

# Duluth Township Newsletter

November 2020

Township web site: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org)



## Wanted: Deputy Clerk, Duluth Township

Duluth Township is seeking a Deputy Clerk for 15 hours/week. Responsibilities include: maintaining the Township website, assisting the Town Clerk with all duties, including dealing with the public.

In time, this person will take over the Town Clerk position, and a new Deputy Clerk will be hired. Preferred qualifications include: high school diploma, computer literacy, attention to detail, as well as good communication and interpersonal skills.

Salary will be commensurate with experience. Starting date is mid-December. Please email resume and cover letter to [TownClerk@duluthtownship.org](mailto:TownClerk@duluthtownship.org) by Nov. 25.

## The Homesteaders

*Dorothy Aho*

Homesteaders,

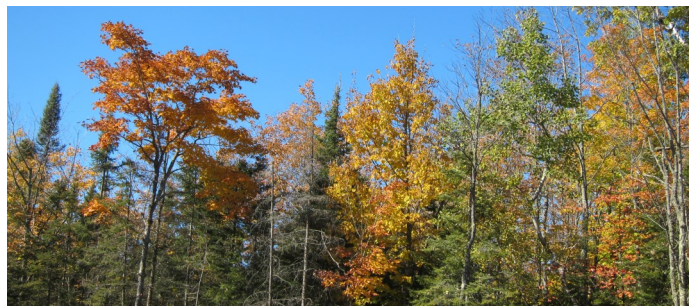
As we have not been able to meet and keep in touch, I would like to start putting some Homesteader announcements and news into the *Newsletter*. If you have birthdays, anniversaries, announcements, or interesting news, please send them to [Rvast52@gmail.com](mailto:Rvast52@gmail.com). I will put something together for the next *Newsletter*.

Be well, be active,  
Rose

## The Landmarks

From September 1968 through June 1979, and June 1985 through July 1989, a monthly newsletter called "The Landmarks" was published in our community. Part of its name was derived from the first letter of the four townships for which it was produced: Lakewood, Alden, Normanna, and Duluth. The newsletter was the idea of Pastor Arthur Solberg of the French River Lutheran Church who strongly felt a local publication was needed as a vehicle for communication within the community.

"The Landmarks" is now available online. To access it, go to the Duluth Township website. On the top bar click on "Arts and Heritage." A dropdown box will appear; click on "Landmarks Archive." An introductory page titled "The Landmarks" will appear. At the bottom there is a list of the documents organized by date as well as directions for enabling the search function should that be useful.



## *Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue*

Dorothy Aho, Valerie Brady, Ann Cox, Peggy Dahlberg, Bob Engelson, Beth Mullan, Sue Lawson, Beth Luikart, Shawn Padden, Shelly Pierson, Sherry Rovig, John Schifsky, Carol Surine, Jo Thompson, Rose Vastila



**Clifton Volunteer Fire Department**  
*Bob Engelson, Fire Chief*

Thank you to all the residents who worked to reduce the risk of wildfires in our community. The Chipper Days we hosted in July were, once again, well-received.

There are free woodchips available at the fire hall on Ryan Road and the Alden Hall on Laine Road. Please use the wood chips for mulch in your gardens and around trees, rather than right next to structures and keep up firewise practices on your property. We are grateful for grant funding for Chipper Days from Dovetail Partners, Inc.

The annual Harvest Dinner benefit for the fire department will not take place this year as we exercise caution and consideration for the health of our community.

We are once again making a Fire Department Calendar to be distributed free to all residents. We thank our local businesses for their support. Anyone who is interested in purchasing an ad or would like to help with production, please call Jody Anderson at 525-4971.

**Room for Volunteers**

We still have room on our roster for a few fire fighters. All training and equipment provided. Contact Chief Bob Engelson if interested: 525-6819

**911 SIGN PICKUP**

Those who still need to pick up their 911 signs can call the Town Hall at 525-5705 during office hours. The sign (and post, if needed) will be placed on the outside of the Town Hall for pickup.



**Police Department**  
*Shawn Padden, Chief*

**For Medical & Police Emergencies Call: 911**

**Police Events.** The police responded to 219 events in August and September. Most frequent were Vacation Home/Business Checks (69), Public Assists (16), Medical Emergencies (16), Burglar Alarms (14), and Suspicious Activity (11).

If you have information about any criminal activity in our community, please contact the Duluth Township Police Dept. at 218-525-5705, the mobile phone at 393-8407, or email through the Town web site contact list.

*Sign up for email police alerts and other urgent or informative notifications at the Township site: [duluthtownship.org](http://duluthtownship.org).*

I understand the challenges facing the nation's Law Enforcement agencies at this time. I want to ensure you all that the Duluth Township Police Department agency is in compliance with all of the current model policies outlined for MN agencies as regulated by our licensing board, the MN POST Board. We last went thru a complete training and policy inspection in August of 2018 and received our passing certificate, which hangs in our office. The MN POST Board is currently reviewing new model policy language and training to be pushed out to MN LE agencies once it has been adopted. When this happens, our agency will be notified and I will make the policy changes, if any, that will be required. We do not allow the CNR (Carotid Neck Restraint) to be used in our agency.

The Department's Policies on Use of Force are available upon request.

Chief Shawn Padden



**WAGGIN' Tails**  
**Boarding Kennels**  
 Long & short term boarding  
  
**Reservations Required**  
 218-525-4842  
 7002 App Rd.  
 Two Harbors

Paid Advertisement



**North Shore Meanderer**  
 Longarm machine quilting services, specializing in computerized edge to edge quilting.  
 Call Lori Sorvik at 218-349-1588,  
 email northshoremeanderer@gmail.com or visit my website  
 northshoremeanderer.com

Paid Advertisement

**Country Kids Day Care, 218-343-6370**  
 Infants to School Age, Licensed  
 Bus to NSCS & Lakewood Schools  
 Accepting Full and Part Time

**LOOKING FOR A HOME TO RENT?**  
 or,  
**LOOKING FOR A RENTER FOR YOUR NICE HOME?**  
 Call **Apartment & Home Advisors** – we can help!  
 We specialize in properties of distinction  
 and we help “take the stress out of moving”.  
 Call **Susie Lannon**, Licensed Minnesota Broker,  
 218-720-3987

Paid Advertisement

NORTH COUNTRY  
 LAND SURVEYOR, INC.  
  
**Anthony Lueck**  
 Surveyor  
 Minnesota/Wisconsin  
 MN.LIC. 24587/WI.LIC. 2366  
 B.US.TELE. 218-348-8037  
 anthonylueck@northlc.com  
 6098 Ryan Road  
 Duluth, MN 55804  
 GPS  
 Drafting  
 Mapping  
 Property Lines

Paid Advertisement



To place an ad, or list community meetings in the Newsletter, contact the Newsletter editor at [magnellnathan@gmail.com](mailto:magnellnathan@gmail.com)

**Regular Community Meetings**  
**AA** meets 7pm on Tuesdays at French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road.

**French River Readers Book Club**  
 Carol Surine  
 For November, we have chosen to read *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 19th at 7:30 PM via Zoom**; we are not meeting in person because of the COVID pandemic, and look forward to meeting in person when the danger has passed. If you want to be included in this discussion, please contact Carol Surine at 525-4426 or [carolsurine@gmail.com](mailto:carolsurine@gmail.com).  
 The French River Readers have a long-standing tradition of collecting board books at our November meeting. This year our books will be given to the people in Salvation Army housing. Currently there are 35 people - all families with children - living in Salvation Army housing. The books will be collected and distributed to them in time for Christmas.  
 Please drop off your board books at French River Lutheran Church. We will have a basket assigned for donations. November 19th, our next meeting, is the deadline for the donations to be at church.  
 As usual, thank you for your generosity to our up and coming readers. All of us are aware of how our horizons are expanded by reading, and we are happy to be encouraging young ones in the same direction.

**Town Book Exchange**  
 Take books. Bring books.  
 Open during township office  
 and recycling hours.  
**DO NOT BRING:**  
 Cookbooks  
 Reference/DIY books/guides  
 Books with torn covers/pages/mildew  
 Thanks!

## Winter Is on Its Way - Take Steps to Keep Our Streams Clean

*Jo Thompson and Valerie Brady*

Those of us who have lived out here for a while have noticed that our winters are not what they used to be. We now get melting snow and even rain during most months of winter, something that was almost unheard of even a decade ago. That means our ditches can stay “active” all winter long, and this running water can carry with it dirt, salt, and whatever else is on the ground. Winter is starting, but it is not too late to tend to a few last-minute details to help keep our streams clean:

Cover any dirt piles you may have.

Clean ditches of debris and garbage.

Make sure your winter’s salt supply is in sealed containers and not in heaps on the ground.

And as the melting snow and rain turns to ice, remember the Safe Salting rule that more salt is not better (and is hard on your pet’s paws, no matter what the container says). Sprinkle it so there is about 3 inches of space between granules. Our streams and Lake Superior are salt-free! Help us keep them that way.



*Shelly Pierson, Executive Director*

### A Busy Start to the Year

After moving to distance learning in the spring, it was an absolute joy to have students walking back into the building this fall! COVID-19 has brought about many changes in our lives, and our school community is no different. We are currently in a hybrid learning model, which has students learning in school for two days a week, and Hybrid at Home learning for three days. We also have students who are learning at home 100% of the time. A lot of learning has taken place for us to offer top-notch education to all of our families!

We will continue to monitor data and work with our local public health partners on a regular basis to determine if we need to change learning models, or if we can stay in hybrid learning mode. Our goal is maintaining in-person learning as much as possible, and to ensure our moves between learning models is intentional.

I know this is not easy on our families, our staff, and our students. We are in this together, and together we will be stronger through it all.

NSCS Preschool has been close to full the last two years. We will be sending recommitment forms for current families in January, and accepting new applications for the 2021-2022 school year starting in March. We offer Preschool for 4-5 year-olds with full and half day options.

We also have a half-day 3-year-old program one day per week. More information can be found on the school website: <https://northshorecommunityschool.org/play-and-learn/>

### Annual Meeting and School Board Elections

NSCS will hold their Annual Meeting on November 5, 2020, at 5:00 pm. Streaming information for the annual meeting can be found on our website. Conferences will be held November 23rd in the afternoon and December 1st and 3rd in the evening.



## Township Roads in 2020

*An article titled “Early Road Construction – Duluth Township” appeared in the Duluth Township Newsletter, November 2015. A second article, “Township Road Work, 1913 – 1923,” followed in the May 2016 Newsletter. “The Town Road Map” was in the May 2015 Newsletter. You can access the articles and the map by going to the Duluth Township website and clicking on the “News and Events” button. A drop down box will appear. Click on “Current Newsletter/Archive.” The Newsletters archive will appear, ordered by year.*

Currently the Township maintains 12.3 miles of road, all of it gravel. All but four roads dead-end, those four being more than a mile long. The remainder are less than one-half mile long. Roads include: Dammon, Olson, Aho, Clover Valley Drive, Jackson, Beck, Homestead Drive, Culas, Wildwood, Swanson, Englund, Shonberg, Paul, Reimer, East Shilhon, Johnson, Mace, Gamble, Greenwood, Spruce Court, Pine Tree, Nordling, Velkommen, Alseth (below North Shore Drive).

Michael Kahl is the current road supervisor; he took over from Corlis West in early 2020. Michael commented that when he assumed the position, “I had a basic understanding of how road issues were addressed and dealt with in the Township. For the most part I believed you picked up our township “Newsletter,” found the Town Clerk’s number and gave a call.” But he found, rather quickly, that things did not work that way. Many people, including the Town Clerk, Planning and Zoning Commissioner, other supervisors, the St. Louis County Road Maintenance Supervisors, County Commissioners, and Township residents all have a role to play in road maintenance. But, Michael concludes, “Ultimately, I am the one who responds.”

The 2020 Township annual budget is \$325,200. The 2020 Roads budget is \$85,000, 25% of the yearly total. Grading expenses consume a significant amount of the Roads budget. All roads are graded at least twice a year. The Township has a long-term contract with Bob Radda who has been doing the grading for seven years. Road grading is necessary for two reasons: 1) to control wash boarding, and 2) to keep a crest on the roads so that water drains off into the ditches and does not puddle in the road. Grading also brings the class 5 which has migrated onto the shoulders back onto the road bed. Class 5 is the road material and is expensive to replace.

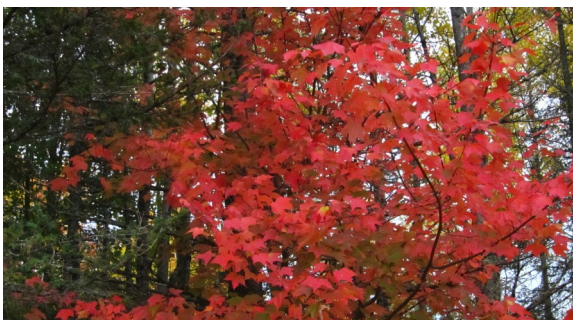
Michael receives the most feedback about dust issues. Since 2018 the Township has chosen to apply magnesium chloride as a dust suppressant rather than sodium chloride, the former posing less of an environmental challenge. The current plan is to apply magnesium chloride every other year, but more frequent applications will be made to roads with higher usage, particularly if residents make complaints about dust.

When asked who decided which roads the Township manages, Michael said that was a consequence of the Township’s sanctioning, years ago, a road’s creation. No new roads have been added in some time, and neither the Township nor the county wants to take responsibility for another road.

The widths of road rights of way vary. But the right of way always includes the ditches on either side of the road. On Greenwood Road the right of way is 50 feet; on all the other Township roads it is 65 feet, the county standard. The Township makes an effort to keep ditches clear of brush and to remove trees from ditches. Landowners are encouraged to allow grass to grow in the ditches adjacent to their property. The Township is very conscious about the potential for erosion and, when creating ditches, mesh is put in to reduce the possibility of washouts. In addition, any individual seeking a permit for a driveway egress has to show how that egress will be finished off so as to avoid erosion.

St. Louis County plows the snow on all the public roads in the Township. The cost in 2019 was roughly \$10,000. Currently, the county is phasing out its old trucks and replacing them with newer, larger ones. Township plow turnarounds at the end of roads have to be upgraded (ideal size is 30’ by 70’) as the new trucks need more room to reverse direction. The upgrade leaves some Township property owners with a dilemma. The roads need to be plowed, and the plows have to be able to turn around. But the larger turnaround area may well encroach on private property. While some property owners are amenable to giving up property for the turnaround extension, others are not. This is a matter which will be the subject of continued discussion involving property owners, the Roads supervisor, and the Town Board.

Township roads, their condition and maintenance, have been and will continue to be a subject of interest and concern to residents. In 1911, the Town Board spent \$3225 on roads; the old records include familiar comments and complaints about road conditions. Michael Kahl says he has met many great people in his short tenure as Roads supervisor, all of them concerned about the roads which are so essential to the daily lives of Township residents. Controversies develop but his experience has been that if residents have the opportunity to voice their concerns and know they have been heard, then it is usually possible to reach a mutually acceptable agreement and move forward.





### Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

Official minutes by Planning Secretary Beth Mullan are available on our Township web site. [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org)

The August 27th meeting was held at the Town Hall. An interim use was approved for a side yard setback to build a garage in the 58xx area of North Shore Drive. Owners of a local small advertising company were present to discuss a possible plan to purchase the old Shorecrest property and move their business there. It was determined they would need a conditional use for the planned use and that hearing was scheduled for September.

The September 24th meeting was held at the Town Hall. The conditional use hearing for the Shorecrest property proposal was canceled by the applicants. A Township resident was in attendance to consult on creating space for aging parents that could be rented out later. Subordinate residential dwellings cannot be rented out after no longer being used by family members. The resident decided on an addition to his home. A public hearing for a high frequency short-term rental was scheduled for October.

See the Town’s website under Planning & Zoning, Minutes, for further information from these meetings.

Planning Commission meetings are open to the public. At this time, due to Covid-19 concerns, meetings may be held partially via teleconferencing. We encourage the public to submit concerns and comments ahead of time in writing.



Penny Morton, Michael Kahl, Rolf Carlson, John Schifsky, Tim Strom

### Summary of Town Board Meetings

Official minutes by Town Clerk Ann Cox are available at the Town Hall and on our Township web site. [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org)

The September 10th meeting was attended by Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Michael Kahl, John Schifsky, Penny Morton, and Tim Strom.

Finances The Treasurer reported a beginning balance of \$596,388.47, deposits of \$49,545.85, and expenses of \$51,431.59 for an ending balance of \$594,502.73.

Planning There has been another proposal for the former Nokomis restaurant. The proposal is a mixed use structure. They would like to rent the top space for short amounts of time. The commission decided the building would be considered a mixed use residential structure. There will be a conditional use hearing in October.

Roads County Road Maintenance request: The Town received a quote from Wrights Tree service regarding the County’s 17 action items. The bid came in at \$13,500 and work will start the 24th of September. If we take care of some of the County’s requests by continuing the ditching on three town roads, we will be able to reduce the cost. We’ve been told the County’s list is not negotiable. The county’s trucks are getting bigger and single axle road beds simply will no longer work.

A lot of contract work done for the phone company was never completed, with the lines laid in the middle of the ditch or laying on the top of the ground. The Town has been working with a phone company engineer to resolve the problem.

Town Hall A quote from Twin Ports Paper and Supply was received for Town Hall mats. They used square foot costs which will save us money but the deal breaker is an extractor to clean the mats. Research will be continuing. The security system is half installed and the other half will be installed within the next couple of weeks.

Regular **Town Board meetings** are held on the second Thursday at **6:30pm** in the Town Hall.





## Duluth Township Information 2020

Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804  
Phone (218) 525-5705 (voice message),  
Email: See note below on using our Township web site.

[www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org)

**Town Office Hours:** Tues. & Wed. 9am-noon  
Thurs 2-6pm, Fri 9-11am

**Planning Office Hours:** No posted hours  
Call the Town Hall for an appointment: 525-5705

**Supervisors:** (see web site for email contacts)

**Rolf Carlson** (2020-2023) 525-0375 **Board Chair**  
Primary contact: Personnel, Cemetery  
Alternate: North Shore Mgmt Board, Intergovernmental Relations

**Penny Morton** (2018-2021) 525-5443 **Vice Chair**  
Primary contact: Business Mgt, North Shore Mgt Board, CC liaison/NSCS Foundation Board  
Alternate: Personnel, Intergovernmental Relations, Communications

**Michael Kahl** (2019-2022) 525.1594  
Primary contact: Roads/Invasive Weeds, Planning  
Alternate: Business Mgt, Intergovernmental Relations, Town Hall, North Shore Mgt Board

**John Schifsky** (2019-2022) 525-9363  
Primary contact: Arts and Heritage, Communications, Public Safety  
Alternate: Cemetery, Intergovernmental Relations, North Shore Mgt Board

**Tim Strom** (2020) 525-7719  
Primary contact: Materials Management, Town Hall  
Alternate: Intergovernmental Relations, Planning, Roads/Invasive Weeds, North Shore Mgt Board

**Town Clerk:** **Ann K. Cox** 525-5705 (Town Hall)  
**Treasurer:** **Mel Peulen** 525-5705 (Town Hall)  
**Attorney:** **Scott Witt** 722-4766 (office)  
**Cemetery Sexton:** **Molly Tillotson** 218-525-6933

**Planning Director:** **Sue Lawson** messages: 525-5705

**Planning and Zoning Secretary:** **Beth Mullan**

**Planning and Zoning Commission:**

**Blane Tetreault** (vice chair), **Dave Edblom**,  
**Jerry Hauge**, **Liz Strohmayer** (chair), **Pam West**,  
**Angela Wilson**, and **Larry Zanko**.

**Peace Officers:** Chief Shawn Padden, Officer Paul Johnson  
**Emergencies 911**, Messages 525-5705 or 393-8407

**Emergency Management Co-Directors:**  
**Sherry Rovig**, **Ann Cox**. Messages: 218-525-5705

**Clifton Volunteer Fire/EMS Department:**

Email: [cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com](mailto:cliftonfiredepartment@gmail.com)  
**Chief Bob Engelson**, **Assistant Chief Rob Peldo**,  
**President Jason Bruckelmyer**

**Burning Permits** are available online at [mndnr.gov/permits](http://mndnr.gov/permits) or the **Town Hall** (office hours), or from **Fire Wardens:** Jeff & Carolyn Marino (525-6431), Jay Zink 525-5589 or **DNR** in Two Harbors, 1568 Hwy 2, 834-1418.

**Website Manager:** Barb Crow.

**Community Center Rental Coordinator:** Jim Salls 600-9015

### To Email Township Officials and Departments

See Township web site, [www.duluthtownship.org/contacts](http://www.duluthtownship.org/contacts) for a dropdown list of personnel and departments you can use to send emails. Note that copies of all emails go to the Town Hall for Township records. If the person does not have email access, your communication is sent to the Town Hall to be picked up. Department information is also on our web site.

## Township Recycling Center

Carolyn Marino

**Nov-March: Tues. 7-11am, 2-6pm,  
Thurs 2-6pm & Sat 8-noon.**

At the Town Hall, on Homestead Road

**April-Oct: Tues 7-11am, 3-7pm,  
Thurs 3-7pm, Sat 8-12pm.**



**Household plastic bags accepted in ORANGE bin only.**

**Please do not put black plastic bags, tarps, or plastic feed bags in the plastic bag recycle bin.**

Aluminum cans should be recycled with plastics/metal cans. Curb recycling pickup service is available south of the freeway.

Surveillance cameras have been installed around the Town Hall because of vandalism and dumping household garbage.

## Township Calendar

See calendar updates on [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org).  
Our Official Calendar is posted at the Town Hall.

**A reminder that all events are canceled until further notice. The calendar is provided in case that fact changes. Check the website as well, for further info.**

### November 2020

**November 12th:** Town Board Mtg. 6:30pm Town Hall

**November 17th:** North Shore Sanitary Dist. Mtg. 7am French River Church  
EMR Training 6pm Fire Hall #1 Ryan Road  
Volunteer Fire Dept. Business Mtg. 7pm Fire Hall #1 Ryan Road

**December 1st:** Volunteer Fire Dept. Business Mtg. 7pm Fire Hall #1 Ryan Road.

**December 10th:** Town Board Mtg. 6:30pm Town Hall

**December 15th:** North Shore Sanitary Dist. Mtg. 7am French River Church.  
EMR Training 6pm Fire Hall #1 Ryan Road.  
Volunteer Fire Dept. Business Mtg. 7pm Fire Hall #1 Ryan Road.

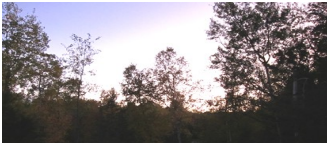


# DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020

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Duluth Township Newsletter  
6092 Homestead Road  
Duluth, MN 55804

PRSRSTSD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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DULUTH, MINN.

For a color version of this Newsletter — Township website: [duluthtownship.org](http://duluthtownship.org)

If your name or address are in error or you know of someone who is not receiving a Newsletter, please send a note to the Newsletter editor by using the contact list on our web site ([www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org)). Extra copies are also available in the Town Hall.

1127 Newsletters are mailed to Duluth Township homes, businesses and on request. Copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send comments and suggestions to Newsletter editor, Nathan Magnell at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 or use the mailbox at the Town Hall or email on the web site. Our Newsletter is printed locally by Bob Sundstrom, **BB&K Printing**, and mailed for us by the folks at **Twin Ports Mailing**.

## Town Services during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Please check the website for any developments, updates, or changes to Town services during the pandemic

**Town Clerk's Office:** Open to the public during regular office hours. All COVID precautions issued by the Governor will be followed. We **strongly urge** you to conduct your business via email, phone, US Mail, or the drop box under the public posting at the Town Hall entrance.

**Town Board Meetings:** Open to the public, adhering to the Governor's pandemic directives.

### Planning and Zoning Department

**Land Use Permits:** Submit applications and fees for land use permits to the Town via email, U.S. mail, at the Clerk's Office during office hours, or in the drop box under the public posting at the Town Hall entrance. On-site review for Land Use Permits will be conducted by the Planning Director following the Governor's directives.

**Variations and Conditional Use Permits:** Submit applications and fees for permits to the Town via email, U.S. mail, at the Clerk's Office during office hours, or put them in the drop box under the public posting at the Town Hall entrance. Hearings for permits are open to the public, strictly adhering to the Governor's pandemic directives. Submit comments regarding applications to the Town via email or U.S. mail.

**Questions for the Planning Director:** Contact the Town Clerk

**Police Department:** for emergencies call 911.

**Fire Department or Emergency Medical Responders:** call 911

**Town Roads:** See contact details on Township website.

**Recycling:** Open during regular recycling hours (posted on the Township website). Follow the Governor's pandemic directives.

**Town Hall Community Room:** Closed to the public until further notice

**No Town Hall rental until further notice**