

TOWN OF HENLOPEN ACRES — May 2015 Newsletter

Dear Residents and Property Owners:

Finally it is May! For those of us who wintered here this past year I think I can honestly say good bye to the winter of 2015.

While a lot of you have been away, I would like to welcome you back to the Acres. Your Commissioners have been very busy dealing with the last phase of the road paving, seeding of the marina and replying to the State of Delaware on the Comprehensive Plan. With regard to the Comprehensive Plan, you can view relevant details below and on the town's website.

This year the town will hold a 4th of July parade for your children and grandchildren. So dust off those bikes and decorate them in Red, White and Blue. Prizes will be awarded for the most patriotic.

Enjoy your spring and I look forward to seeing you around the town.

Mayor David Lyons

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

The State of Delaware requires each municipality to complete a Comprehensive Development Plan. This plan must be updated every ten years. Henlopen Acres Plan was certified by the State in July of 2004. Our Planning Commission has been working on our update for well over three years. They held 13 public meetings, a workshop and two public hearings. Town officials have met with the Rehoboth Art League 12 times to discuss the RAL's activities and desire for a new zoning district. Many of these meetings included immediate neighbors of the RAL. Universally, the immediate neighbors were concerned about the growth of activities and increased traffic. The RAL has affirmed its position that it does not intend to expand or change its facilities, but wished to be assured of its ability to maintain and update its facilities without changing their size or use.

With all the input received, the Planning Commission in conjunction with the Board of Commissioners drafted a Memorandum of Understanding, (MOU), to clarify rules and regulations that apply to the RAL and its activities going forward. Consistent with the expressed position of the RAL, the MOU was intended to allow the RAL to continue and maintain its existing activities and structures, without expansion. The Office of State Planning Coordination has acknowledged that an agreed upon MOU would be an acceptable solution to the long running dispute between the Town and the RAL over the use and building restrictions on their property. The draft MOU was given to the RAL in October 2014. To date the RAL has not responded to this proposal, but has proposed a one page Cultural Zoning District, lacking any relevant specifics regarding activities or structures.

Additionally, the Planning Commission has had to address numerous issues that were not required in 2004, such as climate change, sea level rise, new FEMA floodplain regulations, key wildlife habitat, endangered species, air quality, tree canopy, affordable housing, wellhead protection, to name a few.

An updated plan was submitted to the State for review, in January of 2015. In March the Town received comments on the Plan from the Office of State Planning Coordination.

The Comprehensive Plan draft and the State comments are on the Town website at: henlopenacres.delaware.gov

The Town is currently reviewing the comments from the State and preparing our response.

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MAYOR:

David Lyons

Commissioners:

Andrew Brittingham

Tim Hidell

Frank Jamison

Joni Reich

Paddy Richards

John Staffier

Town Hall

104 Tidewaters

Hours: M-F 9-4:30

- 302-227-6411
- 302-227-3978 Fax
- 302-542-3323 Security
- townhall@henlopenacres.com
- henlopenacres.delaware.gov

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Board of Commissioners

Budget Meeting

To be determined

Quarterly Meeting

Friday, July 10-10am

Planning Commission

To be determined

Board of Adjustment

As needed

TOWN HALL HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day

Friday, July 3

Independence Day

Recent Appointments**Board of Commissioners-****Mayor-David Lyons-43 Pine Reach****Commissioner-Tim Hidell-96 Tidewaters****Planning Commission-****Gordon Kaiser, 13 Dodds Lane-reappointment****Election Officers-****Barbara Shortley-59 Pine Reach-reappointment****Elinor Boyce-11 Tidewaters-reappointment****Sarah Sunderland-71 Fields End-reappointment****Board of Elections-****Tiffany Derrickson-54 Rolling Rd-reappointment****Bruce Moore-14 Tidewaters-reappointment****Mimi Peters-30 Pine Reach-reappointment****Our Deepest Sympathies to the families of:****Jane Koones, 101 Tidewaters, passed away 3/07/15****Richard Poole, 76 Pine Reach, passed away 04/24/15****Welcome to New Town Employees**

Brad Thomas-part time security officer

Fred Lugos-part time security officer

STREET REPAIR PROJECT***As part of the last phase of street repair, work has begun to repair or replace several storm water inlets. The initial work is to be completed before Memorial Day weekend.******This will be followed by paving of Zwaanendael and Broad Hollow in the fall.*****Do you want a piece of Town history?**

We have a few old town streets signs available.

If interested, please contact Town hall.

First come, first served.

Certificates of Occupancy

Please remember if you are having work done at your home that required a Town building permit-you are also required to apply for a certificate of occupancy at the completion of the project-**Failure to do so will result in fines of \$200 per day.** Call Town hall with questions.

MARINA UPDATE

The Town recently received a \$10,000 infrastructure grant from Sussex County. This will be used for improvements at the marina.

These improvements include replacements of numerous dockboards, picnic tables, a new handicapped ramp, a walkway from the kayak storage and most importantly grass.

We have consulted with the University of Delaware and the Sussex Conservation District for the best possible approach to grow grass. So with a little luck we hope to have a lot of grass growing at the marina before summer.

SECURITY

Do you have exterior security cameras at your home?

Security would like to know if we can contact you in the event of a crime.

Please call town hall or email Security with any questions or concerns.

security@henlopenacres.com

Please Remember-All Dogs MUST be on a leash when off of your property!!!

Town Code requires that any person who is responsible for a dog shall keep the dog firmly secured by a leash whenever the dog is off the premises of the owner.

ORDINANCE SPOTLIGHT**CHAPTER §103-2. Refuse Trash in Public Places.**

All containers for trash, rubbish and garbage shall be concealed from view from the street; such containers shall be located only on the side or rear of the residence on the lot. In no event shall containers of trash, rubbish or garbage be placed in the front of a residence or on the public right-of-way.