

# Pound Ridge 2007

Report from the Town Board, 8 May 2007

Dear Family, Friends and Neighbors,

I hope this message finds you in good health and enjoying all of the great things that our town has to offer. It is no secret that our quality of life in Pound Ridge hinges on the delicate balance between preserving the environment, properly managing development, providing needed community services and maintaining a budget that minimizes taxes. Town officials, staff and resident volunteers work tirelessly on your behalf to accomplish these goals. This newsletter provides an update of the many new and ongoing programs and initiatives that are being worked on. For more detailed information please visit our website ([www.townofpoundridge.com](http://www.townofpoundridge.com)) or contact me or any of our town department heads directly.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gary David Warshauer NCARB, AIA  
Town Supervisor  
[gwarshauer@townofpoundridge.com](mailto:gwarshauer@townofpoundridge.com)

## First use of Open Space Fund

Tom Anderson, Chairman, and the members of the Open Space Acquisition Committee have identified the first use of our open space funds. The committee, after reviews with the Planning Board and the Conservation Board, have recommended that we assist the Mianus River Gorge in preserving two properties situated between Long Ridge Road & the Gorge that otherwise could be developed. We will contribute 20% of the purchase price up to a maximum of \$175,000 in return for a conservation easement over the property. The result will be preserving the quiet and pristine experience in the Gorge. After holding a public hearing, the Town Board unanimously approved the expenditure. Our Open Space Fund has about \$2.6 million in it, to which we add about \$350,000 each year, for another three years. The committee has several other properties that they are also working and I expect that we will soon be discussing future acquisitions.

## Water Quality Restoration Projects at Sachs Park and the Highway Department

Construction is scheduled to begin this June on this project that will re-organize and add significant water quality improvements to our Highway Dept. and make Sachs Park a real Park. The 1.4 million dollar project is helped by a \$312,500 matching grant provided to us by the No. Westchester Watershed Council as part of the County's agreement with NY City. After 3 years of planning, we expect this project will be completed this fall. In addition to the storm water quality improvements and the park's passive recreation, residents will benefit from an improved recycling center. Plans for the project can be viewed on our web site. Special thanks to Deputy Town Supervisor Jon Powers, for his tireless work as a member and former Chairman of the Northern Westchester Watershed Council and for helping to secure the grant that makes this project possible.

## Deer Management Plan

In a bold and proactive move, Chairman Rob Powell and the members of our Conservation Board have developed a deer management plan for Pound Ridge. My Supervisor's Forum in August 2005 first brought residents together to discuss the issue. Bill Harding & Rob Powell educated us on the extensive damage that the deer have done to the environment. Dr. Michael Klemens echoed those concerns during our Tri-Town Biotic Corridor sessions. A special committee was established and culling the herd, using currently approved and State regulated bow hunting was decided as the most logical solution. The committee recommended additional town safety and monitoring regulations and the plan was approved after a town board Public Hearing in June 2006 and was in effect from October 15th thru December 31st. Special thanks to the Conservation Board and Committee members Rob Powell, Bill

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Harding, Jon Powers, Billy Schelling, and to Dave Ryan and all of the members of our Police Department for administering this program in 2006 and for their recommended modifications for continuing the plan in 2007.

### **Recycling**

A new recycling center is scheduled for completion this summer, making it much easier for us to meet our obligation to be environmentally conscious and recycle. Our Recycling Program was first established by Supervisor Jim Trippe and has been coordinated by Evelyn Olsen for 19 years. Recommendations from our Recycling Committee, a sub-committee of our Conservation Board that includes: Rob Powell, Robbie Everett, Elyse Arnow, Richard Mendes, Deborah & Stuart Tepper and Tara Packer has resulted in opening our recycling area every Saturday morning from 9:00am to 12 noon. Please visit the town web site for an overview of our recycling program.

### **Community Center**

A sub-committee of the Recreation Commission, under the direction of Chairperson Elizabeth Harrington, is in the process of completing their evaluation of the long-term planning options for the town park which includes the placement of the new community center. They are working with architect Jim Lothrop, of Lothrop Associates Architects. Once the plan is finalized and a concept is selected, the Recreation Comm. will make its recommendation to the Town Board for consideration and the holding of a Public Hearing. We will post the proposal on the Town web site when it is available, so residents have ample opportunity to review it prior to the Public Hearing.

### **Pedestrian Bridge Replaced**

Special thanks to Councilman Dick Lyman for overseeing the design, construction documents and the construction of the replacement bridge that spans the stream along the bike path between Fancher Road and Scotts Corners. Please visit the town web site to see photographs of this interesting construction project.

### **Town Masterplan**

The Masterplan Committee members have worked diligently to identify the characteristics that define the quality of life in Pound Ridge and recommend policies that will shape the future of our Town. Bill Harding, Town resident volunteer, has taken over as Chairman and is coordinating the completion of the draft masterplan, scheduled for this summer, at which time we will publish the document on the website, have copies available at the Town House for review and begin the Public Hearing process. Several environmental initiatives have already been advanced as a result of the discussions of this committee. Special thanks to the Committee members Elyse and Josh Arnow, Clay Fowler, Steve Kushner, Vince Manna, Sam Mlynar, Les Maron, Richard Mendes, Van Muller, Deborah Tepper, Marc Vandenhoeck, recent members Melinda Avellino and Bill Harding, Town Board liaison Jon Powers and the many other residents who have contributed to this effort for their thought provoking and steadfast work.

### **Technology**

The advancement of technology seems to be a never ending task. I liken it to stepping into quick sand. Once you get in, you can't ever get out. But it is worth the effort. We have upgraded the network in the town house to allow the sharing of information, which has increased the efficiency of our town house staff. We have provided for electronic banking and residents can now pay their taxes on line. We are in the process of modifying our web site to be more interactive and accommodating to resident's needs. Steve Conti, our Director of Finance and IT coordinator, is working with all town Department Heads to set up the web site so that each department can maintain their own information and for residents to be able to register for programs, receive regular e-mailings and communicate directly with Departments regarding matters of interest to them. The site should be active after Labor Day. We are also working on activating a GIS-Graphic Information System- for the town, so that our residents and volunteer board and commission

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members can better understand the environmental issues of concern to us all. The challenge is first in setting up this system and then determining how to economically manage and maintain it so that the information is current and meaningful.

### **Volunteers**

A defining characteristic of our town is the level of volunteerism that exists. I mention this every chance I get because without these dedicated men and women we would not be able to provide the level of services that we do within the budget that we maintain. Please take the time to get to know these individuals and their groups, the importance of the things they do and if you have the interest and can invest the time consider joining one. Remember that those who serve on our boards and commissions, respond to fires, car accidents and other disasters, assist our seniors and tend to our beautification, are your neighbors who work without compensation, supported by our town house staff, highway, parks and police department, selflessly in our combined interests. For more information about them, please visit our town web or ask about them at the town house.

### **Cell Tower**

The process of designing the replacement tower at Adams Lane has finally been completed. The tower is now installed and operational and the original tower will soon be removed. The process, although frustrating, will result in better emergency service communications for our residents. Special thanks to: Deputy Town Supervisor and OEM Executive Director Jon Powers; Police Chief and OEM Director Dave Ryan; Town Building Inspector, Safety Officer, Fire Fighter, Former Fire Chief and OEM Director Jim Perry; and Fire Fighter and Former Fire Chief Terry Buckbee, for their expertise and perseverance in seeing that the new tower provides the emergency services equipment necessary to protect our residents. While this tower provides a major component of our emergency communications there is still a service gap that is obvious if you try to make a call from Scotts Corners. We will soon be considering an

application for another cell tower being proposed behind the Ambulance Corps building. I expect to be receiving their application shortly.

### **Scotts Corners**

The town board has been working with the Business Association and more recently with the property owners in Scotts Corners to help address a variety of issues that impact the vitality of our local businesses. Over the past three years we have drafted and implemented a parking ordinance, established a regular tree and sidewalk maintenance program, drafted a new signage ordinance (that should be adopted this year) and developed a new parking plan to increase the number of spaces and establish a better storm water management system. We have struggled with the issue of infrastructure, which is limited in certain areas, most obviously at the Trinity Corners Shopping Center. The most apparent solution, which would take water from and bring septic to the golf course, has an initial projected cost in excess of \$4 million that would have to be paid by the existing owners. This cost does not include necessary agreements with the owner of the golf course. We will continue to discuss this matter with the business and property owners, but the solution may well be to eliminate the empty stores to balance the development with the existing infrastructure.

### **Environmental Controls**

Ordinances more strictly regulating slopes and environmentally sensitive lands are currently being considered by the Town Board and are the subject for continued Public Hearing on June 10<sup>th</sup>. With the increased pressure that large renovations and new construction have on the environment, the masterplan committee and conservation board have urged us to strengthen regulations to better protect our natural resources. The drafting of this ordinance has involved our planning board, interested town residents and the town board in a process that has taken the better part of a year. Special thanks to all who have participated in this process, the results of which will benefit us all.

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### Enhanced Safety Regulations

The result of an accident involving the use of an antiquated trapping device has angered members of our conservation board to the point of recommending additional local regulations for the use of any trapping device in town. Currently the use of traps is regulated by New York State and we do not have the ability to prohibit them. However, we can add our own safety regulations that would make residents aware of any such traps being used. This new local law is currently in the draft stage. The Town Board has scheduled a Public Hearing on May 17<sup>th</sup> for its consideration.

### Town Budget

Managing the Town budget remains one of our most important responsibilities. 2007 marks our second consecutive year with no increase in our town tax rate. In 2005 our increase was less than 1%. We continue our commitment to manage our money wisely, but this does not come without a concentrated effort by your town volunteers and staff. Special thanks to my fellow town board members and all of our town department heads and employees, who continuously monitor and evaluate their efficiencies to minimize spending.

### Memorial Day

Please plan to join us on Monday May 28<sup>th</sup> for the observance of Memorial Day. Weather permitting, the parade will begin at the Elementary School at 12:00 noon and conclude with the Ceremony at the Town Cemetery. In case of rain, we'll meet in the PR Elementary School Gymnasium. This year's guest speaker is Art Travis, Veteran, Fire Fighter, OEM volunteer and our Asst. Building Inspector.

### Spring Clean-up

Not so many years ago, a plastic bag and a note induced our residents to participate in our town-wide Spring Clean-Up. Unfortunately participation dwindled and we had to stop it. We are going to give it another try and we urge you to go out on May 19-20 and pick up the roadside litter in your neighborhood. As an inducement the Town will supply you with green plastic bags which you can get at the Town

House. Your filled bags should be left by your driveway and a phone call to the Town House (764-5511) will send our Maintenance Dept. to pick them up during the week of May 21<sup>st</sup>. This small effort will not only make Pound Ridge look better, it will make you feel better.

**Don't forget Dumpster Days – Saturdays--  
May 12 & May 19<sup>th</sup> – Buy your permits at the  
Town House.**

### Supervisor Forums

In addition to our Town Board meetings, held the first and second Thursdays of each month and quarterly meetings with the Business Assn., public meetings have also been scheduled for a Saturday morning of each month at the Town House starting at 10am, to focus on issues of special interest to our residents. The following is the schedule for 2007:

<b>January 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Slopes Ordinance Town Board Special Work Session
<b>February 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Deer Management Plan
<b>March 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Pound Ridge OEM - Emergency Preparedness
<b>April 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Neighbor-To-Neighbor Discuss Town Senior programs
<b>June 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Board & Commission Chairpersons - Open Discussion
<b>June 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Discussion with State Senator Vincent Leibel and State Assemblyman Adam Bradley
<b>July 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Community Center – Review Plans proposed for 2008
<b>August 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Winter Road Maintenance and Storm Water Management Programs Review
<b>September 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Biotic Corridor Update & Review Draft Ordinance
<b>October 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Neighbor-To-Neighbor Discuss Town Senior programs and initiatives
<b>December 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Goals and Priorities for 2008