



Newsletter February 16, 2026

Town Board Members

Town Supervisor - Brian Walsh
Town Council - Jeanine Sisco, Kevin Walsh,
Trevor Roush, Murphy Birdsall

Happy Winter everyone! I don't think we've had this much snow in over a decade. So, a big **Thank You** to the Pine Plains Highway Department for

keeping our roads clear and safe. Your hard work and long hours, not to mention in the bitter cold, do not go unnoticed!

The Beautification Committee met once this month and looks forward to some projects to enhance the esthetics of our town. Be on the lookout for a reverse side to our "Welcome to Pine Plains" signs, that invite folks to "Come Again." The committee is also looking into ways to improve the walkways in the Town Center Park. This will make for a busy Spring for the Committee. When Fall 2026 rolls around the committee hopes to be able to distribute daffodil bulbs for both businesses and residents in town so that Spring of 2027 will be in full bloom.

The Ad Hoc Community Day Committee has many exciting ideas for Saturday June 13th [Save The Date] The committee has very hard-working members but could really use some help! Please contact me to be a part of this fun-filled effort.

The preliminary application for the NYSDOT-TAP (New York State Department of Transportation – Transportation Alternatives Program) was submitted and we received feedback from DOT. We must pare down the scope of work that we outlined in the preliminary submission and submit a revised application by March 12th. If awarded, this grant would provide funding for sidewalks, crosswalks and lighting.

I am attending the NYAOT (New York Association of Towns) Annual meeting and Conference February 15-17. I'll have information to share next month! Stay warm, stay safe!

~Jeanine Sisco jsisco@pineplains-ny.gov

One of our first acts as the new town board, was to create this newsletter. We collectively decided to write our own segments to give us each a voice. I am looking forward to working with our new board members and the fresh ideas they bring with them. Last Monday we had an emergency board meeting because it was discovered that Flock Safety was about to install their equipment on private property. This led to discovery that a contract was signed without board consent. Due to good communication and rapid teamwork, the contract was voided.

I believe our rapid actions show that we are on the same channel. I am looking forward to working with the new incarnation of the town board.

~Kevin Walsh kwalsh@pineplains-ny.gov

As I begin my term as town council member, I'm learning what every department in town needs to run with full efficiency. This has been a true game speed crash course after we received a snowstorm that blanketed the town in 18 inches of snow, the largest storm in years. I had a great meeting with highway supervisor Carl Baden to get his thoughts and share some reflections I and fellow community

members had (that were expressed to me). One very cold and frozen morning, I drove out to the town beach and flagged 7 dead and dangerous trees that I will be removing before mud season sets in — and to also give myself a little bit of hope for warmer days. My learning process hit high gear February 3rd when I and the community learned of the plans for the Flock system. Since the 3rd, my time has been taken up mostly trying to figure out the full story and answer all the Whys I have. I'm honestly frustrated that my time is being taken up by this issue. I wanted to be a board member to build and work on positive projects for this community. But first we must get past this. This newsletter, I hope, can become a bridge to greater transparency from the board to the people.

I encourage all to come to town board meetings every third Thursday of the month. 7pm at the Town Hall. If you would like to reach out to me directly with any thoughts on anything, my cell phone is 914 466 8947. My email is ttroush@pineplains-ny.gov.

~Your councilman, Trevor Roush

Being a Newly Elected Town Official (NETO), I went to Albany in the middle of January for a 3-day NYAOT training conference - fortunately just ahead of the snowstorm. I headed back for my first town board meeting, my head buzzing with state laws governing those meetings. The regulations came into play as we navigated the FLOCK SAFETY incursion, and they continue to determine how we operate as a body. As the new board, we are finding our way to communicate with each other, and to convey publicly what we know. As many Pine Plains residents have requested, I see furthering transparency both within the government and between the government and the people of the town as one of my/our main goals. Knowledge is power, but only when it leads to action.

As liaison to the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC), I look forward to the temperatures rising, the rain falling, and members and friends of the CAC heading out one Big Night, to escort salamanders and frogs safely across the wet roads.

~ Murphy Birdsall mbirdsall@pineplains-ny.gov

We have experienced several very freezing days and nights recently. The community center has been open when not in use for preplanned events, and it will continue to serve as a warming center during this wintry weather. The building will remain unlocked and available for anyone who needs a warm place.

If you use the facility, please remember to turn off all lights when you leave, except for the stairwell light and the back row of lights in the community room. The warming center will remain available on days and nights when temperatures are below 30 degrees.

I also ask everyone to take a moment to check on their neighbors to make sure they are safe and stay warm.

On another note, thank you to everyone for following our parking regulations during the recent storms that brought an incredible amount of snow to our area. Your cooperation has made it much easier for our Highway crews to clear snow from the roadways and remove it from the town center.

Thank you all for your consideration for one another.

~Brian Walsh brianwalsh@pineplains-ny.gov

Town Board Meeting - Thursday, February 19 7 PM at Town Hall