the hope that an additional hour of operation will enhance access convenience for residents. We have also recently received word from Willimantic Waste, the firm that handles our recyclables, that plastic flower pots are no longer acceptable even though most of them are stamped with a recycling triangle. Please make an effort to put these items out with your regular household trash.

In addition to approving the budget at our May meeting, voters also blessed acquisition a significant open space parcel which should be finalized this coming fall contingent upon receipt of an Open Space Preservation Grant from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The land is situated off of Route 82 and is presently owned by the Johnston family. It is approximately 250 acres and abuts the Jewett and Pleasant Valley Preserves which ultimately will give Lyme almost one thousand acres of contiguous open space protecting both valuable wildlife habitat and sensitive Eight Mile River and Whalebone Cove aquifers.

By the time our newsletter is published, the towns of Lyme and Old Lyme will have completed the second cycle of aquatic weed treatment at Rogers Lake to get large areas of invasive milfoil and fanwort under control. Results to date have been very encouraging and there is one year left on our three year permit to treat the originally delineated impacted areas. At that point, the towns will most likely review conditions on other parts of the lake impacted by invasive weed infestation to develop new treatment protocols.

The selectmen would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Lyme Land Conservation Trust on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. We all owe its visionary members past and present a debt of gratitude for their immeasurable contribution to preserving the rural character and quality of life in our very special town. We undoubtedly would be a very different community today without the Land Trust's leadership and selfless dedication of its volunteers.

Finally, this will be the last newsletter I compose on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. I wish to thank my fellow Lyme residents for affording me the privilege to serve you all for the past twenty plus years. Speaking metaphorically, you will be getting a new "ride" beginning this July. Please, don't kick the tires too hard. As one of my early mentors John Yeomans told me upon his retirement, "it's time for someone else to take the wheel. Keep us out of the ditch" I think you will be more than pleased with the transition and ultimately find that the town is getting an upgrade. Bless you all and thanks again for your support.