



## ***Newsletter March 16, 2026***

Town Board Members

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

**Suddenly, it's Spring!**

Although the weather seems to have some

welcome surprises for us in the form of sunshine and warm temperatures, we have also been surprised by new information surrounding the Flock Safety issue. Let's first focus on some things that are occurring in our town.

We were pleased to hear from about twenty people who attended the Public Forum on March 10<sup>th</sup> regarding the NYS DOT TAP Grant addressing the first phase of a sidewalk, drainage, crosswalk, lighting proposed project. Based on input from the community, the scope of the project was adjusted with expert work from Ray Jurkowski, and all necessary documents were provided to our grant writer for the March 12<sup>th</sup> submission. Let's keep our fingers crossed!

The Ad Hoc Community Day Committee continues to work toward providing a fun-filled day for children and adults alike. Mark your calendars for June 13<sup>th</sup>! Breakfast at the Fire House, Live music in the park, delicious bites provided by local restaurants, town wide scavenger hunt, bouncy house, crafts, information booths and so much more! We still will welcome volunteers to assist this committee. Please contact me!

The Beautification Committee met this month and is looking forward to Spring projects in town! The committee welcomed two individuals who are interested in joining. How exciting to round out this wonderful pool of energy and talent!

There are so many initiatives on my/our "to do" list. However, the distraction of what has occurred surrounding the Flock Safety issue has consumed a great deal of time and focus. Councilmembers have been tirelessly seeking information from many sources, first about exactly what and how this all happened and secondly regarding how we must move forward. We have sought guidance from many sources, listened to the concerns that folks have and we plan to address this issue in a generalized fashion to ensure this does not ever happen again.

As always, I stand ready to serve the community of Pine Plains and, with gratitude, welcome your input, thoughts, and participation.

~Jeanine Sisco [jsisco@pineplains-ny.gov](mailto:jsisco@pineplains-ny.gov)

Well, here we are on the precipice of seasonal change. As much as I love snow and skiing I am looking forward to warmer weather and all of the things we can do outside.

Speaking of seasonal changes, Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> was the "Big night" which is the big pulse of the amphibian migration. Every year on the first night when the ground has thawed, the temperature is 40 or above, with rain, frogs, salamanders and newts come out of hibernation and head for water with one goal in mind. They wish to procreate. There can be more than one pulse of migration, but

there is usually one big night. This year was an exceptionally good pulse and the team of volunteers, headed by our Conservation Advisory Council board member Kim Denardis, was able to move hundreds of amphibians across the road to safety. These creatures are very important to the ecosystem. The amount that we saw was a good indication that our ecosystem is healthy and thriving. Both Twin Island Lake (Mud Pond) and Stissing Lake have been tested and the water quality is good. I highly recommend looking into this for next year. It is a fun, rewarding experience for kids and adults. For more information on the Big Night go to [this site](#).

In other business, the town board continues to look into the events surrounding Flock Safety and the camera situation. Last week, I requested all documentation related to communications between Flock Safety and the town. Earlier this week, council members received some of that information and we continue to review it to determine how to proceed. Expect more information at the monthly board meeting. If you have questions, please bring them to the board meeting. It is my intention to conduct open and honest meetings. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Lastly, please share this information with anyone who is interested.

~Councilman Walsh [kwalsh@pineplains-ny.gov](mailto:kwalsh@pineplains-ny.gov)

March, Sun melts the snow and surveillance hits the sidewalks. My time between the February town board meeting and this month's meeting has once again been a crash course in town policy. The words of the month are surveillance and sidewalks. I personally am very pro sidewalks and would like to thank Jeanine Sisco for all the amazing work she put forward in getting the TAP grant submitted. I am not pro government surveillance and hope supervisor Walsh is willing to finally answer questions at this upcoming meeting. Engagement and interest have been booming at town hall! Whatever your take is on town business, I want to know! As board members we represent the people of the town and your engagement only helps us do the best job we can.

My phone # is 914 466 8947.

~Your councilman, Trevor Roush [ttroush@pineplains-ny.gov](mailto:ttroush@pineplains-ny.gov).

I welcome the muddy season, knowing it is transitional. And seeing the first crocus blooming. Though I did not go out on Lake Road in the pouring rain late on the night of March 11th, I know that many did, including Councilman Roush's daughter Goldie for her first time, helping amphibians safely cross the road. Gail Mellow, CAC Chair, said this year there were more frogs than salamanders, unlike last year.

I did though take Sgt. Steve Camburn up on the invitation he extended at the February Town Board meeting, to board members and community residents, to attend a demo of the Axon AI report writing and translation software/hardware that the police department has proposed using for a 30-day trial period, followed by possible contracting. It was fascinating; I would be happy to discuss what I learned.

And, as a reminder, if an offer of a demo is presented on something that interests you, please seize the opportunity. This is the way we move forward. Public awareness brings us all into the conversation.

~ Murphy Birdsall [mbirdsall@pineplains-ny.gov](mailto:mbirdsall@pineplains-ny.gov)

## Statement From the Supervisor

I have turned all my emails and any phone conversations over as per the foil requests that were received. Statements were made that should not have been made in the phone conversations that I truly regret making, and I take full responsibility for that and regret it. At the same time, as I have been saying from the beginning, I was completely unaware of any contract. If I ever saw such a contract 1) I would never have signed it, and 2) it was not even what we were discussing, as we were talking about four units. I was involved in looking at a demo/trial for a product free of charge. I now regret not looking further into this with the board. We are not in a contract with Flock and not one cent has changed hands nor will it.

Many towns' persons have been commenting about cameras that have been placed on route 199 and route 82. These cameras are set up by NYS DOT; they are doing a traffic study and no longer use the rubber strips on the road, and they have nothing to do with the town nor Flock. These traffic studies are done to improve our roadways and that is all they are used for. A statement was released by DOT and was posted on the town website about this.

On another note, our sidewalks grant has been completed and submitted and we are hoping we will receive the award. As stated in our presentation, this will be a process and will take some time to get the project going with design and construction. This is phase one of a multi-phase project.

~ Brian Walsh [brianwalsh@pineplains-ny.gov](mailto:brianwalsh@pineplains-ny.gov)

***Town Board Meeting - Thursday, March 19 7 PM at Town Hall***