

Town Manager's Report: Town Council Meeting of 02/19/2008:

1. The FYI Folder: The FYI Book contains the following items this week: READ LIST

2. Pittsfield Area Business Forum: This is a forum or get-together for the businesses in Pittsfield and our surrounding towns. All individuals thinking of opening a business, expanding their business, who would like to receive information on local and state programs that could benefit the business or just network and meet other business representatives are cordially invited to attend. READ NOTICE.

3. Pittsfield Public Library Activities during February School Break:

Wednesday, February 20th at 11:00 am – come and learn about unique animals – a tortoise from South America and a ring tail lemur from Madagascar.

Thursday, February 21 from 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m. is Game Day for ages 10 and up.

Friday, February 22 at 11:00 am is soap making. Have fun learning about the art of soap making – learn the history and technique involved – and take home your own beautifully designed soap.

4. Sebasticook Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet: The Chamber's annual get-together was scheduled for last Thursday, February 14, 2008. Earl Dean received the Joyce Packard Community Spirit Award for his dedication to the Christmas Project – Pittsfield Food Bank for Pittsfield, Detroit and Burnham. It was a great event and Mr. Dean, his wife and his friends had a very nice time.

5. 2008 Tax Club: The Town makes available a tax club payment plan which enables taxpayers to divide their next year's property taxes into twelve monthly payments. The basis for the estimated 2008 tax will be the actual 2007 tax divided by the number of months left in the year when you join. To sign up for the tax club, ask any of the counter personnel at the Town Office or call the Town Office at 487-3136.

6. Neighborhood Watch: The Town's Neighborhood Watch Group is inviting everyone to join them to exchange ideas and share information to make the community a safer place. Get tips on how to protect your loved ones and your property while learning how you can make a difference doing things you already do. The next scheduled meeting is: Monday, 03/03/2008 6:30 p.m. All meetings are at the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building. I asked the Police Chief to issue another list of meetings with topics for the members and public so that will be forthcoming.

7. Animal Control Officer Needed: Chief Emery has announced that the Town is seeking proposals for an Animal Control Officer for the Town. Anyone who is interested in this part-time position should contact the Police Department and speak to Chief Emery beginning 02/25/2008. In the interim, the Police Officers are addressing any animal control issues as they have covered over the years when the ACOs have not been available.

8. The Paul E. Bertrand Community Pool Upcoming Fundraisers:

Scrapbooking Expo: Rescheduled to Saturday, April 26th at the Elks here off Central Street/Middle Street. Several scrapbooking events were taking place so this event was moved back to have good attendance. We will start advertising on February 26th.

9. Recreation Director and Recreation Assistant Applications: The Town is accepting applications for both the director's position as Norman LaBarge re-located our west to be with his family and the new Assistant's position until the positions are filled. Norm dropped off some boxes of files and a to do list which will help the new Director. We advertised for the director's position last year so anyone who applied last year is still eligible. The Director's position has an increase in hours and the Assistant is a new position so they should be re-advertised.

10. Town of Pittsfield 2008 Training Calendar: The Safety Committee has established a training calendar for 2008 which includes one training session per month. This will be great. Generally, when all of the summer people come on, we have 5 training sessions all together in May – June. We will need to do a little bit of individualized training, however, this will spread the training out all year round. Training is scheduled for PPE Hazard Assessment Review; Hazard Communication; Fire Extinguishers; Preventing Back Injuries/Proper techniques; Haz-Mat Awareness/Bloodborne Pathogens; Lock-out/Tag-out Procedures; Forklift Training; Chain-Saw Safety/Small Equipment; Emergency Evacuation Plan Review; Accident Reporting; and Video Terminal/Loss Prevention.

11. Residential Recycling Pick Up 2008 Schedule: This schedule was issued in the Rolling Thunder as an insert a few weeks ago. If anyone missed pulling their copy of the schedule out, extra copies are available at the Town Office. Please remember if you use the Recycling Trailer which is a great convenience in the Municipal Parking Lot, please do not throw boxes in the container without breaking them down. It takes up room and then the trailer is full and others can not use it. We pick up the trailer every day except Saturday and Sunday when the Recycling Facility is open.

12. Winter Carnival 2008: The Deeper Life Assembly will be holding its Winter Carnival 2008 at 97 Higgins Road in Pittsfield on Saturday, February 23, 2008 from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. with sledding, snow maze, bonfire, puppet show, door prizes, coffee & hot chocolate, soup, chowder, chilli, sleigh rides – fun for the whole family. For more information, call 341-5188 or 938-2502.

Saved for future Town Manager Reports (not read):

Pinnacle Ski Club Meeting: The next meeting of the Pinnacle Ski Club will be _____, _____ at _____ p.m. at the Pinnacle. This will be a work session to continue to work on the Pinnacle's operations. This is a great facility so anyone who would like to join the Pinnacle should show up at the meeting or pick up the sign-up materials at the Town Office. Remember, weather permitting, the Pinnacle is open 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday as well as school vacations.

1. Moses Martin Re-dedication of the First Homestead: The re-dedication ceremony was held on Saturday, 08/04/2007 by the Pittsfield Historical Society and the Maine State Organization Daughters of the American Revolution. This was a very nice event and well attended. We received a beautiful bronze plaque to place at the Homestead. The homestead site has been cleaned up and there is a path to it now as part of the preservation efforts. The Town is fortunate to own the Peltoma property where the Town Farm and the first Homestead are located. This property also houses the Police Shooting range on the opposite side of the property. For everyone's protection, the site will remain gated. The Historical Society will coordinate with the Town and Police Department to schedule tours of the first Homestead, most likely during the Spring and late Summer/early Fall prior to Hunting Season.

2. Town Maps: The new In-Town and Rural Routes E-911 Road maps are now on the Town's website on the front page under News. They can be downloaded and will print on 8 ½ X 11 paper so they can be printed out at peoples' homes or businesses now.

3. Historical Society Project: The Pittsfield Historical Society is looking for volunteers and donations to assist them with rebuilding the cupola at the caboose and painting the caboose. The caboose needs to be re-painted after the vandalism. In order to paint the caboose, the wooden cupola needs to be rebuilt. Anyone who has carpentry skill would be welcome at the Pittsfield Historical Society to assist them with this very important project which will then allow the painting to take place. They have one volunteer at this time. More are welcome. Anyone who would like to donate or would like more information, please contact Tom Brown at 487-4926 or Clem Spencer at 487-2408.

4. Pittsfield Farmers' Market: Rain or shine all Summer and Fall, the Pittsfield Farmers' Market will be in Hathorn Park until November 1 every Monday & Thursday from 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm. We have new brochures at the Town Office for anyone who is interested.

5. E-911 Implementation: E-911 matches a physical address with a telephone number and this information is displayed on a computer screen to dispatchers. With each letter, the Town opted to purchase and enclose numbers to be placed on everyone's houses and businesses. All numbers are supposed to be up on 05/01/2007, on homes or mailboxes if your house is away from the road. We need your new numbers up so that Public Safety can find you as well as to help the post office, delivery companies and visitors. Remember, the Post Office will deliver your mail up to 1 year from the date of your notification, so you have time to use up your checks, letterhead, etc. With your next order, just order the items with your new address. Copies of the new two-sided map with an urban in-town map and a country roads map is available at the Town Office and Library. More and more people have their numbers up. If your numbers are not up, please put them up. If you have lost your numbers, we have extras available at the Town Office until they run out.

6. Reminder for police issues: If there is an emergency, call 911. If you are calling in a police complaint, please call the regular police number of 487-3101 and relay the issue. The Police voice mails should not be used for filing police complaints. With a rotating schedule and days off, it may be 2 or more days for a police officer to check their voice mail. Complaints need to be answered right off so they can not be left on the officers' voice mail.

7. Water/Sewer Services: With over 60 miles of water and sewer pipes and approximately 700 gate boxes, 1400 service boxes, 500 manholes and 10 sewer cleanouts, the Water and Sewer Department can be kept quite busy. If anyone notices a manhole or box sunken or heaved in the roadway, please call Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent Scott Noble at the Water/Sewer Garage at 487-5203 listing the road and approximate location. With literally hundreds of these items in the roadway and the difficult winters we are having now, a few of them are going to shift out of place.