



Village District of Eidelweiss

News from the Board of Commissioners

July 2001

THE HEAT IS ON - SO ITS TIME TO HIT THE BEACHES

Summer's here and the temperatures are soaring to a degree we have almost forgotten about. The ponds are full, the canoes racks are loaded and the water is warming up. The basketball courts are newly striped and painted. There are new rafts in all the ponds and barbecue grills are on sale everywhere. All kinds of events are scheduled for the Valley this summer so if you are here, it's time to enjoy the North Country. And if you are not, then life's a drag isn't it?

A SUMMIT MEETING

One of the best attended meetings in the District in recent months was an assembly of the gardening enthusiasts at the Scenic Vista to discuss how best to spend the \$1,000 appropriated at the District Meeting for landscaping purposes. The Scenic Vista will receive the lion's share with new bushes and shrubs and fencing but the entrance lots and the one by the Little Pond have, or will, receive attention. Give a wave to your gardening buddies if you see them at work, huffing, puffing and mowing. They're all volunteers.

The Scenic Vista at the top of Oak Ridge became a reality last year with an assist from a grant from the Pequawket Foundation. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony and hot chocolate on a cool but clear day in October. The venue has already been used for several community events and this summers line up includes the International Youth Concert at the Lodge on July 22nd, and a Lobsterbake sponsored by the Eidelweiss Property Owners Association on August 18th. The Board of Commissioners may well repeat their barbecue and cook out in September. Check elsewhere in this newsletter or on the notice boards for further details.

While you are paddling around the ponds (however slowly) or chomping on the hotdogs (however vigorously) consider giving the walkers and joggers more of a sporting chance when you next drive around the Village. The maximum speed limit in the District is 25 mph and less in some places. It's good



OF THE GARDENING FRATERNITY

(This was an "open" meeting in full compliance with RSA 91A!)

for the survival rate as well as keeping the dust down.

HYDRO SYSTEM TO BE RENOVATED

One of the major projects for this year is the renovation of the hydro pressure system that serves residents at the top of Oak Ridge. Plagued for years with high iron levels, the storage tank and associated plumbing is all being replaced and the summit building altered to accommodate the new 4000 gallon tank. The tank has just been delivered and the delivery truck had a very interesting time negotiating the S turn on Oak Ridge.

Other news concerning the water system is that the water main down Klausen was replaced last year at a deeper level to prevent it from freezing. A new water main connection was also made last year on Playground Hill. The Oak Pump Station has been rebuilt and more renovative work on the pump houses is planned.

Analytical data showing some of the tests done on the water to ensure it is safe to drink is contained in the water quality report that is included with this newsletter along with the water bill which you will, of course, be paying right soon.

ANNUAL MEETING WRAP UP

The Annual District Meeting was held in February. It lasted just over two hours of civilized debate and covered a wide range of issues. The voters had no problem raising and appropriating funds (\$25,000) for a grader (used but it has been repainted so you won't know it) or for renovating the hydro system (\$20,000). They also funded more landscaping (\$1,000), new rafts and beach stuff (\$5,000) and further studies on the well head recharge area (\$4,000). The voters would also like to see tighter control over junk cards and other visual blight items. This issue is being discussed with the Madison Planning Board with a view to a possible change in the Zoning Ordinance.

When all was said and done, the expectation is that the Eidelweiss taxes will be similar to last year (\$12.27 per \$1,000 valuation). Guesstimates are not available for the Town taxes.

HIGHWAY BLOCK GRANTS AND "DONATIONS"

Once again, the District lead the charge to try and change the statutes so that Village Districts will be eligible for Highway Block grants. A group of District officials, unusually attired for them, paraded before the State Legislature to make the case. Once again the Legislature said no but this time they were divided, the discussion was more intense and the opposition from the Department of Transportation was more muted. Madison Selectmen also appeared in opposition but subsequently, the Madison voters at their Town Meeting in March voted in favor of the Commissioner's petitioned article that the Town support the District in pursuit of Highway Block Grant funds.

Highway Block Grants are funded through the gasoline tax and are annually distributed among all municipalities in New Hampshire (apart from Village Districts) using a formula that is based on the number of miles of maintained roads and the population of the community. Madison gets around \$75,000 per year from this fund. If the statutes were changed to allow Village Districts to receive such grants the District would get around \$18,000 per year. It may not sound like much given the cost of road maintenance and reconstruction but over a 20 year period it amounts to a significant chunk of change.

In addition to supporting the Highway Block Grant initiative, Madison voters ignored the "not recommended" decisions of the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee and supported the District's request for \$4,000 for maintenance of Eidelweiss roads. They changed the wording to make it a "donation" but bucks is bucks is always welcome however they want to do it. Over the past several years, the profile of Eidelweiss within the Town has risen considerably, even favorably, and the new Madison Selectman, Sonny Graves, has

...ade it clear he regards Eidelweiss as part of the Town and of benefit to it. He has even attended a Commissioners meeting. By now, any old timers in Eidelweiss reading all this for the first time, must be falling off their seats with amazement.

been increased from \$50 to \$75. And why not? After all the District does pay its DPW personnel a little more than they did 20 years ago when the \$50 fee was set.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY - JULY 22

**International Youth Concert
at the Lodge
5 p.m.**

SATURDAY - AUGUST 18

**Lobsterbake
at the Scenic Vista**

**Sponsored by the Eidelweiss Property
Owners Association**

(Check the Notice Board for details)

NEW ORDINANCES

Following a Public Hearing in May, the Board of Commissioners adopted an OHRV (Off Road Recreational Vehicle) ordinance. It mimics the State regulations and bans all ATV's (All Terrain Vehicles) and trail bikes from District property. The reason for the ordinance is to give the local police enforcement authority. The State regulations are enforced by the Fish & Game Department who are few in number and never where needed. They also receive much of their funding from registration fees and are notoriously reluctant to bite the hand that feeds them. The issue of snowmobiles will be addressed it the fall.

The Water Ordinances, which are scattered over the years and in the files, are being brought under one umbrella. There was a Public Hearing in June and the latest version was adopted on June 22nd. The water reconnection fee, due if you do not pay your water bill and you have been disconnected, has

NEWS FROM MADISON

* - The new Madison Police Chief is James Basinas, He is from Pelham, New Hampshire. He has been given a guided tour of Eidelweiss but it takes a while to get familiar with the roads so if you see him and he looks lost - help him out.

* - For the last meeting in the month, the Madison Board of Selectmen are meeting in the evening from 7 - 9 p.m. All the weekly meetings are on a Wednesday and the other meetings are in the morning from 9 - 11 a.m. in the Meeting Room at Town Hall.

* - The Code Enforcement Officer, Bob Babine, has sent out quite a few enforcement letter to Eidelweiss property owners, usually about junk cars, building without a permit or not complying with permit conditions. He has also issued fines and cease and desist orders. If you want to avoid a problem, assume you need a permit for any reconstruction work you are going to do unless the Town tells you otherwise.

* - The Town doesn't seem to know much about all the new excavation that is taking place in the Coleman gravel pits on Rte 113 so the Planning Board is getting in on the act trying to find out what permits and plans have been approved by the State. Gravel pit excavations and aquifers have a delicate interface and the Commissioners are watching closely.

* - The District is well represented on the Madison Planning Board but not on the Conservation Commission. If anyone is interested call Town Hall (367-4332).

* - The Bureau of Emergency Communications has been very slow putting the finishing touches to the 911 maps. The Eidelweiss map is very pretty but it is still incomplete. Some towns have practically

given up on them ever being completed. Anyway, the process has been so slow that the Madison Fire Department wanted to hire a company to do the job and they got the money to do it at the Town Meeting. They should be done by September. In the meantime, make sure your house number is clearly visible from the road for emergency purposes.

* - The Madison Transfer Station, the networking center of the universe, is undergoing some changes with Waste Management, Inc, replacing Atlantic North as the trash transferring agent. The landfill is due to be capped in 2003 and the Town is in the process of hiring an engineering company to do the preliminary design work. Recycling efforts are to be increased. There will be an additional cost for disposal of refrigerators and other appliances as well as for construction debris. Stickers are a must and obtainable from Town Hall.

* - One of the serious issues between the Town and the District is that of property valuation. All the District has ever been asking for is that all property in Town be assessed fairly. Given the Town's own data last year that Silver Lake water front properties may be undervalued by as much as 38%, the Commissioners determined that, if this were correct, and the situation were to continue without correction, the cost to the District taxpayer would be large. A cumulative cost to Eidelweiss taxpayers of about \$150,000 by the end of next year was estimated. While assessing the Town has been in limbo and the situation has been exacerbated by the State education funding crisis, the Town did raise the funds to do a sales analysis and update the appraisal of new construction. The Town is now in the final throes of awarding a contract to do the work.

+ - The District has made representation to the Town as part of the Land Acquisition Strategy. There are several lots owned by the Town that could be of significant benefit to the District. The Town has acquired these lots often by failure to pay property taxes. Benefits to the District include lots that relate to the operation of the water system, the maintenance of roads, and development of recreation and conservation areas. Some specific lots have been identified and it is hoped the

Commissioners and the Selectmen will be able to work out an agreement for transferring title.

SNIPPETS

* - Road work this summer will be on St. Moritz and Chocorua.

* - The new mail boxes at Huttwil are in and up.

* - Note you need a driveway permit if you doing work in the District's right of way (20' from the center of the road). If in doubt call Steve Libby, the DPW Manager, at 367-9022.

* - Gloria Aspinall and Annette Libby are the combo looking after the beaches this summer but you will have to get up early to catch 'em at it.

* There is a leash law in Town and no dogs are allowed on the beaches. Please! Think of the kids!

* - The young musicians performing at the Lodge in July are part of the international summer music school founded by Eric and Carol Rosenblith several years ago. The Rosenbliths are long time homeowners in Eidelweiss.

* - The loons are back - the chipmunks are all over the place. No foxes to be seen. Time for an ice cream - have a good summer!

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jay Buckley **Chairman**
John Vendola
Ed Foley

Beginning July 6th the Board will be meeting every two weeks on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. at the DPW Manager's Office.

If these times are not convenient and you wish to meet with the Commissioners call (367-9022) to set up an alternative time.