

Newsletter November 15, 2026

Town Board Members

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

"a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals"

The participation of community members in Town government is critical to achieving shared goals. This participation was demonstrated at the Community Conversation hosted by the Beautification Committee on October 13th. The turnout was great, upwards of thirty people were in attendance. The moderator, Matthew LeBaron, and the co-chairs Vikki Soracco and Elena Meccariello gave a brief overview of the Committee's Mission and accomplishments. The floor was then open for discussion. Many ideas and concerns were articulated by those in attendance. Concerns regarding the use of the town-owned property in the town center, appearance of some vacant properties, ideas for fundraising, collaboration with other committees and boards, improving the four points of entry into the town, organizing efforts to collect litter along roads, planting trees along roads/sidewalks in town, efforts to partner with the library to provide workshops, and encouraging community engagement and volunteerism, were among some of what the attendees offered. I, for one, found this event to be energizing. Clearly when we engage the community, wonderful things can happen. Daffodils and fall mums were offered as door prizes. Jeanne Valentine Chase led the charge in securing over three hundred daffodil bulbs. In addition to those given as door prizes, members of the Committee planted bulbs in over a dozen locations throughout the town. We can look forward to the surprise of bright yellow flowers in early spring! The Beautification Committee initiated the Fall clean-up in the town park, adding additional lilacs. Also, please take notice of the improved Town Hall stone planting bed and rhododendrons.

The Town Council met on October 22nd to prepare the budget for the public hearing held on November 10th. No one from the community attended the public hearing; the Town Council approved the preliminary budget.

The long-awaited decision regarding the DOT TAP Grant for our Town Center Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility Improvements arrived, saying that our application was not selected for funding. I plan to follow up with the Director of Local Programs to learn what we can do differently in the future and what communities were given awards. Although this was discouraging news, we must continue to seek assistance from our State and Local governments for projects that the community prioritizes.

As we look to the future, my hope is to engage the community in ways that impact Pine Plains in positive directions. See you at the next Town Board meeting, November 19th at 7:00PM

~Jeanine Sisco jsisco@pineplains-ny.gov

November! What a busy month, youth basketball started last weekend and has recorded numbers. Thank you to all the coaches and players! I would like to sincerely thank Brian Walsh for his time in office and I look forward to continuing the work he has been doing as well as starting some new projects! Pine Plains is my favorite place in the world and the people are what make it so special to me. If you are interested in joining any town committees, please reach out now.

~Trevor Roush troush@pineplains-ny.gov

It has been heartening - and somewhat surprising to me, I admit - that several Pine Plains residents have expressed interest in filling the Town Council seat that will become vacant in 2027. When I was asked to run for the board over a year ago, it was difficult to find people willing to step up. I appreciate the current attraction toward participating in our town government.

The Conservation Advisory Council's grant to conduct a Natural Resources Inventory continues to ramp up while also experiencing difficulties getting contractual documents in order. Jenna Holub of Hudsonia hopes to do a short presentation to the Town Board and the public, on their work conducting the NRI, at the November 19 meeting but will postpone until the December 17 meeting if contractual issues are not resolved. I am working, with fingers crossed, to see this happen this week.

Last Saturday, the crew of volunteers installed the Christmas Trees along the parade route for the Decorating Day & Parade of Lights, Saturday, November 28. This sparkly annual event brings the town out to celebrate in joyous holiday spirit. You can find more info and keep tabs on the event at their Facebook page **Pine Plains Decorating Day & Parade of Lights**.

~ Murphy Birdsall mbirdsall@pineplains-ny.gov

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