

The Village Advocate

MAY 1989

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF EIDELWEISS

No. 7

HEARING CONTINUED TO JULY 6TH

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The case before the State Department of Labor in Concord concerning Mr. Brad Donaldson, the former Public Works Manager, has been continued to Thursday, July 6th. The hearing was started on May 16th and lasted three hours during which time only Mr. Donaldson gave evidence. The Hearing Officer has such a full time table that the first available date to continue the case was in July.

Mr. Donaldson filed his complaint under the Whistle Blower's Act claiming he was wrongfully discharged in January because he blew the whistle on Mr. Monet's stump dump. Mr. Donaldson is requesting reinstatement and compensation. Mr. Willett is also appearing on Mr. Donaldson's behalf.

The Commissioners have hired Attorney Dan Crean of Laconia to lead their defense. They maintain that Donaldson was fired because of safety issues and problems relating to running the water system.

SUB-COMMITTEE TIES UP ZONING

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The Madison Planning Board Sub-Committee has just about finished incorporating Eidelweiss zoning into the Madison Zoning Ordinance. The Sub-Committee next plans to return to the full Committee for further discussion. The chain of communication after that includes the Selectmen of Madison, the Commissioners of Eidelweiss and the Planning Board of the VDOE. If it is still intact at that point, then public hearings will be held and then the new ordinance will be placed on the warrant of both Madison and Eidelweiss at next year's annual meetings. Members of the Sub-Committee are Percy Hill, Chairman, Ralph Bain, Guy Hayford, Hank Hubbell, Larry Monet and David Maudsley. Bob Urekew is the recording secretary.

SIGN ORDINANCE

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The sign ordinance is now in effect. In essence it states that all outside signs apart from those identifying an owner or a location are prohibited. A survey of the signs has now been carried out by the Zoning Enforcement Officer, Bob Urekew, and those known to be in violation will be receiving a letter in the near future giving them 15 days to comply.

The zoning regulations do not address the issue of those inside signs that have provoked a number of comments. It was suggested at the last Commissioners meeting that an ordinance could be proposed for next year's meeting to address the issue of inside signs.

OFFICE HOURS

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Office hours at the A frame are Wednesday - Friday 9 - 3 p.m. Residents are asked to cooperate in honoring these hours and allow the workers to work. Bob Urekew also wants to point out loud and clear that the A frame is not an office for renting canoes!

JOBS AVAILABLE

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At the last meeting the Commissioners adopted a policy for advertising some of the small jobs that the DPW can't handle, for whatever reason, and would normally be contracted out. Needs will be posted on the Huttwil Rd Parking Lot Notice Board and any interested parties are required to respond within 7 days. Jobs costing over \$1000 will be advertised in the local paper as per usual. For more information contact Bob Urekew in the A frame - during office hours - please.

NOTICES

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The next meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Friday, June 2nd at 7.30 p.m. at the Lodge. Bring some strong coffee - or a sleeping bag!

The EPOA Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 27th at 10.00 p.m. at the Lodge.

Volunteers are still needed for Committees, particularly the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

OFFICIALS

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Commissioners	- Mark Graffam (Chairman)
	- Edward Engler
	- John Vendola
Moderator	- Suzanne Engler
Clerk	- Gloria Hayford
Treasurer	- Holly Maudsley
Administrative Assistant	- Dr. Robert Urekew
Bookkeeper	- Jane Sigston
Highway Dept	- Ron Audette (Foreman)
	- Bob Fallis

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

ALL WET ABOUT THE WATER SYSTEM

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There seems to be a lot of concern i.e. panic, about funding the development of the water system. This seems a little premature since serious discussions about financing the water system have scarcely begun. If last year was all about H₂O, whose got it, where is it, and what's in it, then this year's scintillating topic is likely to be the high financing of it. One ghastly suggestion already made was that junk bonds may well be the solution! And the system can't be in such bad shape - after all, it's been pumping iron for years.

The proposal by Dubois & King, and remember it is only a proposal, calls for building out the system over a 20 year period at a cost of just over \$5 million. That does not include the cost of purchasing land for new wells but it does include practically everything else including fire flow and engineering costs. The voters do not have to decide on the issue of fire protection until phase 2 but if they choose to opt out of fire protection, the costs would be reduced to approximately \$3.5 million. The system fully built out is sufficient to cover 900 homes, that is, it covers approximately 600 homes more than are currently on the system. At a present hook up fee of \$4500 then new hook ups will bring in \$2.7 million if all 600 homes were built. That may not be likely within the time span forecast but it does focus on the fact that most of the development costs of the system can be covered, if the voters so wish, by adjusting the water hook fee. Doubling the hook up fee, for example, would raise the same amount of money from only 300 homes and it would still be cheaper than putting in a well.

How many houses will be built over the next 20 years is anyone's guess but we have to recognize that the nature of Edelweiss may be changing. It is still being touted as a second home vacation community. But is it? Or is it really becoming a residential suburb of Conway City, providing easy access to the Valley and affording cheaper housing than any of the surrounding communities? Most of the increase in the resident voters in the last few years has been due to adults with families, not retired people, and this is evident from the sharp increase in the number of children who live here all year round and are now in the school system.

Another possibility for funding the water system is to go the betterment route i.e. to split the costs, whatever they are, among those who directly benefit. Impact fees for developers have been mentioned and are increasingly being applied to communities.

There are some costs of the proposal that will be borne largely by the existing homeowner. Unfortunately these are mainly in Phase 1 and involve the developing of new sources of water. And about this there is some urgency. Nevertheless some type of long term funding seems in order. Stretching out a bond over a zillion

years isn't much of a legacy for generations that will undoubtedly be cursing us for not protecting our environment better. On the other hand, why should those who already have water have to pay not just for upkeep but also for future development? That may be the core of the issue for a number of homeowners.

CONSERVE TO PRESERVE
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The Master Plan for the water system makes little mention of it except in connection with metering but conservation is gradually becoming a respectable topic even in New Hampshire. In any land of plenty there is always plenty of waste. But as the price goes up so does the interest. The future of conservation and preservation is assured.

Eidelweiss is filled with lost opportunities. Failure to buy up lots suitable as green areas when they were being practically given away at Tax sales in Madison, little or no recreational development since the Precinct was formed and not even a program to monitor the water quality in the ponds, reflects the myopic vision of times past. The forthcoming battles over the sign ordinance are going to pit those who want to clean up the place against those with other ambitions. Ducks or bucks.

But there is a strange thing happening. The Flatlanders are those one would expect to be up in arms about the proliferation of objectionable signs, the damage done by recreational vehicles, and the litter; protesting the encroachment of suburbia into the pristine ways of the country. This is not the case. Most of the litter and damage is done by renters indulging their own version of 'wilding'. Most of the signs are advertising either sales or rentals for property owners that use Eidelweiss as a vacation resort. Indeed, the silence from the Property Owners Association (EPOA) on this issue has been deafening. It is not surprising that the real estate agents have been taking advantage.

In contrast, many of the full time residents run their own business's and stand to gain the most from the advertising that signs provide. Big billboards on Rt 113 to gladden your eye, to build your house, insulate your attic, fix your pipes - or your face. Flashing neon to light up the night - and your life. Not a bit of it. The push for C(onservation) & P(reservation) is being lead by the full time residents with Gloria Hayford and Mike Smith spearheading the effort. There's talk of green areas, monitoring programs, recreational development, and clean lakes. Given the past record of those involved it is likely that something constructive will happen. But whether it is another 'sign' of the growing schism between the full time residents and the vacation owners or something on which we could all work together remains to be seen.

AROUND THE VILLAGE

The question for last month, in fact, the burning question was whether Tom Verrochi had a permit when he set fire to his leaves. Hiding them under the hood of his truck and trying to route the smoke through the exhaust system wasn't very successful. Since Tom was in the cab at the time he was - well - fuming.

Friends and supporters of Tammy and Joe Calitri gave them a good lot of advice and a party. Tammy and Joe made it all legal on April 30th. They already have a home and a family. They even had their wedding cake before rather than after. Perhaps someone should tell them that doing everything in reverse can be a little dangerous.

Support local industries - call Dinette MacArthur if you need a beautiful cake for a special occasion.

The loons are back - all hooting, tooting and wailing. Actually three were three of them for a while. A little menage a trois, perhaps, suggesting that even 60 million year old birds can adapt to contemporary life styles.

The new edition of the Oxford English Dictionary is apparently full of goodies. With 453 variations on the word "set" imagine what they can do with the four letter words. The computer system donated by IBM for the project was dubbed OEDIPUS (Oxford English Dictionary etc.).

The new man in the DPW is Bob Fallis. Joe Calitri is also helping out. Tammy is helping Joe.

Dust bowl season will soon be on us and the heat of the summer will only be matched by the intensity of discussion about Eidelweiss Drive. Perhaps a poll of the owners of property in that area would help the debate.

When Bob Urekew comes late to the office it is usually because he has an evening meeting - sometimes, however, its because he's chasing errant bunny rabbits around the porch.

Having the Annual Meeting in the Public Works Garage was a good move - the whole atmosphere was better than the other building. There was space, parking, a loo, refreshments, laughter and it only lasted 6 hours.

The water system has been holding up rather well. There was a break the other day up on Oak Ridge but it the first in quite a while. It was quickly repaired. The Engineering Master Plan has arrived and makes interesting reading.

Vacationing has been all the rage over the past few weeks. Ed and Suzy Engler and family are back from Texas, Larry Monet and Gail Gustafson from Virginia, and everybody has been to

Massachusetts.

Building has slowed a lot but with all the big expensi
houses going up on the top of Oak Ridge there's talk of those
above Clemens Place wanting secession - from the rest of
Eidelweiss!

Biggest wildlife sighting recently was by Pauline Vendola, -
no, it wasn't John and one of the children in fancy drag - it was
a large moose wandering by the window. There's been a red fox
around, I nearly bumped into a bear on Rt 153 the other day, the
peepers are peeping? and a squirrel has been chewing up Donna
Smith's skirt - no information on whether Donna was in it at the
time. Man, it's wild out there.

We are going all cultural these days - Bob Urekew's
quotations encouraging applications for all and sundry committees
and drawing attention to what can happen if good folk don't
contribute to the democratic process.

Congratulations to Mike Smith. He's now a Class 1 Certified
Water System Operator. Mike was Chairman of last years Water
Advisory Committee and attended a 3 month licensing course in
Concord. Talk about taking your responsibilities seriously!

The GrassRoots cable TV people have been busy in the Village -
expected date for linking up and turning on is around the end of
July.

Welcome back to Jane Sigston after a spell in the hospital.
Bob's brow is now less furrowed.

You can tell the Commissioners are getting serious. The Lodge
has been cleaned up, coffee laid on and a midnight cut-off for the
meetings. That's progress?

Chief MacDonald has been attending a course for educating
people about drug abuse. The Chief has already been active in the
area getting the message out to the kids. The new 4 wheel drive
vehicle is being equipped with a police radio and should soon be
on the road. The Madison Police Department is also offering a
videotaping service for recording an inventory of your house and
its contents. Give them a call.

With barbecue time upon us its getting time to get into the
summer groove. So here we go folks -- zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz u at the
beach and go easy on the sauce.

The Village Advocate is produced by David Maudsley. The views
expressed are his own. Mailing address is HND Associates, P.O. Box
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