

The Village Advocate

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF EIDELWEISS

BATTLE FOR CONTROL OF THE BOARD

On April 30th the voters in Eidelweiss go to the polls to elect three Commissioners. All three positions are being contested. Larry Monet and Joe Rosenberg are up for the one year post. Mark Graffam and David Dempsey, both of whom are currently Commissioners, are going head to head for the two year term. John Vendola, also an incumbent Commissioner and current Chairman of the Board, is being challenged by Timothy Kohler. None of the other elected positions are being contested. Ed Engler is unopposed for Treasurer and Gloria Hayford is the only candidate for Clerk, a position she already holds. There are no candidates for the position of Moderator. The present occupant of that position, Donald Silvia, is reported to have moved to another part of the State but will be available to moderate the meeting on Saturday. Polls are open from 1 - 7 p.m. and the meeting will be at the Lodge. If there is not enough room at the Lodge the meeting may be switched to the Fire Station/ Garage.

In addition to the money matters the voters are also being asked to approve a new Zoning Ordinance to replace the interim zoning that expired a few days ago on April 18th. Voters will also be discussing their relationship with the Town of Madison and article 40, proposed by the Eidelweiss Property Owners Association, is seeking to form a separate town.

MONEY MONEY MONEY!

Special Articles involving money are:

Article 3 - \$2000 for an executive assistant. Together with funds encumbered from last year this would permit an annual salary of \$20,000 per year?

Article 4 - \$25,202 from encumbered funds for a one ton dump truck. The truck has already been purchased.

Article 5 - \$6090 for trench boxes for the public works dept.

Article 6 - \$5000 for a contingency fund.

Article 7 - \$2600 for a photocopier for the office.

Article 8 - \$5500 for a street broom.

Article 9 - \$10,000 for gravel.

Article 10 - \$25,000 for hot top.

Article 12 - \$146,609 for reconstruction of the water line between the Chocorua pump station and the summit pump.

(MONEY)

Article 14 - \$14,856 for the purchase/lease of the excavator.
 Article 15 - \$3381 for the lease of a police vehicle.
 Article 16 - \$9900 for the purchase of lot D1 (next to beach).
 Article 17 - \$19,740 for the purchase of a 1 ton pick-up.
 Article 20 - \$379,493 for operational services. This includes \$41,000 for general government, \$40,000 for the Police Department, \$140,000 for the Public Works Department, \$97,593 for the Debt service, \$56,900 for insurance and retirement and \$4000 for the Planning Board.

Article 24 - \$8700 for a retainer for the law firm of Shea, Mertens, Sager & Sager.

Article 31 - \$200,000 for development of the water system. Actual expenditures not to exceed amount raised by water hook up fees.

Article 36 - \$15,000 for a reserve fund for public works vehicles.

Article 37 - \$15,000 for public works vehicles.

The total of the budget proposed is \$879,071. After deducting projected revenues the amount to be raised by taxes is \$537,692. If the budget were approved unchanged this would increase the tax rate by about \$7 per \$1000 valuation but not all the articles are expected to pass unchanged.

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ROCK HOUSE MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION BUYS WATER SYSTEM

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Part of the original Edelweiss development is located within the boundaries of Conway and not Madison. Usually referred to as the "G" and "J" sections these property owners are not part of the Village District of Edelweiss. Nevertheless a dozen or so houses receive their water supply from Edelweiss for which they have been charged \$150 per year. For a number of years there has been concern that property owners in Edelweiss may get stuck with the bills for maintaining, upgrading and developing the water system in that area. The system serving that section has now been sold to the Rock House Mountain Association, a group representing the property owners in the G and J sections.

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WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE ISSUES INTERIM REPORT

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The Water Advisory Committee recently issued a report summarising its activities over the past year. It draws attention to the difficulty of determining the costs of the present water system and recommends separating out those costs from the remainder of the Public Works Department. The Board also requested that money be appropriated for engineering drawings that would serve as a basis for drawing up a master plan. Concern was also expressed about water quality, water sources and storage, issues that the Committee feels should be tackled during the next 12 months.

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONERS -- PICKS AND PREFERENCES =====

One Year Term =====

Candidates for the one year term are Larry Monet and Joe Rosenberg.

Mr. Monet has already circulated his biography to the voters and stated his objectives. It's certainly good to see some conventional standards of politicking being applied within Eidelweiss. Such communications help voters decide between various candidates. This is especially important at this time since many voters are newly registered and unfamiliar with the individuals running for office. Mr. Monet is currently Chairman of the Water Advisory Board, member of the Ad Hoc Committee and also a member of the Madison Planning Board.

As of this writing, Mr. Rosenberg has not issued any statement and is reported to be down in Florida where, since his retirement, he normally spends the winter. How this will be compatible with the requirements of being a Commissioner has not been explained. If Mr. Rosenberg's intent is simply to act as a caretaker for 6 months during the summer then the full time residents should be so informed. Since much has happened in Eidelweiss during the winter Mr. Rosenberg would also have a steep learning curve.

The sharpest difference between the two candidates may focus on their view of relations with Madison. Monet is openly advocating negotiations and harmony whereas in the past at least, Rosenberg has voted and petitioned for secession. Barring any statement to the contrary that position is assumed to still hold. Apart from any policy differences, however, there is a clear need for Commissioners to be genuine full time residents of Eidelweiss so Monet is the only choice.

Two Year Term =====

Candidates for the two year term are David Dempsey and Mark Graffam. Both are currently members of the Board of Commissioners. This is the most fascinating of the three contests and best personifies the changes occurring in Eidelweiss. It is a simple choice between the old and the new.

Mr. Dempsey has been one of the most dominant personalities in Eidelweiss for more than a decade having held a number of positions within the Precinct. Currently he is the Water Checker, Chairman of the Planning Board and a Commissioner. Until September last he was also Treasurer and he has been a Director of the Eidelweiss Property Owners Association for many years. Therein lies both Mr. Dempsey's strength and his problem. No-one disputes his zealousness. Indeed, if the Precinct nine years after its formation and millions of dollars spent, were a success then it is unlikely that Mr. Dempsey would have even a whisper of competition. However, Eidelweiss is beset not only with high taxes but with problems at every turn and only the blind could describe it as a successful operation. Even the issue of dissolution of the Precinct as a means to solve the problems has been raised a number of times and Dempsey's extraordinary involvement in so many areas has also been perceived, by some, as part of the problem. Nevertheless, Mr Dempsey's old guard support is still partly intact and still brandishing the sword of secession as the solution to all ills.

Knowing all this, it seems that Mr. Graffam has chosen, quite deliberately, not only to challenge Mr. Dempsey head-on but also to challenge the voters and to do so by encouraging them to think about their community and providing them with a clearcut alternative. This in itself is unusual since voters in Eidelweiss have usually had to swallow a forced diet of issues before they had much time to think about them - (see related story on the Master Plan and Zoning).

Mr. Dempsey is one of the primary architects of the secession movement initiated in November 1985 and has played a major role in orchestrating Eidelweiss's financial and service functions.

In contrast, Graffam in a newsletter column to the Property Owners Association last year graphically illustrated the difficulty he had with secession from Madison and has found officials in Madison are not quite the two headed dragons that they have been portrayed. He has also expressed his belief that more should be placed on straightening out Eidelweiss itself.

On a more mundane level, both candidates have chaired a number of different meetings in recent months. To this observer the differences are quite startling. Graffam presides over a meeting in the customary professional manner whereas Dempsey transforms it into a personal pulpit in a manner horrific to anyone weaned on Roberts Rules. As a consequence it appears likely that Graffam's ability to put a team together would be the greater. So if you want a new face, a bright future, and higher standards of professionalism, the vote goes to Graffam.

Three Year Term

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John Vendola is currently Chairman of the Commissioners, having replaced David Dempsey, a few weeks ago. He has impressed most of us who regularly attend these meetings with his quiet integrity, his honesty and his hard work. He has also been active on the Water Advisory Board and on the Ad Hoc Committee and feels it is possible to work something out with the Town of Madison. He has also been a full time or year round resident for several years.

Timothy Kohler is the other candidate and his situation raises a number of serious and troubling questions for the voters and for Eidelweiss. There are two parts to this story.

1. On Feb 3rd, Mr. Kohler was appointed Treasurer of the Village District of Eidelweiss by the Board of Commissioners. According to reports in both the Carroll County Independent and the Reporter, Kohler was arrested on Feb 5th and convicted in March of passing bad checks - these had nothing to do with Eidelweiss. Kohler's appointment as Treasurer was never finalised since he was never sworn in. His conviction would render it difficult to get bonded and his appointment lapsed. At this time the Precinct has no Treasurer.

2. In July 1987 Mr. Kohler purchased a truck from Eidelweiss for \$450. The check he submitted for payment bounced - twice - and the bookkeeper, Jane Sigston, passed the check onto the Police Department resolution of the issue. According to a statement made by Mr. MacArthur at the Commissioners Meeting on April 20th 1988, he was informed by by Mr. Dempsey, possibly sometime in September, that the bookkeeper was not authorised to pass the check on to the Police Department and MacArthur returned it to the office. On January 21st 1988, Sigston sent a certified letter to Kohler requesting payment. On Feb 3rd, the night he was appointed Treasurer, Kohler made a \$150 payment and gave assurances to settle the remainder (\$300) as soon as possible. As of this date (April 22nd) no further payments had been received.

The questions that arise from this issue are numerous. Why did Mr Kohler not volunteer his difficulties or remove himself from consideration when his appointment as Treasurer was approved and thus spare Eidelweiss much embarrassment. Why did Mr. Dempsey recommend Kohler's appointment as Treasurer when Kohler's bad check problem had not been cleared up? Does the Kohler and Dempsey business relationship, acknowledged by Dempsey and Kohler at the Commissioners meeting, have any bearing on the issue? Why did Mr. Dempsey direct Mr. MacArthur to return the check instead of continuing with the usual procedures for dealing with a bad check? Why has Eidelweiss still not managed to resolve the issue?

These questions detract from any serious consideration of Mr. Kohler's candidacy at this time.

So there you have it, folks. If you want to give Eidelweiss a lease on life and new hope for the future then it is an easy choice - just remember!

- MONET'S the MAN, GO with GRAFFAM and VOTE for VENDOLA -

and lets do it

*BY THE BOOK!

MASTER PLAN & ZONING

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On April 30th the voters will likely enact a new zoning ordinance for the Village District. Unfortunately not many people will actually have read it apart from those officials obliged to do so. There has been just one public hearing on the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Both were dealt with at the same time at a meeting that attracted a total of 10 people - including the 5 members of the Planning Board. Most property owners in Eidelweiss have never even seen, let alone read the proposals.

It is most unfortunate that Eidelweiss did not follow Madison's example and mail copies of the proposals to all registered voters well in advance of any deadlines. And holding a meeting on a Monday night in the middle of winter isn't likely to spark much interest in the non resident property owner. Trucking it all through in this manner does not engender any confidence in the quality. Because of the shortage of people in Eidelweiss willing to work on these projects both the Master Plan and the Zoning were prepared by the office of the Precinct's attorney, Mr. Sager.

There is another disturbing feature about this matter. On April 18th 1987 the voters in Eidelweiss extended the interim zoning for one final year. That time has passed and Eidelweiss now has no zoning. It may only be for a short period, that is until April 30th, but it raises a number of questions. Does Madison's zoning now predate that of Eidelweiss? Since Eidelweiss has no zoning does Madison's zoning apply within the Village? Apparently Mr. Sager and Madison's attorney, Mr. Cooper, have different views on this issue. The root core of the problem, however, is why did Eidelweiss allow the interim zoning to lapse before a new one was in place?

NO FUNDS FOR RECREATION IN PRECINCT BUDGET
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At the EPOA budget meeting on April 23rd, Mr. Dempsey drew attention to the fact that the upcoming budget did not contain any appropriation for recreation. It wasn't clear whether he was simply stating a fact or implying criticism of either the Commissioners and/or the EPOA Directors. Even though the amount appropriated is usually small it always gave an impression that recreation activities were not being totally ignored in what is, after all, a resort community.

Of all the different factions in the Village, and there are now several, one would expect the EPOA to be the organization to have the greatest interest in the recreational facilities. In previous years, the EPOA has sponsored numerous articles at the Village Meeting relating to recreational activities although some of them were never passed. Like everything else in Eidelweiss there is plenty of room for improvement in these facilities. The beaches and launching areas need attention, as do the tennis courts and whatever happened to the ball field that was once proposed? For the Village meeting at the end of the month the EPOA has introduced 4 articles including the one regarding secession from Madison. None of them are concerned with recreation. Perhaps members of the EPOA should start bugging the leadership as to what it's up to these days and find out what it is doing about the preservation and development of recreation facilities.

*BY THE BOOK!
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On April 20th 1988 at the Commissioners Meeting, Gloria Hayford came as near as I have ever seen this gracious lady come to pounding the table and insisting that, whatever we do here in Eidelweiss, then we must do it "BY THE BOOK!". When Ed Engler made reference to Gloria's comment at the EPOA budget meeting on the following Saturday, he was drawing attention to a moment that should, perhaps, be preserved. Whether it was the tone, the circumstances or the choice of words matters not. What it did do, and indeed what it does do even now, is to encapsulate the frustrations with the past and, at the same time, light the way to the future. The new Commissioners are on notice that they will now have to do it "BY THE BOOK" - or deal with Gloria!

AROUND THE VILLAGE =====

Forsaking the customary blue for camoflague brown, a new Madison Police cruiser is now patrolling the highways and byways of the Town and Precinct. It is a front drive Pontiac. The old vehicle is up for sale. The new cruiser still has the distinctive, and occasionally flashing, blue light on top.

I'm sure we've all heard the loon(s). The black flies aren't far behind. The Loon Preservation Committee says that the total number of loons has increased in the last ten years but the percentage of surviving chicks has been down the last couple of years. The Loon Preservation Committee is located in Meredith and they are a very active group. They also have a gift shop that contains everything there is with a loon on it and they also have a new video. It's a good place to go if you want to know how to distinguish between the hoots, the tremolos and the different kinds of wails and what they mean. I mentioned we had always had a lot of hooting and wailing here in Eidelweiss, throughout the year in fact, and no one ever knew what it meant. They said they thought it was a different kind of loon! The loon census this year is on Saturday, July 16th.

The Supervisors of the Madison Check List were in session At the Fire Station/Garage on April 20th registering new voters for the upcoming meeting. About 20 new voters signed on to bring the total voting population to approximately 90.

Odyssey of the Mind is a nation wide competition for secondary level students that tests their creativity and problem solving skills. Preparation starts many months in advance of the competition. The only local team to win through to the state finals was the 6th grade team from Madison. They didn't place but they did put on one of their very best efforts. Two of the six member team are residents of Eidelweiss, Laura Engler and Niccole Welshimer. Laura was also pictured with her mother, Suzy and brother, Brian, in the recent edition of the Tin Mountain Conservation Center. Mrs. Engler works in the Conway Business office.

Larry Monet, along with some of the other members of the Madison Planning Board, is attending one of the courses put on by the State, giving him the low down on the complexities of planning regulations.

Despite a slowing down in the real estate market about 10 building permits have been issued in Eidelweiss since January with more in the pipe-line. Madison, however, has had a lot more.

That's all there is space for this month so if the sun's up, then get out there, bending, digging - and swatting!

THE VILLAGE ADVOCATE
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This newsletter is intended to keep the natives informed about what is going on in their community. It is also highly personalised reflecting only my own views but that's only temporary until more people get involved. With the Village Meeting coming up on Saturday this issue is openly campaigning in favor of change. Next time we will try for more balanced news.

One of the most innovative concepts in the computer software industry has been "shareware". The principle is very simple - you get the computer program for free and if you like it then you send a contribution according to what you think its worth to you. I would like to apply the same idea to cover the running costs of the Village Advocate - temporarily! Circulation is too small to consider advertising etc at this stage. No pennies please and - no - I will not pay YOU for reading it! Holly suggests \$1 and then you will get the next issue free. Larger contributions will, of course, be welcome (in any currency) at any time and I will meet you anywhere! If you are down and low with ne'er a dime then substitute your opinions, ideas and suggestions for future issues in lieu of a financial contribution.

As you can see, the production and appearance of this newsletter is pretty tacky and boring by today's standards - just pick up a copy of the Bartlett Express for an example of what a small community newsletter can really look like. I would like to jazz up the appearance (and it really does aid readability) but that will be determined by the response.

Now we are through with all that please understand you MUST fill in and return the slip below if you want the next issue. Please include both street and mailing addresses although the personalised delivery service that got this issue to your door is a surprisingly pleasant means of distribution.

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