



THOMAS BEELER

Chili Challenge sets new records

The Kingswood Youth Center's Chili Challenge fundraiser was held last Saturday, Aug. 18, on the Durgin Stables common off North Main Street. According to KYC Executive Director Linda Matchett, shown here selling tickets, more than 200 paid to taste and rate the chili this year, up from 160 last year. The event raised more than \$15,000 for Youth Center activities. See more photos on page A11.

Ford questions deeding lots in subdivision

BY ELISSA PAQUETTE
Staff Writer

TUFTONBORO — David Ford, President of the Tuftonboro Farms Lot Owners Association, raised several issues at the Aug. 13 Board of Selectmen's meeting. He was responding to the board's enthusiasm for a recent proposal by Sovereign Bank to repurchase the 13

Zadeda lots conveyed to the town for the nonpayment of three years of taxes.

The bank offer includes back taxes due, interest and a 15 percent penalty, which would total about \$122,000 — just 21 percent of the assessed value of \$585,000 according to Ford's calculation.

Ford brought several matters to the board's attention:

the back taxes owed by Zadena Farms equaling \$2,900 and back taxes owed by the town as owners of the 13 lots in question; a less-than-half-built single family dwelling (lot #11) left to decay that is "home to wild animals and poses a health and safety risk to the neighborhood;" and

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HEATHER TERRAGNI

Flying high at NickFest

NickFest, the annual fundraiser for the Wolfeboro Area Recreation Association that supports the facilities at the Nick, had a number of new attractions this year, the most attention-getting being the helicopter ride. More more photos of last Sunday's event, see page A11.

Wolfeboro selectmen warned about ADA compliance

BY THOMAS BEELER
Editor

WOLFEBORO — Wolfeboro resident Bobby Hanson, who had filed the complaint about the town's lack of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act in 2005, told selectmen on Aug. 15 about his frustrations trying to get the town to address current ADA issues.

"I have spoken with the Justice Department about the lack of response and they have advised me to file another complaint in Washington," Hanson said. "I'd rather see the problems addressed here and fixed."

The first issue Hanson raised was the lack of an ADA-compliant bathroom in Town Hall. The town has not had a public bathroom in Town Hall for some time, but

the lack of a handicapped accessible public bathroom makes the public meeting room non-compliant, despite the addition of ramps last year that made it wheelchair accessible. "There should be no meetings in Town Hall until the meeting room is ADA compliant."

Hanson added that he went SEE COMPLIANCE PAGE A18

Milfoil regrowth is a major problem for Wolfeboro

BY ELISSA PAQUETTE
Staff Writer

WOLFEBORO — Unfortunately for New Hampshire's waterways, it was a very good year for milfoil across the state. A mild winter, early ice out and a warm spring have set back the extensive efforts made over the last few years to control the invasive plant.

Amazed at the regrowth in Back Bay this season, Ken Marschner, head of Wolfeboro's Milfoil Committee, says the town may have to resort to more chemical treatments in addition to the diving and hand pulling program that was making substantial progress until this year.

Marschner hosted a tour of Back Bay for members of the state's Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee, including citizen representative and Director of the Osipee Lake Alliance Bob Reynolds (second from left) and Committee Chairman Rep. Chris Christensen (third from left) took a tour of Wolfeboro's Back Bay to examine the milfoil infestation regrowth. Cliff Cabral, Wolfeboro's dive contractor (standing) offers points as he pilots the pontoon boat.

Rep. Chris Christensen, and Sen. Jeb Bradley, on Aug. 14 while the Diver Assisted Suction Harvester operation was in full operation.

Reynolds says the early start of this year's growth surprised everyone. Three

SEE MILFOIL PAGE A18



COURTESY PHOTO

MILFOIL TOUR. On Tuesday, Aug. 14, Sen. Jeb Bradley (left) and members of the state's Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee, including citizen representative and Director of the Osipee Lake Alliance Bob Reynolds (second from left) and Committee Chairman Rep. Chris Christensen (third from left) took a tour of Wolfeboro's Back Bay to examine the milfoil infestation regrowth. Cliff Cabral, Wolfeboro's dive contractor (standing) offers points as he pilots the pontoon boat.

Town considers acquiring derelict Lehner Street buildings

BY THOMAS BEELER
Editor

WOLFEBORO — During the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen meeting on Aug. 15, Town Manager Dave Owen brought up for discussion the possibility of the town buying the two dilapidated, boarded-up buildings at 74 and 80 Lehner Street, demol-

ishing them and incorporating the properties into the adjacent Foss Field playground.

Owen's stated rationale is that "The removal of these two eyesores will further enhance the improvements of

Lehner Street, and will add to the Foss Field complex. This will benefit the programs of the Parks and Recreation Department and the Lehner Street neighbor-

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JOSHUA SPAULDING

Another win

Aaron Colman of Rye Beach accepts his the Granite Man Triathlon championship trophy from race founder and longtime volunteer Marjorie Dow on Saturday morning at Carry Beach. Colman won his second consecutive Granite Man title and sixth overall. See the story and more photos in the sports section, starting on page B1.

Fire Station Groundbreaking Next Monday

TUFTONBORO — The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Tuftonboro Fire Station is scheduled to take place next Monday, Aug. 27, at 11 a.m. The public is invited to witness the historic event. The property is located on Route 109A/Middle Road close to Tuftonboro Central School. Turn onto the dirt road adjacent to the Tuftonboro Central Park.

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COMPLIANCE

FROM PAGE A18

to Town Hall a week ago and noted that, in addition to the lack of a public ADA bathroom, counters where people pay bills were all above the level of someone in a wheelchair and there was not enough space in front of the Town Clerk's counter for a wheelchair to turn. These problems, along with the as-yet-uncorrected handicap parking spaces at Town Hall, were identified by Cheryl Killam, the former disability specialist for the State of New Hampshire, when she investigated Hanson's original complaint years ago. "The town is not supposed to be using space that is not accessible," Hanson emphasized.

A second issue Hanson has been trying to get addressed were the signs at the entrances to hiking and bike paths completed last year by Pathways of Wolfeboro on land owned by the town and the Lakes Region Conservation Trust. The signs state, "No Motorized Vehicles," a blanket exclusion not allowed by ADA since it would ban use of electric powered wheelchairs as well as other powered mobility devices used by the handicapped.

In trying to get someone from Pathways of Wolfeboro to respond to this sign issue Hanson found that there is no such legal entity as "Pathways of Wolfeboro." Yet a check he wrote to Pathways was accepted by the Went-

worth Economic Development Corp, which is acting as the group's fiscal agent. He warned that the town was liable for any issues that arose in connection with Pathways and cited the case of the outdoor skating rink in North Conway which may have to be closed due to liability and other issues.

He said that Pathways has done a lot of good but needs to address the sign issue.

Other issues

Later, at the end of the meeting, Hanson took advantage of the second Public Comment period at the Aug. 15 meeting to add three more ADA issues.

The first was Mast Landing, which Hanson said was

overlooked in the original investigation. Despite having a handicap parking space, the landing is inaccessible to someone in a wheelchair van because the entrance way crosses the rail bed, which causes vehicles to bottom out.

The second issue concerned the new sidewalk on the Bradley's Hardware side of Railroad Avenue and Depot Square, which is too narrow to allow a wheelchair to pass due mainly to the front ends of parked vehicles intruding into the sidewalk. There is also no crosswalk from the curb cut at the end of the sidewalk to the rail-

road station. Hanson said he had pointed out these problems to Public Works Director Dave Ford but has yet to receive a reply.

At that point Selectman Dave Bowers pointed out the soon-to-be-opened Front Bay Park, which he said only one of seven designed for wheelchair access. "It will put Wolfeboro on the map," he said.

Hanson acknowledged that the park itself was beautiful but that there are no sidewalks on Bay Street (where the entrance is) and the sidewalks into town on Elm Street are very narrow.

Hanson's third issue was

with how Bill Todesco, who has a town license to sell from a food cart by Spencer Hughes on Main Street, has set himself up in a way that blocks using the passenger-side door in the handicapped parking spot. Todesco also parks his truck in the adjacent handicapped spot and, while he has a disability placard, he leaves it there all day.

Town Manager Dave Owen responded to the last comment by saying that a disability placard exempts the holder from parking time limit.

Selectman Chair Linda Murray said the board would look into the issues raised.

MILFOIL

FROM PAGE A1

new infestations appeared this August within the Ossipee Lake system. One was the first ever found on the main lake. "Ten or 11 rivers are affected now, too," he added.

Statewide surveys completed by the Ossipee Lake Alliance (OLA) tracking the amount of money spent around the state to control the invasive weed established that about \$1 million were raised in the effort. The group was able to get information on about two-thirds of the state's water bodies, says Reynolds. Others are not receiving the benefit of any organized citizen attention.

According to the OLA findings, about 10 percent of the total dollars devoted to the cause came from the state, about 45 percent from the towns and 45 percent from individuals.

While Reynolds estimates the total amount needs to double to around \$2 million this year to address the infestation. Milfoil crowds out native species and its rapid growth reduces water clarity, which affects the fish population. It can also have a deleterious affect on property values and on tourism in a state that relies heavily on property taxes and outdoor recreation revenues. Christensen says that some say maybe \$7 million over a five-year period would be sufficient.

Whatever the figure, one sure thing is that it's time to invest more in control efforts.

Bradley says he's always been supportive of protecting water quality and says, "Now that I've seen it first hand, I think it's clear we're going to have to bite the bullet and invest more money." Exactly how to best raise the money is not yet clear, but he's offered to cosponsor legislation to address the issue.

Presently, there is a \$7.50 surcharge on boat registration fees. Raising that



DIVER ASSISTED SUCTION HARVESTING (DASH) of milfoil took place in Back Bay on Tuesday, Aug. 14. A diver is below the surface hand pulling plants and sending them up via the harvester suction line.



LINDA MURRAY, Chairman of the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen and member of the town's Milfoil Committee moves along the shoreline in a kayak to collect the noxious weed thriving in Back Bay on Aug. 14.

amount is one possibility, but Christensen says, "We need a broader base of support." He's thinking that an access fee, similar to the one in Maine, would include more users.

"Over the years we've tried various mechanisms," says Christensen. "Property taxes are a sore subject." An access fee would require boaters, canoeists and kayakers to purchase stickers for their boats and would include out of stater.

Another idea the committee has talked about is streamlining the permitting process for chemical treatment and hand pulling activity. According to Christensen, right now it takes 90 to 100 days to get permit. Looking at how fast the mil-

foil has spread under this season's conditions, perhaps a reduction in that time period could help lake associations and towns get ahead of the problem.

"New Hampshire is proud of its water quality," says Christensen, and milfoil poses an environmental threat.

Linda Murray, Chairman of the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen and a member of the town's milfoil committee, was out in a kayak on the day of the tour, cruising along the shoreline to rake in the long strands of bright green milfoil as she's done many times in the past few seasons.

The next day she antenuating soil conditions. Selectman Dave Bowers was more positive. He said he would like to walk the two properties and take a closer

WOLFEBORO

FROM PAGE A1

hood overall." The acquired properties could serve as the site for a new Foss Field building when the time comes to build one.

Owen shared with the board a letter of understanding countersigned by property owner Paul Dumont on Aug. 6, outlining "a methodology for determining the fair market value of these two properties similar to that which was used in the recent acquisition of another residential property, the house at 255 South Main Street (between the Library and the Public Safety Building)." The town and Dumont would split the cost of hiring a reputable real estate appraiser acceptable to both parties and agree to the valuations, provided the price was acceptable to both parties and, ultimately, the voters.

According to the tax assessment property cards, the values for the two properties were \$77,200 for 74 Lehner and \$71,500 for 80 Lehner - a total of \$148,700. Owen also provided a Capital Improvement Plan Project Request that gave a ballpark estimate of \$180,000, which would include purchasing the properties, with appraisal costs included, for \$150,000 and \$30,000 for demolition of both buildings.

Selectman Chair Linda Murray said the project was not a high priority to her. The soil conditions at the sites are unknown, there has been vandalism in the area, and the town already owns the vacant Municipal Electric building just up the street.

Selectman Sarah Silk said she was also concerned about the soils but felt it was a good idea to look into. She gave her view that the Municipal Electric building was not a choice site.

Owen agreed to look into testing soil conditions.

Selectman Dave Bowers was more positive. He said he would like to walk the two properties and take a closer

look at them. He said a person who stores cars in another building on Lehner Street may be willing to sell or give it to the town. Bowers said he felt the board should look into improving "the whole site," meaning Lehner Street as a whole.

Selectman Dave Senecal said he is in favor of testing the soils and doing an appraisal. He noted that the latest Capital Improvement Plan has not been presented, so this project could be added to it.

It was agreed that Bowers and Senecal will tour the properties with Town Planner Rob Houseman.

The board voted 5-0 to hire an appraiser and split the cost with Dumont.

Town Manager's report

Owen reviewed a report from Police Chief Stuart Chase on complaints from abutters about excessive noise from the Inn on Main on the night of Saturday, Aug. 4 into the morning of Sunday, Aug. 5. The issue was also reviewed with management of the Inn and steps will be taken to avoid future loud noises.

A birch tree will be planted in Clark Park near the Pleasant Valley School to honor former Tree Warden Allen Stevens, who passed away on July 25. Birch was Stevens' favorite tree.

Owen reported touring the new Kingswood complex last week with Superintendent Jack Robertson, who offered the use of the new lecture hall (pictured on the front page of last week's GSN) for town meetings.

Front Bay Park will be formally opened on Sept. 12 at 11 a.m. Bowers offered to pay for a cake and refreshments to honor Mike Hodder for his outstanding work on the project.

Owen said the Request for Proposals for assessing services is ready to go out. The current contract expires at the end of 2012. A one-year contract with a one-year option to extend is being offered. An team to interview prospective bidders needs to be set up.

An agreement with Fifth Estate for improvements to the Public Safety communications system has been signed. Finance Director Chamberlin will oversee the bidding process on the radio tower and equipment.

A draft easement for the sidewalks at Depot Square has been sent to Chip Maxfield, who heads the condo association that owns the sidewalks. The agreement provides that a four-foot clear corridor will be maintained for passage of wheelchairs.

The budget season will begin on Sept. 19 with a hearing on requests from social service agencies. Murray said she would like to get the first department review in the first week of October. Other-wise hearings will be scheduled for the weeks of Oct. 22 and 29.

Employee Appreciation Day will be held on Friday, Sept. 7, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Town offices will close at 11 a.m. that day.

Priscilla Keaton was hired as Deputy Town Clerk, replacing Martha Krause, who retired Aug. 3.

The Health Insurance Task Force has met and reported 54 percent of employees responded to questionnaires. Proposals are now being requested from insurers.

Other business

During the two Public Comment sections of the meeting the board heard complaints from resident Bobby Hanson about the handling of ADA issues. Please see separate report.

Selectmen approved the 2012 Town Investment Policy submitted by Treasurer John Burt. He said it is essentially the same as the 2011 policy.

The board reviewed the Monthly Expenditure and Revenue Report presented by Finance Director Pete Chamberlin. He reported that all budgets were in good shape at this point of the year except for the higher lease fees relating to the Rapid Infiltration Basin suit.

A draft of guidelines for island residents storing boat trailers in the gravel lot at the Pop Whalen Ice Arena were reviewed. A formal discussion will take place at the board's Sept. 5 meeting.

Selectmen approved mounting a three-foot-high banner promoting the "Seven to Save" event at Town Hall on Wednesday, Aug. 22, as requested by Maggie Stier for the N.H. Preservation Alliance, which is sponsoring tours of Brewster Hall from 4 to 5:15 p.m. followed by a talk on town hall buildings by James Garvin at the First Congregational Church.

The board authorized Owen to proceed with the renovation of the assessing office at Town Hall with a total cost not to exceed \$2,600 following the agreed plan.

Selectmen also approved \$947 for a new desk for the appraiser that will meet the ergonomic recommendations of Primex, the town's insurer.

The board committed to completing forms for the annual performance appraisal of Town Manager Owen for the meeting on Sept. 19. Murray will then complete a master report and the board as a whole will meet with Owen on Oct. 3.

Murray reported that milfoil harvesting is taking place in Back Bay and will continue for two weeks. The warm winter produced a strong regrowth. "There is lots to harvest, and I'm not sure we are winning the battle," Murray said. Another chemical treatment may be required.

The next meeting of the Wolfeboro Board of Selectmen will be on Wednesday, Sept. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Wolfeboro Public Library meeting room.

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