



Snow Covered Trees, December 2019



Town Hall, February 2021



Stony Point Ice Sheets, February 2021

Duluth Township Newsletter

March 2021

Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org

What's coming Up...

- ◆ **Annual Elections and Town Meeting**– Vote on Tuesday, March 9th for two Supervisors. One candidate has filed (see candidate statement pg 9). Voting is at the Town Hall from 7:00am to 8:00pm. Our Annual Town Meeting begins at 8:15pm (see [important announcement](#) below).
- ◆ **Planning Commission**– Two open positions. Pg. 2
- ◆ **Volunteer's Needed!**- Consider joining our Volunteer Fire Department, more information pg. 2
- ◆ **Important Message from the Fire Chief**- Page 3
- ◆ **Roads**– Seeking quotes on yearly road services. Page 1

Duluth Township is seeking bids for a 2-year contract to maintain approximately 12 miles of gravel roads. Bids will consist of hourly or unit rates for a variety of related services, including grading, hauling, ditch maintenance, excavation, and provision/placement of road materials. Complete bid specifications and bid packages are available from the Duluth Town Hall during normal business hours (525-5705) or by e-mail from townclerk@lakenet.com. Bids must be received by mail or hand delivery by 5:00 P.M. April 8, 2021 at the Duluth Town Hall 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth MN 55804. Bids will be opened Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as business allows.

By Ann K Cox
Clerk, Town of Duluth

Important Annual Meeting Announcement

The Annual Meeting of the Electors is scheduled for March 9, 2021 and must commence upon that date. Because we are facing difficulties with COVID it is the recommendation of the Town Board that the meeting convene and immediately be continued to August 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall

Board of Appeal and Equalization

This years Board of Appeal and Equalization will be held on Tuesday, April 20th, 2021 from 4pm-5pm in the community room. All submissions **must** be in written form and must be received by the Clerks office **no later then:**

Noon on Tuesday, April 20th 2021

Emailed to: townclerk@lakenet.com

Mailed: Duluth Township
Attn: Town Clerk
6092 Homestead Rd
Duluth, MN 55804

Drop off: At Clerks office during normal business hours or to the white box under the posting kiosk at the Town Hall

The Homesteaders

It has now been a year since we have met, and we miss you. **It is March again;** the month to commemorate The Homesteaders anniversary. I hope you will all laugh a little and have cake and ice cream.

It has been a busy year in many respects, including finding new ways to socialize, and to celebrate community.

And as you do, please take a moment of silence to remember these dear members we have lost: Helen Pavlisich, Lone Cooke, David Cooke, Clifford Sundstrom, Pete Beck, Cathy Beck, Betty Poe, Fred Poe, Edward Engelson, and Russ Tillotson.

We are confident that we will be gathering in some form by summer. Stay warm, stay healthy and we will see you soon.

From the officers, Rose, Carolyn and Roger

Wanted: Photos from around the township and your favorite recipe's! We have many talented residents in our community and we would like to feature them in the newsletter. So if you are a shutterbug and want to have some of your photos featured, email the editor. Also, if you have a favorite recipe that you are willing to share please email to the editor for inclusion in future editions of the newsletter.

Thanks you, Nicole Editor deputyclerkduluthtpw@gmail.com

Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue

Ann Cox, Lynne Compton, Bob Engelson, Don McTavish, Penelope Morton, Beth Mullan, Beth Luikart, Shawn Padden, Jana Pastika, John Schifsky, Sherry Rovig, Carol Surine, Jo Thompson, Rose Vastila, and a special thanks to Don McTavish and Nathan Magnell for all the help.



Clifton Volunteer Fire Department
Bob Engelson, Fire Chief
Sherry Rovig, Secretary

Our fire hall on Ryan Rd. had a water pipe freeze and break this winter causing damage to the kitchen and adjacent areas of the hall. Fortunately, we have insurance for times like this and the repairs are underway. As much as we are all familiar with the challenges of winter, here are some reminders to help keep your homes and businesses safe and comfortable:

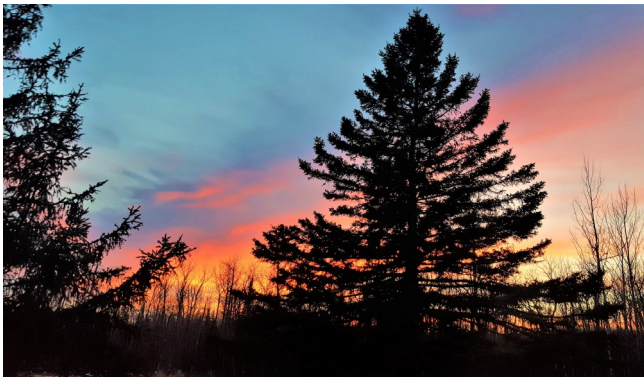
- ⇒ Keep all doors and windows that can be used as an escape route clear of snow and ice.
- ⇒ Keep all vents -- dryer, fireplace, furnace, and oven -- clear of snow, ice, and debris
- ⇒ Use flashlights, not candles, if you lose power.
- ⇒ Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from heat sources. Don't use the oven to heat your home.
- ⇒ Have your home heating system and chimney inspected annually.
- ⇒ Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order.

If you are interested in joining the department and live in our response area, contact Bob Engelson, Fire Chief, at 525-6819. Training and equipment are provided.

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.

More information on the Page 3



Clover Valley Sunset, to see colored version go to the Towns Website. www.duluthtownship.org



Police Department
Shawn Padden, Chief
Paul Johnson, Officer

For Medical & Police Emergencies Call: 911

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.

Planning Commission Review
Update of the 2015 Zoning Ordinance
Sue Lawson, Planning Director
Beth Mullan, Secretary

In addition to the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meetings, the Planning Commission will be holding an extra meeting each month from March through June to update the Zoning Ordinance. The Planning Commission meetings for the Review/ Update will occur on the 4th Tuesday of those months at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall. These meeting are open to the public should you wish to attend.

The last substantial update to the Zoning Ordinance was in 2015. The Planning Commission will be looking at and using the 2020 Comprehensive Land Use Plan to determine what updates need to be made to the Zoning Ordinance.

The Commission will also be looking at changes in land use that has occurred over the years. Prior to completing the 2020 Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the Planning Department produced a report that reviewed and analyzed the land use activities that had occurred since 2002. This document will be helpful in updating the current Zoning Ordinance.

Additionally, the Planning Commission members' combined experience and knowledge will be invaluable. They will draw on their experiences with land use issues, questions that have come before them, and hearing input from the community regarding land uses.

The Planning Commission anticipates having a *Draft* Zoning Ordinance available in the summer. At that time, there will be an Open House for the community to review and comment on the *Draft* Ordinance. The Planning Commission will take all the comments and consider them for possible changes in the *Draft* Ordinance. This will then become the *Proposed* Zoning Ordinance. A Public Hearing will be held to take testimony regarding the Proposed Zoning Ordinance. It is anticipated that the Public Hearing to adopt the *Proposed* Ordinance will be held in late summer / fall. Taking into account public testimony, The Planning Commission will forward a report to the Town Board regarding adoption of the *Proposed* Ordinance.

Look for Open House and Public Hearing dates in the Newsletter and on the website.

Clifton Volunteer Fire Department

Bob Engelson, Fire Chief
Sherry Rovig, Secretary

We are now entering the fourth year of our efforts to provide new, double sided fire signs to all addresses within Duluth and Alden townships. We started with an extensive inventory of all residences to determine which addresses needed the new signs.

A big thank you to Don McTavish and Bruce Hauger for completing that task. Next, we ordered the new signs along with posts and hardware to complete their installation.

We followed up with our big giveaway event the past two years where residents could pick up their sign, a post, and the hardware for **FREE**. I repeat, **FREE**. All we ask is that you install it at the end of your driveway in a conspicuous location, so emergency personnel in ambulances and fire trucks can find your home in an expedited manner. This seems to be a no brainer, it's **FREE** and it benefits you.

The response thus far has been disappointing. We started with 795 new signs. We still have 600 signs left unclaimed in our possession, sitting in boxes at the town hall where they do absolutely no good to anybody.

On behalf of all potential emergency service providers that may be called upon to serve you - and this includes Clifton Fire and Emergency Medical Responders, Mayo and Lake County Ambulance, Rescue Squads from St. Louis and Lake Counties, neighboring mutual aid fire departments from Two Harbors, Lakewood, Normanna, and beyond - I'm asking you to pick up your sign from the Town Clerk or Deputy Clerk during regular office hours and install it conspicuously at the end of your driveway. Please keep in mind that when we are paged out to a call, we are paged to your address number, not your name, so please help us help you, when your time in need arrives.

If for some reason you are unable to install your sign yourself, and you do not have a neighbor, friend, or family member that you can call upon to do it for you, then please call me and we will figure out a way.

Respectfully,
Bob Engelson
525-6819



Photo of address signs sitting at the Town Hall as of February 24th, 2021

Wanted

Please return a family heirloom that has recently been taken from our family property. The item has been in our family since World War 1 and recently went missing. You may remain anonymous by leaving the item at the front door of 2259 Paul Road.

To place an ad, or list community meetings in the Newsletter, contact the Newsletter editor at deputyclerkduluthwp@gmail.com

Planning and Zoning Commission

Sue Lawson, Planning Director
Beth Mullan, Secretary

Vacancy on the Commission

The Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z), a 7-member board, guides implementation of the Township's Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan. No special qualifications are necessary to serve on the P&Z Commission other than an interest in the Township's future and a willingness to serve. Commission members serve 3-year terms and cannot serve more than two consecutive terms. The Commission holds regular monthly meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month, with occasional special meetings as the need arises. Commission members receive a per-meeting stipend.

The Planning Commission is looking to fill 2 vacancies with services starting in April 2021. Interested residents should submit a letter of interest and relevant past experience to the Town Board by April 1, 2021. Interviews to fill the vacancies will be held by the Town Board. If you have questions, leave a message for the Planning Director at the Town Hall, 525-5705.

You may submit your letter via the following ways:

EMAIL: townclerk@lakenet.com

US Mail: Duluth Township
Attn: P&Z Commission Vacancy
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804.

Drop Off: At the Town Hall in the News Box by the Offices entrance.

A Note from Supervisor John Schifsky,

Nathan Magnell will be stepping down as the *Newsletter* editor at the end of March 2021. Nicole Chatterson, Deputy Clerk, is taking over the editor's responsibilities, and Nathan will assist her with the March edition. Nathan was appointed *Newsletter* editor January 1, 2020. He was a new Township resident having been raised in Gully, Minnesota, near Bemidji. Nathan brought writing and editing experience to the position and took advantage of opportunities to become familiar with Township governance. It was his pleasure to work with Township residents. We are grateful for his service.



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

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".

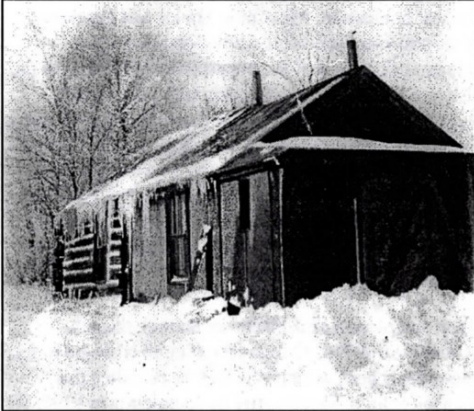
Call **Susie Lannon**, Licensed Minnesota Broker,
218-720-3987

Paid Advertisement

Normana School
John Schifsky, Supervisor

The year is 1890. Scores of immigrant families, settled along Garfield Avenue in Duluth, found times not too favorable. There was turmoil, unemployment and general unrest. No doubt, this was leading to the Panic of 1893. Each nationality found itself clustered together, due to the fact that they knew only their native tongue. And their mode of living was comparable.

In one Norwegian group, Anton Hjelm, then 43, decided it was time to get away and start the new life he had planned for when he came to this country. It is believed that his reason for coming so far inland, beyond the area that was easily homesteaded, was that the Town of 52-13 was still covered with a fine stand of virgin white pine and certainly, beyond a doubt, it was "away from it all."



First Schoolhouse (rear log section), 1898-1900

In the summer of 1890, he came up the Vermilion Trail just northwest of what is now Jean Duluth Road, and crossed the section line that is now Normanna Road. This east-west line between Sections 18 and 19 is the center of the lower part of what is now the Town of Normanna. He then built a cruising shack one mile into the town and proceeded to locate the section corners and section line adjacent to this area. He apparently liked what he saw and returned to his family and old country friends and told them of his finds. The next summer was spent doing further locating and possibly making preparations to move to the area the following year.

In the summer of 1892, Mr. Hjelm, an interpreter and master of 26 languages, John Ronning, a carpenter; and Jens Solem, school teacher, carpenter and preacher of the Gospel, proceeded to prove up their homesteads in the new town. Ronning moved into his new home on Christmas Day 1892. Jens Solem moved into his new home in 1893.

The next year found such families as the Sivert Larsens, Irving Arndtsons, Charley Hagens, Arndt Olsens, and the Bill Johnsons in the new area. These people found mountains of work ahead of them. Shelters had to be provided for their families and stock. Land had to be cleared, stumps pulled and rocks picked. Tote roads connecting the area were cleared and leveled. There must have seemed no end to the enormous struggle in this new and hard wilderness, but pioneers that they were, they knew they must provide education facilities needed by their children.

The summer of 1898 found these hardy people erecting a log schoolhouse on the Sivert Larsen homestead just to the south and east of that which would become the site later for the John A. Johnson School. Labor and materials were donated, and by the end of harvest time, the new school was ready for use. The only missing item was the schoolteacher, and since they were unable to find one, it was decided that Mr. Hjelm would fill the vacancy. He was the first teacher in the Town of Normanna.

By 1899 the town population was booming and a new and proper school was built. Mr. Larsen donated an acre of land in the newly established District No. 32, and a large, one-room school, which later became the John A. Johnson School, was built.

"The Landmarks" was published in our community from September 1968 through June 1979, and June 1985 through July 1989. The "Land" in "The Landmarks" was derived from the first letter of each of the four townships (Lakewood, Alden, Normanna, Duluth) for which the newsletter was published. The article was the first in a series on area schools. Reprinted with permission.

Gertrude Osbakken

Lynne Compton

Original article written and published in "The Landmarks" in 1988, Reprinted with permission from author

Gertrude Osbakken (Anderson) remembers life as a fisherman's wife as a hard one. "Those were hard times in 1932-34, but everyone was struggling, and it was just a way of life. You didn't think nothing of it."

When Gert was 34 years old, she came to live on the North Shore with her new husband, Alphonse Anderson. Alphonse was a resident of the North Shore for 40 years, first coming here from Larsmo, Finland when he was 16 years old. He fished commercially for 4 years up and down the shore, including Isle Royale. When he was 20 years old he was called to serve in the Army during WWI. He served with General Pershing on the front lines over in France. After the war ended, he came back to the North Shore and bought a piece of land with his war bonus money. He called his land "Bonus Point". Not many people realize that the area of the North Shore by Shorecrest Restaurant juts out into the lake creating a small point. The local commercial fishermen used Stony Point, Bonus Point, and Wicklund's Dairy Farm, (which was where the Fish Fry is today) as landmarks to set their nets by.

Gert learned the life of a fisherman's wife quickly. She remembers Alphonse going out to his nets at dawn when there was a better chance the lake would be calm. She would watch for his boat (named the Alvera A. and made by Reuben Hill of Larsmont) to start heading back in as she made the breakfast. When she saw him head the boat to shore, she would put the breakfast on hold, rush down to the beach, and be ready to hook the boat and winch it up until it was safely in the fish house. She remembers many times of trying to hook the boat when the lake was rough and trying to keep it from smashing up against the rocks. After getting the boat hauled in, she would run back up to the house and finish cooking the breakfast, getting it on the table just as Alphonse would walk in.

(Continued on page 5)

Gertrude Osbakken

Lynne Compton Original article written and published in Landmarks in 1988, Reprinted with permission

(Continued from page 4)

There were many times she would go out into the lake with Alphonse to help haul the nets up. It was a hard job lifting the heavy nets by hand and carefully picking the fish out so as not to tear the nets. Eventually they installed a "lifter" in the boat which made hauling up the nets easier.

Sometimes when they needed the nets repaired or new nets made (which was called seaming) they would call on the services of Celia Hanson of Knife River to do the job. Other times when time permitted, they would repair their own nets. There were different types of nets used to catch the different kinds of fish. Mostly they fished for trout, herring, and ciscoes.

After arriving back at the fish house with the days catch, she would shovel the fish into "fish boxes". These they would sell to the fisheries. Gert remembers selling to the Sievertson's and Sam Johnson's fisheries. The fisheries



would pay them three cents a pound for "undressed" fish. At that time there were also men called fish peddlers who would buy "dressed" (cleaned) fish from them for a little better price. The fish peddlers would then sell the fish to the people who lived back country.

There were also a lot of daily chores that needed doing besides those that went with the fishing business. All their water supply had to be hauled up from the lake in buckets as they didn't have a well in at that time. There was also no electricity.

Gert remembers the big cook stove she would prepare all the meals on and do the baking in. There was a warming closet on it to keep her husband's dinner warm when he was too busy to eat at the regular dinner time. Besides having a three-year-old son named Art, Gert was expecting twins in the fall of 1932. She remembers very well going up to the Town Hall to vote for Franklin Roosevelt and going into labor. When the twins were born later that day and Roosevelt was elected the nurses at the hospital jokingly suggested to her to name them "Frankie" and "Rosie". She instead named them Alvin and Alvera. (Much to Alvin and Alvera's relief!)

Another memory Gert has of about that same time, is of carrying the newborn twins in baskets under each arm, down to the fish house to dress the fish for her husband so he could get out hunting during hunting season. She recalls sitting among all the fish, busy cleaning them as the babies slept off

After a few years of relying strictly on the fishing for a living, she decided to open her own business. So, she started a little store at the end of their driveway. They referred to this as "The Stand". She sold gas, which was delivered from Carl Anderson Skelgas, pop, beer, groceries, and of course fresh and smoked fish. They also had a slot machine in the back room for entertainment. The business was a thriving one, and Gert also remembers Pete Dahlberg's father had a stand at French River and Pete Bugge had a stand at Knife River. She remembers the big "Trout Box" that was kept just outside the stand where the fish were kept on ice. The tourists coming up the shore would love to take out the huge fish to see. Gert was very particular that the fish were always put back on the ice stomach side down, because they would keep better that way.

She also remembers the fun times too. They loved to dance, so whenever there were "doings" at the Town Hall, she would be sure to get Alphonse to get the old Model A out to drive up there. They also had their own wedding reception there. Also, she relied on the friendliness of her neighbors to keep up with what was going on. Bill and Iva Croft, who would help her out with her children occasionally, Mary and Carl Sandberg, Betty Norgren and her son Ed and his wife Ella, and Myrtle Gunderson from Stony Point stood up for them at their wedding. Olaf also fished with Alphonse as did Einar Bloomquist.

During WWII they decided to close up their house and move to Hollow Rock, which is up by Grand Portage, because the fishing was better up there and they could also get a better price. They lived up there for about 3 years.

But, since their "Bonus Point" was home, they decided to move back here and continue to fish and live among their good friend again.

Later on, when Gert was 50 years old, she was forced to start a new career to help support the family when Alphonse became sick and could no longer fish. She became a nurses' aid at St. Luke's Hospital. After Alphonse died, she moved into Duluth and continued to work at the hospital for following 11 years. After retiring from hospital, she married Life Osbakken of Two Harbors and they moved there. This April (1988) they will have been married 24 years. And, on May 5th, Gert will be 90 years old!

Although her life has been a hard one at times, her son Art was killed while serving in the Navy and her husband died at the age of 56 of cancer, and there were a lot of lean years and hard work as a commercial fisherman's wife, she's enjoyed life to the fullest and has always kept an optimistic attitude towards things. She's a very strong and wonderful woman, and I'm so proud that this fine lady is my Grandma!

If you are interested in learning more about Duluth Township history or finding more articles like the ones above, visit www.duluthtownship.org. There you can find digital copies of "The Landmarks" publications and "The Roots in the Past-Seeds for the Future" book.

To access it, go to the Duluth Township website: www.duluthtownship.org

On the top bar click on "Arts and Heritage." A dropdown box will appear; click on "Landmarks Archive." or "The Roots Book" An introductory page titled "The Landmarks" or "The Roots Book" will appear. For "The Landmarks", 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. For "The Roots Book", at the bottom there is a link for the book.

Thank you to all the community members who have contributed to these different publications throughout the years. Without this wonderful collection we would not be able to share these stories with you. If you find a story or an article you would like highlighted in a future edition, send it to the Editor!



North Shore Community School Skating Rink and Warming House Hours

Skating Rink

Open **after** school hours and on the weekend.

Warming House Hours

Monday-Friday: 6pm-9pm

Saturday: 12pm-9pm

Sunday: Closed

Rink conditions permitting

**American Red Cross Blood Drive
At
French River Lutheran Church**

This community-wide blood drive is hosted by the French River Lutheran Church Outreach Committee. Thanks to your support, our last blood drives have been very successful. All members of the Duluth Township community are welcome and encouraged to donate blood, as the need for blood continues to be great. **Appointments are highly encouraged and may be made in one of these ways:**

- ⇒ Going to RedCrossBlood.org and searching in our Zip Code (55804) for the French River Lutheran Church blood drive. First time donors will need to create a profile with a username and password (if you don't already have one from donating previously).
- ⇒ Downloading the Blood Donor App by searching "Red Cross Blood" on the App StoreSM or Google PlayTM store.
- ⇒ Contacting Beth Luikart (call 218-525-1596, or e-mail her at bluikart@outlook.com).

COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed during the blood drive. Donors and staff will have their temperatures checked before entering the Fellowship Hall, social distancing guidelines will be followed in all areas, and all donors, volunteers, and staff members will be required to wear a mask or face covering. You are encouraged to bring your own mask. If you do not have a mask, one will be provided. Further information about the blood donation process can be found online at RedCrossBlood.org.

Where: French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Road, Duluth, MN, 55804

Date & Time: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 – Noon to 6 p.m.

For our Township Youth: Advertise for **FREE!** Any youth seeking work or **Township residents** who need help with various jobs suitable for youth (babysitting, lawn, garden, maintenance, snow shoveling, house cleaning, ect.) Contact the editor through email, drop off at Town Hall, or by phone, to get published in the next edition of the Newsletter (May)

Deadline is April 23, 2021
deputyclerkduluthwp@gmail.com, 218-525-5705

**Meet the New Deputy Clerk
Nicole Chatterson, Deputy Clerk**



Hello! My name is Nicole Chatterson and I am the new Deputy Clerk for our Township. Along with responsibilities of being the Deputy Clerk some of my other responsibilities will include managing the Towns website and the editor of the Towns newsletter. I'm currently in the process of becoming a Public Notary and a Fire Warden. So, in the near future I will be able to assist our residents during office hours with those needs as well.

I wanted to take a moment and introduce myself to our community. I am a lifelong resident of Duluth Township, what can I say? Clover Valley is a part of my soul!

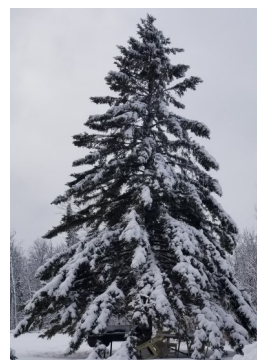
I even converted my Yooper husband to a North Shore resident. Anyways, my husband Phil and I just celebrated our 11th wedding anniversary last August and have been together for 16 years. We have one daughter, Lillian who will turn 4 this July. She is a typical three and half year old, she loves to color, play with her animals, sing and dance, help mom in the kitchen, and is ready to have a sibling. We have two cats, Bagheera and Gnocchi and two dogs, Allie and Houndess. I enjoy outdoor activities like fishing, camping, hunting, hiking, photography, and spending time at Lake Superior with my daughter mostly agate picking. If I am not outside, you will find me in the kitchen baking, cooking, or creating something up. Cakes, cupcakes, truffles are my specialties, however, I make a mean cookie or bar too. I love to bake and create in the kitchen and that started from a young age standing at my mom's apron tail helping her lick the mixer clean. The possibilities are endless!



I look forward to working with our community. So please take the time to reach out and say hello. You can reach me during regular office hours or via email: deputyclerkduluthwp@gmail.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





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

Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

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

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 **January 21, 2021** meeting was held via teleconference with a Planning representative at the Town Hall.

The Commission considered a proposal from a Township resident to build a quadplex on a parcel in Greenwood Cliffs to use as a high-frequency short-term rental. The minimum lot size for that area, SMU-6, is 2 acres. The parcel does not quite meet that size. It was determined that the use was allowable under the Ordinance but that it would require variances for the lot size for a quadplex and for a short-term rental, a conditional use permit for the quadplex building and a conditional use permit for the short-term rental use. The notification area was set for one-quarter mile, pending receipt of the application and March 25 was set for the tentative hearing date.

Another community member from the northern part of the Township was interested in putting a commercial kitchen in an existing building on his property for his own use and for renting out to others in the area. This would be a home-based business. The Commission set the notification area for one-quarter mile, but no application has been received.

Due to a Commission member's conflicting schedule, the Zoning Ordinance working meetings were rescheduled to the 4th Tuesday of every month through June. The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 23 at 6:30.

See the Town's website under Planning & Zoning, Minutes, for further information.

Planning Commission meetings are open to the public. At this time, due to COVID concerns, meetings are being held primarily via teleconferencing. There will be a Planning representative at the Town Hall to allow the public to attend meetings. However, we encourage anyone with concerns or comments to submit them ahead of time in writing.

January 14th regular meeting was attended by Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Michael Kahl, John Schifsky, Penny Morton, and Tim Strom.

Finances The Treasurer reported a beginning balance of \$496,332.27, deposits of \$90,192.68, and expenses of \$43,911.51 for an ending balance of \$542,613.44. **Public Comment:** Farmers Market: Blane Tetreault attended the board meeting representing himself, Bridget Tetreault and Pam West who are interested in proposing the creation of a summer Farmers Market for the Township. **Fire:** There was an insurance claim made due to a cracked domestic hot water line in the kitchen area in Hall #1. Dryco did the initial clean up and the insurance company is fine with staying with Dryco. Bob Engleson will continue to work with the insurance company to get the mess cleaned up and repaired.

Roads: Continue to monitor and scrape down roads to keep them less slippery. Mace Road snowplowing is \$60.00 for every snow event. **Town Hall:** Hall Mats and a new carpet cleaner were purchased. The service was ended with AmeriPride since there was no contract, Tim invited them to provide one if it existed, but they never did, we purchased new comparable mats at a lower price and will maintain them ourselves. We have ended our relationship with AmeriPride.

A new light bulb was installed the south end of the parking lot. The 2021 election Judge list was approved. **Personnel:** Since we have never had a Deputy Clerk before, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk are working on a Job Description. **Communications** Moving forward, with the town website, Nicole working with Barb to learn the process to take over management.

February 2nd budget meeting was attend by Supervisors Rolf Carlson, Michael Kahl, John Schifsky, Penny Morton, Tim Strom, and Town Clerk Ann Cox. Department budgets were proposed and discussed. A final proposed 2022 budget was adopted. This will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting on March 9th and copies will be provide for those attending. See page 8 for an Annual Overview of the Finances for the upcoming Town Meeting.

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

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

NORTH COUNTRY
LAND SURVEYOR, INC.

Anthony Lueck
Surveyor

GPS
Drafting
Mapping
Property Lines

Minnesota/Wisconsin
MN.LIC.24587/WI.LIC.2366
B.U.S.TELE.218-348-8037
anthonylueck@northlc.com

6098 Ryan Road
Duluth, MN 55804

Duluth Township Information 2021



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. 9am-noon Wed 9am-3pm
Thurs 9am-5pm, Fri 9-12pm

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, Com
munications

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)

Deputy Clerk: **Nicole Chatterson** 525-5705 (Town Hall)

Treasurer: **Mel Peulen** 525-5705 (Town Hall)

Attorney: **Scott Witty** 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, Secretary, Sherry
Rovig**

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

Website Manager: **Nicole Chatterson**

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.

Township Calendar

See calendar updates on 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.

March 2021

March 2nd: Fire Dept. Business Mtg. 7pm fire Hall #1 Ryan Rd
Recycling 7am-11am & 2pm-6pm

March 4th: Recycling 2pm-6pm

March 6th **Office Open** for **Absentee Voting** 10am-noon
Recycling 8am-noon

March 9th: **Office Closed;** Annual Town Elections 7am-8pm;
Annual Meeting 8:15pm; Recycling 7am-11am &
Recycling 2pm-6pm

March 11th: Town Board Mtg. Town Hall 6:30pm;
Recycling 2pm-6pm

March 13th: Recycling 8am-noon

March 16th: Recycling 7am-11 & 2pm-6pm
EMR Training 6pm; Fire Training 7pm

March 18th: Recycling 2pm-6pm

March 20th: Recycling 8am-noon

March 23rd: Recycling 7am-11am & 2pm-6pm
Planning Commission Ordinance Review 6:30pm

March 25th: Planning and Zoning Mtg. Town Hall 6:30pm;
Recycling 2pm-6pm

March 27th: Recycling 8am-noon

March 30th: Recycling 7am-11am & 2pm-6pm

Looking Ahead

April 6th: Fire Business Meeting

April 8th: Town Board Meeting 6:30pm

April 20th: Board of Appeal and Equalization 4pm-5pm
Written submission **only, Due by Noon**

April 22nd: Planning and Zoning Meeting 6:30pm

April 27th: Planning Commission Ordinance Review 6:30pm

Duluth Township Annual Overview of Finances

Township Departments	2020 Actual Expenditures	2021 Approved Expenditures	2022 Proposed Expenditures
Police Department	\$61,985.31	\$63,800.00	\$64,460.00
Fire Department	\$43,697.46	44,140.00	\$54,400.00
General Fund	\$137,937.88	\$121,875.00	\$140,570.00
Planning and Zoning	\$45,939.13	\$22,943.00	\$38,923.00
Cemetery	\$6,552.29	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Emergency Operation	\$554.71	-	-
Road and Bridge	\$148,900.33	\$85,000.00	\$100,000.00
Total Expenses	\$445,567.11	\$345,258.00	\$407,853.00

What Happens at our Annual Town Meeting

Township Day, Tuesday, March 9th, 2021

For those who may not have attended a Town meeting, here is a bit of background. We gather in our Town Hall on Homestead Road after the polls close (8:15pm). Our Town Clerk, by law, calls the meeting to order and we nominate and elect a resident to lead the meeting.

Our Town Clerk, Ann Cox, provides a packet, including minutes from the last year's meeting plus summary information provided by various Township departments-2020 activities and expenses, the previously approved 2021 budget and the proposed 2022 Township budget, (see above)

Those attending the meeting vote on our budget for 2022. A year away because our figures have to be included with County and School District figures for tax statements you receive in 2022. In 2021 we are operating on the budget adopted at our 2020 Town Meeting.

Last years minutes, official bank and posting places are voted on. The proposed 2022 budget, with any adopted amendments is discussed and the overall budget is approved. Other Township business is raised and discussed and results of the Supervisor Election are announced at the end of the meeting.

The Town Meeting is a good place to meet your neighbors and to discuss important Township issues. This meeting is grass-roots democracy that depends upon the participation, respect, and good ideas of all of our citizens.

However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town Board supervisors intend to ask the township electors to suspend the meeting until a later day so that legislators can come up with a statutory work around and the Town can try to conduct the annual meeting fully in-person, so all that want to attend may, later this year, when conditions related to COVID-19 may have improved. This way we can hold the meeting outside and not be limited by the amount of people allowed to attend. So all residents will be allowed to have their voices heard.

Meet Your Candidate

Penelope Morton

There are two open seats for the 2021 election cycle. There was only one candidate who filed to run. The candidate was asked to provide a statement and picture for the Newsletter. This statement is in ballot order, presented as written, to provide residents with background information.



My name is Penelope Morton, however, those who know me call me Penny. My husband and I moved to Duluth Township in 2002 (from Duluth) and have lived very happily on Clover Valley Drive. We appreciate the rural tranquility of the area. I have been serving on the Town Board for the past three years and have been responsible for liaison to the community school, the N.S. Management Board and other jobs that have been assigned. I am a good listener and truly try to reflect on what is happening. I am also a consensus builder and I believe that I have brought those strengths to the board. There is still a lot for me to learn however. I am retired from UMD, where I was Associate Dean of the Swenson College of Science and Engineering. My training is in geology, in particular, economic geology. I studied the genesis of metal ore deposits. I also have a lot of managerial experience. The community this last year was able to articulate a clear vision where Duluth Township should be in the next ten years, especially maintaining the rural atmosphere and the tranquility.

For those of you who do not know me, and there are many, I have lived in the Duluth area for almost 42 years. Prior to that I resided in Canada, and before that the U.K. Yes, I am an immigrant and I bring with that some liberal leanings. I am also a person very much interested in mining, so you could say, that I also have some conservative leanings. I do know however, that whatever we do in the Township, we must do it in an environmentally sound manner. I am looking forward to serving for another 3 years. My contact information is on the Duluth Township website.

Lemon Blueberry Cake with Lemon Cream Cheese Frosting

I recently made this cake for a February birthday, a little bit of spring in the dead of winter. The tender blueberries paired with the bright citrus from the lemons complement one another for a delicious treat anytime of the year. When you take a bite the creamy frosting and the moist spongy cake awaken the tastes buds from a long cold winter. I made the cake itself with frozen blueberries and adorned it with fresh. If you hurry the blueberries right now are perfect! Tip: if you don't feel like buying buttermilk you can always substitute one cup buttermilk by mixing 1 cup milk and one of the following: 1 tablespoon lemon juice or 1 tablespoon white vinegar or 1 ¾ teaspoons cream of tartar.

If you would like to contribute a recipe for the next edition, please send it to the editor deputyclerkduluthwp@gmail.com

Cake

- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
- 1 and 1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
- 4 large eggs, at room temperature
- 2 Tablespoon pure vanilla extract
- 3 cups sifted all-purpose flour (spoon & leveled)
- 1 Tablespoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 2 Tablespoons lemon zest
- 1/2 cup lemon juice (about 3 medium lemons)
- 1 and 3/4 cups blueberries, fresh or frozen (do not thaw)
- 1 Tablespoon all-purpose flour

Cream Cheese Frosting

- 8 ounces full-fat brick style cream cheese, softened to room temperature
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
- 3 and 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 – 2 Tablespoons heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- pinch salt
- Zest from one lemon
- 1-2 teaspoons of lemon juice



1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease three 9-inch cake pans or five 5 inch cake pans, line with parchment paper, then grease the parchment paper. Parchment paper helps the cakes seamlessly release from the pans.

2. Make the cake: Using a handheld or stand mixer with a paddle attachment, beat the butter on high until creamy – about 1 minute. Add granulated and brown sugars and beat on medium-high speed until creamed, about 2-3 minutes. Add eggs and vanilla. Beat on medium speed until everything is completely combined, about 2 full minutes. Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl as needed.

3. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt. Slowly add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients. Beat on low speed for 5 seconds, then beat in the milk, lemon zest, and lemon juice *just* until combined. Toss the blueberries with 1 Tablespoon of flour and gently fold into the batter. Batter is extremely thick. Do not over-mix. Over-mixing will lead to a tough, dense textured crumb.

4. Spoon batter evenly into 3 prepared cake pans. If only using 2 cake pans, your bake time will be longer. Bake the three layers for about 21-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Remove from the oven and allow to cool completely in the pan before assembling and frosting.

5. Make the frosting: Using a handheld or stand mixer with a paddle attachment, beat cream cheese and butter together on medium speed until no lumps remain, about 3 full minutes. Add confectioners' sugar, 1 Tablespoon cream, vanilla extract, lemon zest, and salt with the mixer running on low. Add in lemon juice. Increase to high speed and beat for 3 minutes. Add 1 more Tablespoon of cream to thin out, if desired or more lemon juice if flavor is not desirable. Looking for a lite lemon flavor not overpowering because we want the frosting to compliment the cake.

6. Assemble and frost: First, using a large serrated knife, trim the tops off the cake layers to create a flat surface or a cake leveler. Place 1 layer on your cake stand with small dab of frosting. Evenly cover the top with cream cheese frosting. Top with 2nd layer, more frosting, then the third layer. Top with frosting and spread around the sides. The recipe doesn't make a ton of frosting, just enough for a light frost. Top with fresh blueberries or lemon garnish if desired. Refrigerate for at least 45 minutes to let frosting set before cutting or else the cake may fall apart as you cut.

7. Cover leftover cake tightly and store in the refrigerator for up to 5 days.



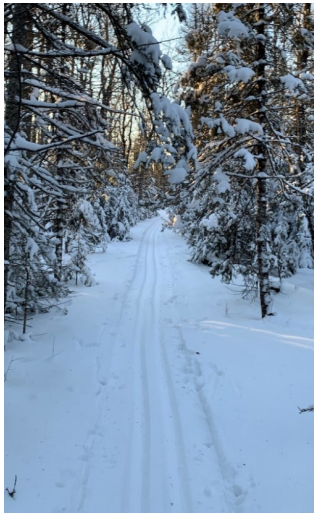
News from North Shore Community School
Shelly Pierson, Executive Director

It is amazing how much can change in the course of a year. We are nearing the one year mark from when schools moved to distance learning. Since that March date, we have been in distance, hybrid, and now back to full in-person learning four days a week, while also supporting approximately 80 students in full distance learning. As we continue to monitor local case rates, we are also considering a transition to five full days in-person. You can access more information through our website and our Facebook page.

Skating Rink/Warming House Hours: The Skating Rink is open after school hours and on the weekend. The Warming House is staffed Monday to Friday, 6-9 pm, Saturday 12-9, and closed Sunday. Thank you to the North Shore Community Rink Board for their work and dedication to our skating rink!

Ski Trails: NSCS now has a Snow Dog and has been able to groom trails! Trails are available after hours and on weekends as long as the snow holds.

NSCS is accepting applications for preschool and K-6th grade for the 2021-2022 school year. Our preschool is filling fast, so you will want to apply as soon as possible. Applications for the upcoming school year can be found through visiting our website: <https://northshorecommunityschool.org/enrollment-forms/>.



French River Readers Book Club
Carol Surine

For March, the French River Readers have chosen This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger. It is not a Book Club in a Bag, but the Duluth Public Library has several copies available.

The discussion of last month's book, Just Mercy by Bryan Stephenson, was lively and thought-provoking. We discovered there is a movie version of the book as well as a TED talk. The TED Talk can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CF4Gkr0LrWA>.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 18th 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.

Impaired Waters in Duluth Township
Jo Thompson and Val Brady

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has listed all four of the major rivers in our township as impaired for sediment. That means it has been determined that the amount of fine sediment (dirt, soil, sand, clay) in the water is too high for the health of certain critters that live there. These rivers are the Knife, Talmadge, Sucker and French! It is the Town's responsibility to conduct good practices on town owned properties, reduce the amount of sediment that enter these rivers. We also need to try to make improvements to roads, to reduce the amount of sediment that gets melt and rain. It is a goal of the Town to educate our residents on how the sediment that reaches these rivers.



Two of the major factors that can contribute to waterbodies are tree loss and land disturbance. Trees (especially evergreens) provide shade which slows snowmelt. Trees also slow the speed of raindrops hitting the ground and their roots hold the soil in place. All these things slow water flow across the land and reduces erosion. Land disturbance (any activity that disturbs the soil), increases run-off and erosion, and provides an abundant source of sediment. We can lessen the amount of sediment that reaches our streams by planning projects that minimize the area of land that gets disturbed. (Note: Projects greater than 5000 sq ft, but less than 1 acre, require a town Land Disturbance Permit; Projects greater than 1 acre require a Construction Storm Water Permit through the MPCA). We can also help by minimizing tree cutting, especially in areas near streams and ditches. Where trees have been removed or have died (esp. from spruce bud worm) we can plant new trees and nurture young seedlings that have come up on their own. We can also keep dirt piles covered when not in use.

Mayfly larvae are one group of critters that are sensitive to high sediment in streams. Mayflies are an important food source for trout.



*Running Falls
 Nicole Chatterson*

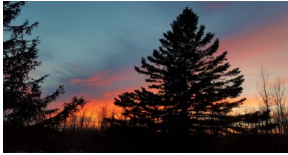
Sucker River, April 2nd, 2012 5:45pm
 Canon Rebel T1i, ISO 100, 1/6 sec. f/8 47mm

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

Inside This Issue

- Important Annual Meeting Information.
- Board of Appeal and Equalization Information
- Meet your Candidate
- Meet the New Deputy Clerk
- Calendar
- Police & Fire Department Report
- Calling all Bakers!



Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

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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, Nicole Chatterson 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