



Newsletter September 14, 2026

Town Board Members

Town Supervisor - Brian Walsh

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

It is hard to believe that the summer has come and is almost gone. It already feels like autumn in the cool brisk air each early morning. It seems like we just celebrated Community Day and suddenly, we look forward to Ag Day!

The Beautification Committee is awaiting

completion of the flip side of the "Welcome to Pine Plains" signs and hope to relocate the one going out of town, south on Route 82 to a more visible and strategic location. The Committee also awaits the response to Request for Proposals to improve the walkway surfaces in the Town Center Park. The committee has initiated discussions regarding attending to the existing landscaping around the Town Hall and the Town Hall sign. As the summer season winds down, the planters throughout the Town Center look so full and vibrant! Special thanks to the Garden Club for the plantings and to Rich Johnson for his attentive watering. Speaking of fall, the Beautification Committee will be planning a gathering to discuss their mission, engage the community in future direction and to distribute daffodil bulbs to property and /or business owners in the Hamlet district for fall planting. Stay tuned!

This summer welcomed the opening of an adult swim access at Stissing Lake, only to be closed in mid-August when the Board of Health deemed it part of the Town "Bathing Beach" and required the town to adhere to Subpart 6-2, Chapter 1 of the State Sanitary Code. Murphy and I met with the Dutchess County Associate Public Health Sanitarian this month and we will continue to brainstorm and problem solve this issue. We feel committed to ensuring that Stissing Lake, our beloved natural resource, is accessible to our entire community.

If you have a chance to visit the Town Hall and leaf through the book [Foundations of Freedom](#), you will notice an entry on Pine Plains. I am thrilled that we made it into this publication, thanks to our Historian, Dyan Wapnick.

This is the time of year when the Town Budget is developed. Be sure to attend Town Board Meetings (third Thursday of each month at 7:00PM) and Workshop Meetings (Monday prior to Town Board Meetings at 7:00PM) to learn more.

I look forward to seeing you!

~Jeanine Sisco jsisco@pineplains-ny.gov

This end-of-summer has been extremely busy. As Jeanine wrote, in August the town was hit with an "unpermitted bathing beach" determination from the Dutchess County Department of Health. We were asked

to close the recently opened adult swim access until we can satisfy the state and county that regulations are being followed to protect the safety of swimmers.

This was during summer heat; curtailed swimming was noticed, and was not popular. The number of people circling in to find a solution has been large. The Conservation Advisory Council members, who created the swimming access, joined the entire Town Board, county officials, swimmers who consider swimming Stissing Lake one of their favorite activities - everyone has been helping. As liaison to the CAC, I continue to try to keep all connected, sharing information, ideas and successes.

We will find a way for everyone to enjoy swimming the cool waters of Stissing Lake.

The CAC is also in the beginning phase of the Pine Plains Natural Resource Inventory that it has been given \$54,209 to implement, part of the 2025 Hudson River Estuary Grants for Local Stewardship. The town has until August 31, 2029 to spend the money and have been told the inventory will take about a year and a half. They are training and planning, but are being held up by difficulty accessing the state financial system that they need to work through. Again, many hands are at work to overcome this obstacle.

The photo at top of Stissing Mountain behind a blanket of fog over Thompson Pond was taken yesterday, September 13th. Today the sky is blue and clear. The leaves are changing color. What a beautiful time of year.

~ Murphy Birdsall mbirdsall@pineplains-ny.gov

Town Board Meeting - Thursday, September 17 7 PM at Town Hall