



BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018

Greetings from all of us on the Board of Selectmen (BoS), where we're hoping a fine New England springtime is just around the corner. We've had our fill of winter storms. Here's what's happening in your town government ...

TOWN FINANCES. The BoS and the Board of Finance have been hard at work forging next year's budget and managing our town's financial health. Spending for the current fiscal year remains on target. Income is running slightly ahead of projections, due to progress in collecting taxes and a slightly larger-than-anticipated municipal-aid package from the state. The BoS has recommended a multi-year approach to our financial planning that sees us continuing to save for capital projects and open-space acquisitions – to help us avoid wide swings in the tax rate when pressing needs arise. We have also recommended that, when evaluating our budget plans and overall financial health, the town should focus not only on the size of our General Fund (the town's checking account), but also factor in the size of our savings and outstanding debts. We anticipate presenting another fiscally austere budget proposal this year, while continuing to plan for some inevitable spending on the town's infrastructure needs in the future.

PROPERTY REVALUATION. As required by the state and announced last August, we are reappraising all of the real estate in town to ensure property taxes are equitable. To make sure the appraisal of your home is accurate and fair, we encourage all residents to offer the appraisers from Vision Government Solutions a brief tour of the interiors of your homes when they arrive to appraise your properties.

OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION. The town is moving forward on completing its purchase of the 250-acre Johnston property – which will provide new walking trails

that connect to many of our other open spaces and offer views from the highest point in Lyme. We were fortunate to have been awarded an \$870,000 grant from the state for this acquisition – an amount which exceeded our expectations. As a result, we will be able to keep \$115,000 in our open space fund for future needs, rather than spend it on this purchase. Our open space fund enables us to get involved when a large piece of property becomes available and also improves our ability to apply for and win grants.

CEMETERY SIGNAGE. Thanks to Selectman Parker Lord, the Cemetery Commission and Bill Denow, we now have signs marking the names of all 13 of the town-owned cemeteries that are such a vital part of our history and character.

BRIDGE REPAIRS. Our crew and contractors finished repairing and repainting the Joshuatown Bridge, making welcome and noticeable improvements there.

NEW FIRE TRUCK. In late February, the town purchased a new fire truck for our all-volunteer fire company, which completes our current fleet replacement. We don't anticipate needing another new truck for approximately seven years.

SOCIAL MEDIA. As noted in "The Day," the town has launched a Facebook page to help us share news and information more widely with residents – as well as an Instagram page where residents are welcome to share photos of life in Lyme. You can follow the town online at: www.facebook.com/townnoflymect and www.instagram.com/townnoflymect.

QUARTERLY QUESTION

Q: We're thinking about putting an addition onto our house this summer. What permits or applications do we need?

A: To begin the process, download a Zoning Permit application from the town website, fill it out completely and file it with the Town Clerk at Town Hall, weekdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Zoning Enforcement Officer Bernie Gigliotti will review your application and determine which other permits, if any, you may need to apply for; walk you through the approval process for your project; and identify the fees your home-improvement project will entail. (Depending upon the nature of your planned addition, you may be asked to submit other applications during the approval process – for a building permit, wetlands permit, zoning variance request or other specific permits.) Bernie works out of Town Hall on Mondays and Tuesdays, from 9 a.m. till noon, and can be reached at zoning@townlyme.org.

To submit a question for possible inclusion in a future newsletter, please send your question, along with your name and contact information, to: AsktheLymeBoS@gmail.com.

From all of us on the BoS, thank you for reading – and we look forward to seeing you at the Town Meeting in May.

—Steven Mattson



**BOARD OF
SELECTMEN'S
NEWSLETTER**
Spring 2018



In late February, the town purchased a new fire truck for our all-volunteer fire company, which completes our current fleet replacement.

RETURN ADDRESS:

Board of Selectmen
Lyme Town Hall
480 Hamburg Road
Lyme, CT 06371
860-434-7733

Board of Selectmen:

Steven Mattson, *First Selectman*
Parker Lord, *Second Selectman*
John Kiker, *Third Selectman*

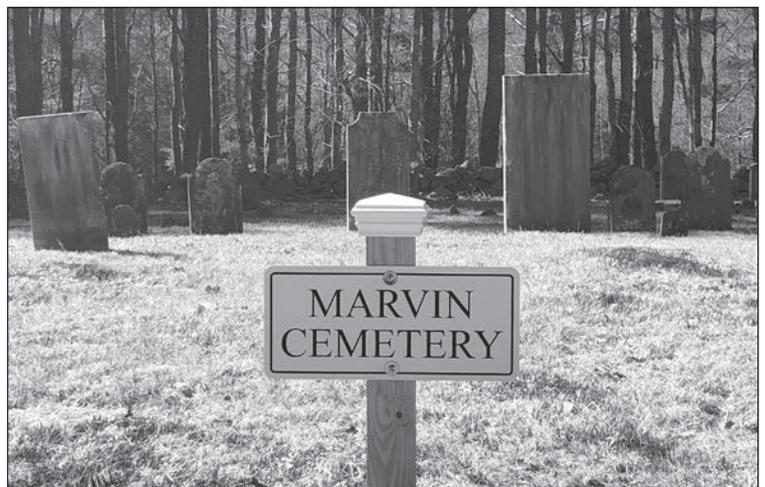
Connect with Us Online

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep abreast of the latest news and information from the Town of Lyme, Connecticut.

(www.facebook.com/townoflymect)



(www.instagram.com/townoflymect)



Thanks to Selectman Parker Lord, the Cemetery Commission and Bill Denow, we now have signs marking the names of all 13 of the town-owned cemeteries that are such a vital part of our history and character.