

10.15.2020

Dear Pine Plains,

This past month, I confirmed volunteers for the Police Reform Stakeholders Committee: Brenda Jackson, Sarah Jones, Keary Hanan, Lisa Michetti and Nelson Zayas. Thank you so much for your willingness to look at our policies and give us your thoughts on changes. I have been working to get going on the Zoning Review as suggested by our Comprehensive Plan Update. Last night at the Town Board Meeting, we approved moving ahead on this.

We also approved the purchase of software to use in our Police Reform process. This will enable our Stakeholders' Committee to review in-place policies that the State Troopers use so that policing becomes more uniform between agencies, and we can tweak the language to make it custom for Pine Plains. This solution will create an updated manual for policing in the town as per the State mandate.

We also approved our Preliminary Budget. As you know, we create municipal budgets in three steps: a Tentative Budget, a Preliminary Budget, and a Final Budget. The Tentative is written and then lives in the Town Clerk's Office for a few weeks. Then the Preliminary is revision of that, based on comments and further work on the part of the Board. In November, we pass the Final. This budget affects 2022. So trying to see way ahead is vital to the process.

Almost all but a few of our standing committee members, Board members and employees have now taken the Sexual Harassment Training that is mandated by the State for all Public Employees or Volunteers. Thanks to all of them for taking their responsibility seriously!

The Broadband Committee meets weekly and has joined with committee members from nearby towns to advocate for total coverage of Northern Dutchess County and Columbia County. We have collated our Survey results, but many people still have not filled out the Survey, including key Census Blocks which are known to have no or spotty service. We need your addresses on the Survey so that we know where the problems are!

I'd also like to remind people that the pandemic is still raging around us, even though you might feel safe up here. If you follow any news, you know that cases have increased as predicted for a Fall return of the virus, but Pine Plains has held steady at or below 5 cases. The mask you wear helps to keep a Town business open, but our

community spirit is what will really keep things open this winter. I feel like a broken record when I say Buy Local, but each of us has the power to keep Pine Plains open and resilient in unprecedented times by our simplest actions, like ordering out from a restaurant, or getting a haircut.

Finally, don't forget that the Library is going ahead with the Cemetery Tours again this year. They have found a way to make this fundraising event socially distanced, so ticket numbers are reduced. The event will take place October 30th, with 3 tours at 6, 6:30 and 7pm. Get your tickets now! www.pineplainsfreelibrary.org

There is guidance for Halloween on our Facebook page (Pine Plains Town Hall). People who don't wish to participate will be turning their porch lights off. But I know that many will want to make this Halloween especially spooky for our kids who've been stuck inside at computers all this time.

Stay special, Pine Plains!

Darrah Cloud