

Continuing down the path to “normalcy”

We are optimistic at Town Hall that we will continue to travel down the path towards “normalcy,” as vaccinations are given, and herd immunity increased.

With that, pavilion reservations are open to the public started March 1st at our Town Hall. Social distancing and mask wearing will be required upon entering, as well as temperature checks and visitor sign-in. Again, this is preemptive, assuming that county and state restrictions continue to move in a favorable direction when the warmer weather breaks. If for whatever reason, the county or state requires us to keep the pavilions closed, you will be immediately notified.

In addition to this opening, I am hopeful there will be more events and gatherings throughout the year. When canvassing our Town’s service organizations many are on a “wait and see” hold before committing to our large spring and summer events. The American Legion is planning on their parade in conjunction with the Clarence Rotary Club and the dedication for the new Clarence Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day.

Unfortunately, it seems that the Rotary Lobsterfest, slated for early summer will be cancelled this year, which normally hosts about 600 people.

In last week’s Bee you may have read about many new projects being sent to the Planning Board for review. The Town Board was not receiving projects due to COVID restrictions for meetings of any type since last March. A few weeks ago, 50 percent occupancy was allowed for in-person meetings, so the Board started moving projects forward that were on hold for many months to start clearing up the backlog of projects.

Even though all Town meetings are by zoom, the Town wanted the option of in person meetings if necessary. Jonathan Bleuer and the Planning office were reviewing projects for months in advance of Town Board presentation. To save lost time the Planning Department guided the applicant to what the Town Board would expect before moving the project to the Planning Board.

The Town has witnessed much more participation by public in Zoom meetings than pre-pandemic meetings due to the convenience of not coming to Town Hall to voice an opinion on a project. Pre-pandemic meetings were averaging no more than 10 residents in attendance. Last week’s Planning Board zoom meeting had a record 54 people attendance. For the Town, zoom may remain in the future due to the convince for residents to easily participate.

I would like to once again thank everyone for their patience while we navigate conducting business during COVID. We have been doing our best to adapt – with the goal of keeping everyone safe, while also continuing to move business forward as much as possible.

On a final, unrelated note, please remember that during winter months, there is a restriction for overnight parking on Clarence streets. Our Highway Department did an outstanding job with snow removal during the heavy snow during this past month. Having cars parked on the streets make an already difficult job even more difficult. Please also make sure that when removing snow from your driveway, that it is cleared off of the road and is also not pushed to the lot across the street. In addition to these measures being in place for our Highway Department, it also dramatically helps the safety of our residents that may be enjoying the outdoors.