

Duluth Township Newsletter

January 2021

Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org

What's coming Up

Town Board Meeting (pg 7)

Election for Town Board Supervisors (pg 1)

Book Club (pg 3)

Skating Rink (pg 4)



Township Calendar

See calendar updates on www.duluthtownship.org.
Our Official Calendar is posted at the Town Hall.

Serving on the Town's Board of Supervisors

Consider contributing your skills and effort to help run our Township for a 3-year term. Two positions on the 5-member Town Board will be on the ballot in March 2021 Township election.

After the March election, the Board meets to divide up responsibilities and discuss plans for the year. Board members receive a modest stipend per meeting. It's an opportunity to contribute to our Township and learn about how a Township operates to be successful. To file for election, see the Town Clerk during office hours between December 29th and January 12th. The filing fee is \$2.00

Qualified candidates may fill out Affidavits of Candidacy for one of the following two positions:

- 1 Supervisor 3 year term
- 1 Supervisor 2 year term

Affidavits of Candidacy are available in the Town Hall office 6092 Homestead Road during regular business hours.

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.

January 2021

Jan 5th: Fire Dept. Business Mtg. 7pm fire Hall #1 Ryan Rd

Jan 14th: Town Board Mtg. Town Hall 6:30pm

Jan 19th: EMR Training 6pm Fire Hall #1 Ryan Road

Jan 28th: Planning and Zoning Mtg. Town Hall 6:30pm

The Homesteaders

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. I will put something together for the next *Newsletter*.

Be well, be active,
Rose

Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue

Ann Cox, Bob Engelson, Don McTavish, Beth Mullan,
Beth Luikart, Shawn Padden, Jana Pastika, John Schifsky, Shane Stolp, Carol Surine, Jo Thompson, Rose Vastila



Clifton Volunteer Fire Department
Bob Engelson, Fire Chief

Our department has been called out for medical or fire emergencies over 120 times in 2020.

We continue to distribute the donated homemade masks to facilities in need. The Damiano Center and Lake View Memorial Hospital and Care Center are two of the recipients. Thank you to all who participate in the mask sewing.

Please continue to follow recommendations to prevent spread of the Covid-19 virus - wear a mask and stay at least 6 feet from other people in public places. Avoid contact with people who are sick, avoid gatherings, stay home as much as possible, and wash your hands. It will take time for vaccinations to slow the spread. We all have a part to play in community health and safety.

If you are interested in volunteering with our department, contact Chief Bob Engelson at 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 166 events in October and November. Most frequent were Vacation Home/Business Checks (48), Medical Emergencies (14), Public Assists (11), Health and Welfare Checks (11), Theft Complaints (9), and Suspicious Activity (9).

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.



Did you know?

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless and invisible gas.

Signs of CO poisoning include: headache, nausea, fatigue, vomiting and disorientation.

Cooking and heating units that burn fuel and are not properly ventilated or malfunction can be a source of CO in the home.

CO Alarms

Carbon monoxide alarms should be installed within 10 feet of each sleeping room or inside each sleeping room.

Test CO alarms monthly.

If a CO alarm sounds and you feel ill, call 911 immediately.

Clear snow and debris from furnace, dryer, fireplace, or oven vents around your home to prevent a CO buildup.

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

Paid Advertisement

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

Snowplowing
 Call Larry Nesgoda or Text at 218-393-2863

Paid Advertisement

NORTH COUNTRY
 LAND SURVEYOR, INC.

Anthony Lueck
 Surveyor
 Minnesota/Wisconsin
 MN.LIC.24587/WI.LIC.2366
 BUS.TELE.218-348-8037
 anthonylueck@northlc.com
 6098 Ryan Road
 Duluth, MN 55804
 GPS
 Drafting
 Mapping
 Property Lines

Paid Advertisement

Barn Help Needed
 Job opening for experienced Horse Handler in Duluth Township. Four active dressage horses need daily care: feeding, grooming, turn-out, lunging, medicine administration, stall mucking, barn cleaning, and hay stacking.
 Ability to work independently a must. A desire for cleanliness is very important.
 Current opening: Saturday mornings. Wage is dependent on experience.
 Please contact Dale at dslewisht@gmail.com.
 Thank you for your inquiry.

Paid Advertisement

French River Readers Book Club
 Carol Surine
 For January, we have a Book Club in a Bag offering, *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb.
 There will be a number of copies available at French River Lutheran Church; the bag will be on the shelf to the right as you enter the upper doors. Please write your name on the sheet of paper corresponding to the number of the copy you take.
 Our next meeting will be January 21st at 7:30 PM via Zoom.
 If you are new to Book Club, and you want to be included in the invitation, please email Carol Surine at carolsurine@gmail.com or call her at 525-4426.

BOOK EXCHANGE UPDATE
 Please do not bring books to the Township book exchange while the community room is closed to the public.
 Watch the Newsletter for updates about re-opening.
 Thank you.

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

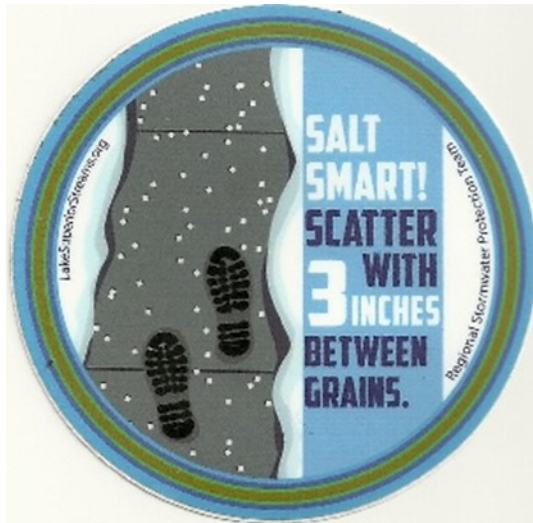


The North Shore Community Rink is looking for community volunteers to assist with flooding the three rinks and with managing the facility when open.

Please contact Dan Rosenlund at (218) 349-3318 if you are willing to assist. This is a community effort and we encourage everyone to come skate and help if you can.

Salt Smart!

Excess salt ends up in our streams where it is



harmful to fish and other creatures. Use it sparingly.



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.

Did you know?

In Minnesota in 2013, 10 percent of home fires were caused by heating devices.

Most home fires occur in the winter and peak in January.

Most Minnesota heating fires occur in fireplaces and chimneys.

HEATING SAFETY

Keep portable heaters three feet from anything flammable.

Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to sleep.

Never use your oven to heat your home.

Have your home heating system and chimney cleaned and inspected annually.

Make sure your wood stove is properly installed and ventilated.



Henrickson Road John S

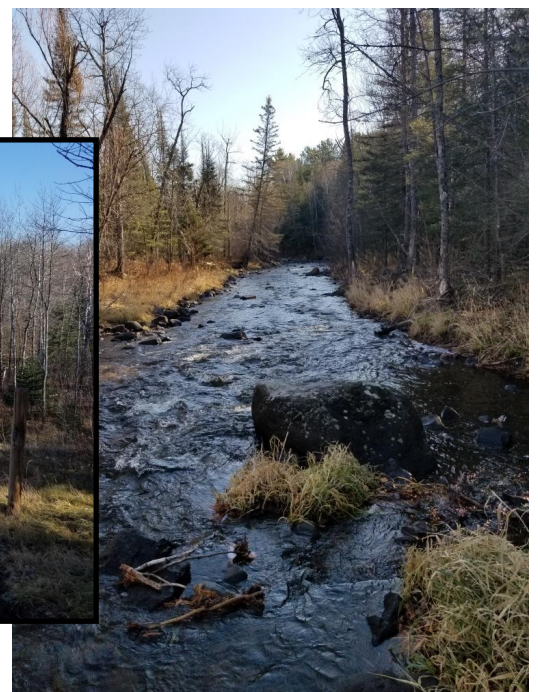
“If the lake was too cold, we used to walk up Hendrickson Road to the Sucker and swim in the pools there.” Merle Norman, born in 1929, was referring to the area around the bridge where Old North Shore Road crossed the Sucker River. Hendrickson Road was named after the owner of a store at the intersection of the road and North Shore Drive. Mr. Hendrickson was also the local mail person. The road went north from the lake a bit more than a mile, over the railroad tracks and joined Old North Shore Road on the west side of the Sucker River. An easy walk for seven-year-olds.

The expressway was not built until 1966 so there was no cross traffic. Old North Shore Road, it is generally understood, followed the old footpath created by the native people who had, for centuries, travelled along the shore. Most probably it was the route John Beargrease used. The path was carefully laid out, avoiding where possible the deep ravines which carried streams down to the lake, and when that was not possible, finding points where it was possible to scramble down and then up the ravines which carry streams to the lake.

With the construction of the expressway, Hendrickson Road was no longer open to through traffic from North Shore Drive to Old North Shore Road. Today the lower part of the road intersects with North Shore Drive, just west of the closed restaurant, Nokomis. The road is not signed and ends south of the railroad tracks. Property owners along the route use the road to access their homes. The signed Hendrickson Road is west of Homestead Road and accessible from the southbound lane of the expressway. The road stretches one-third of a mile until it ends about 100 yards short of Old North Shore Road.

The large, galvanized culvert which carried the Sucker River under Old North Shore Road washed out in the massive 2012 rainstorm. The road was always gravel, and when the county came in to clean up, they determined the amount of traffic not sufficient to warrant replacing the culvert and repairing the severely eroded roadbed. Prior to the flood, drivers going east on Old North Shore Road faced a steep dip down the hill before crossing the Sucker River, then a more gradual climb out of the valley until the road flattened out before coming to Homestead Road. Westbound traffic had easy access to Bergquist Road and areas north; eastbound traffic had quick access to Knife River. Today Old North Shore Road sees little but local traffic.

On a late fall afternoon, standing at the barricaded end of Old North Shore Road looking east over the Sucker River, the precipitous dip at your feet, the vista is remarkable, an open area stretching down to the river and climbing up the hill on the other side. Probably 300 yards of grass of varying length, and trees flanking the former road's right of way. There are swimming holes upstream and a trail on the east side of the river offering fishermen access to the river and hikers a pleasant walk up the river to a series of falls and a stand of white pine. People have picnicked on the flat area which abuts the west side of river. It is quiet there, peaceful and pleasant in sun, open to the sky, not so much isolated as enclosed, the river visible and audible, a comfortable sylvan setting which invites repose.





Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

Official minutes by Planning Secretary Beth Mullan are available on our Township web site. www.duluthtownship.org

The October 22nd meeting was held via teleconference with a Planning representative at the Town Hall. A public hearing was held on a request for two high frequency short-term rentals for two single-family 2200 sq ft dwellings to be built on two lots located at 547x North Shore Dr. Conditional use permits were required for the rentals and variances for the requirements of minimum lot size and side yard setbacks for short-term rentals were needed for both dwellings. The applicant specifically requested conditional uses for the properties as opposed to interim uses.

The hearing for the variances was held first. The Town had received four emails from neighbors in opposition to the project and one person in attendance at the Town Hall spoke in opposition to it.

The requested variances were denied because the Commission felt that since the lots were less than half the minimum lot size required for high-frequency, short-term rentals; the requested variances were not in harmony with the general purposes and intent of the Ordinance; the properties could reasonably be used for something other than short-term rentals. Based on comments from the community, the variances would alter the character of the neighborhood.

Without the variances, the project could not move forward, so the conditional use request was not heard.

The Commission will be working on updating the Zoning Ordinance to reflect the Comprehensive Land Use Plan adopted on August 13, 2020. The meetings for this process will be held on the third Thursday of the month starting January 21, 2021 and ending in June 2021.

There was no Planning Commission meeting in November.

See the Township website under Planning & Zoning, Minutes, for further information.

Planning Commission meetings are open to the public. At this time, due to COVID 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

The October 8th meeting was attended by Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Michael Kahl, John Schifsky, Penny Morton, and Tim Strom.

Finances The Treasurer reported a beginning balance of \$594,502.73, deposits of \$51,726.22, and expenses of \$22,415.44 for an ending balance of \$623,813.51.

Planning A new driveway was recently put in on Homestead Road with permission from St. Louis County. It was not in line with our zoning ordinance. Since it was on a county road, the county is responsible for it and will add new language to their site entry permits saying there may be other governmental units to check with before building. The Township will also consider adding new language.

Roads Progress is being made on the County's maintenance list. Velkommen and Englund Roads are finished. Wright's tree service will finish their contribution soon.

Olson Road driveway has been approved

Town Hall Tim made a motion to authorize the clerk to purchase a printer. The cost of which would not exceed \$1000. Penelope seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Hall mats have been ordered.

Security system on the doors has been completed. Four doors have the new system.

Benson Electric completed the generator conversion to include the Fire Hall and all sensitive items in the Town Hall.

Communications John has finished scanning "The Landmarks" and they are available on the Township website.

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

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) 525-5705
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:
Dave Edblom, Jerry Hauge, Liz Strohmayer (chair), Blane Tetreault (vice 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
Chief Bob Engelson, Assistant Chief Rob Peldo, President Jason Bruckelmyer

Burning Permits are available online at 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 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.

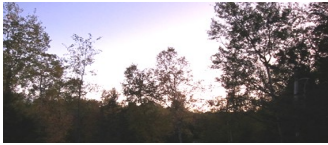


DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020

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Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

PRSRSTSD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 705
DULUTH, MINN.

For a color version of this Newsletter — Township website: 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). 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 website. 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