

EPOA Newsletter - May 15, 2014

President's Comments

Well, it seems like Spring arrived overnight. Arriving home last Thursday after being away for a few weeks, the trees barely had buds, but it seemed like overnight they turned green. We hope everyone had a healthy and fun filled winter and that you are looking forward to the upcoming spring and summer activities in the village.

Most of you know that this year's annual meeting will be held Saturday May 24th at 10:00 A.M. in the Lodge. We continue to work towards increasing family participation at our activities and look for ideas from new and old faces at the annual meeting. This year, immediately following our meeting, the VDOE plans on holding a Public Hearing on proposed changes to the Highway Regulations and Beach, Driveway and Water Ordinances. At the close of our meeting lunch will be served and everyone can attend the hearing while enjoying a sandwich.

Again this year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers that helped make 2013 such a success here in the village. We completed several cleanup projects, repaired / replaced the fencing around the playground and sponsored numerous social events. We hope that this year the number of participants will continue to grow.

Our board consists of seven elected directors with staggered terms and several alternates who are appointed each year. The board meets once a month at the lodge during the summer and fall and as needed during the winter months. All meetings are open to everyone and everyone has an opportunity to raise a question or make suggestions. This year two of the three directors whose term ends have decided not to continue on the board. I would like to thank both Anne McKenna and Tici Lutjen for their service to the EPOA, especially Tici, who has been on the board for over 10 years. At this year's annual meeting we will be looking for two new people to take their place on the board. If you are interested in being a director or alternate, or if you just have some good ideas and can't be at the annual meeting, please contact us via email at epoa@eidelweissvillage.com or join us at our next board meeting. You will find our schedule of meetings on our website, www.eidelweissvillage.com.

Bob Ingram

Membership

By now you should have all received a membership renewal letter. They were sent out late this year as we were trying to get the online payment process via our website up and running. You can still mail in your checks as you have in the past but a new online option is now available via PayPal. We thank all of those who have already sent in their dues and remind folks that they can be paid at the **annual meeting on Saturday, May 24th**. As you know the annual dues are \$30 and \$15 for landowners. We hope to see you all at this year's meeting and again we ask as you talk with your neighbors and friends, be sure to help us get the word out about the positive yearly impact we make on the village. Invite them to the meeting. They will learn about us and have a nice lunch.

Beautification

Once again, I can't say enough about the volunteers who keep the village looking so nice. I expect this year it will look every bit as nice as it did last year and despite the dry times, the flowers will bloom all summer. The EPOA may fund the purchase the flowers, mulch etc., but it is due to the efforts of several volunteers who devote many hours planting, weeding, and watering the flowerbeds at the entrance to Eidelweiss Drive and around Boulder Beach. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ande Craugh, Dorothy Wondolowski, Dinah Reiss, Ralph Lutjen, Jay Buckley and all their helpers for their tireless efforts.

On May 3rd in conjunction with Valley Pride day several volunteers spent time picking up trash around the village. Special thanks to Larry Leonard and Jay Buckley for coordinating this effort.

We have a new project planned for this spring. The commissioners have approved our plan to improve the look at the corner of Eidelweiss Dr. and Rt. 113. We plan to rearrange the boulders and current shrubs on the corner opposite the entrance sign and plant numerous perennials. We are contracting out the moving of the boulders and shrubs but will need help preparing and planting the new garden. The two

Saturdays planned for this effort are June 7th and 14th. If you can help either or both days, that would be great. More information will follow.

Town and Village

Many of you may remember last year's presentation regarding the firewise program. As the Village District of Eidelweiss continues to strive towards Fire Wise certification, please take a moment to send a brief email to office@vdoe-nh.org stating the hours spent this spring removing debris from your yard. All time spent in removing leaves, downed limbs or branches, moving firewood away from the house or any other cleanup activities within 30 feet of the house can be logged for certification purposes.

To automatically have an email sent to you when new district news is posted click on the Subscribe to News button under the Stay Connected area of the VDOE homepage <http://www.vdoe-nh.org/>

House Number Sign

This is an ongoing project that provides our members with a house number sign. These signs have the Eidelweiss crest on the top and red numbers, which can be easily seen in case of an emergency. If you do not have a sign just email us at epoa@eidelweissvillage.com or contact Bob Ingram (781) 910-9438. If you need another sign due to damage or theft, you can purchase one for the cost of the sign, which is \$15.00.

Environmental

Last year the VLAP (Volunteer Lake Assessment Program) crew did the regular testing of the water in the three ponds in June, July, and August. In each case the samples came back well within the limits that the state requires for healthy ponds. There was nothing of concern in the results and the ponds remain in good shape. In August the crew was joined by the biologist from the state. Due to budget cuts at the state, the biologist visits every other year now. In addition to the monthly testing a weekly bacteria test was done at Geneva, Eidelweiss, Thusus and Boulder Beaches to insure that the most frequently used swimming areas were clean in between times. Again, there were no results that were of concern. Thank you to Bob Borchers, Rich Sholtanis, Ralph Lutjen, John Rocharz, Bob Ingram, Larry Leonard, John Upton and Bev and Paul Mattatall for their time in doing the testing.

We would like to thank Lee Pollock, a Pea Poridge Pond property owner from outside the village for joining the team of testers this year and helping with the spring runoff tests. It is important to make sure that the water is clean for our recreational use of the beaches. It is very important that people do not feed the ducks as their presence (encouraged by the ready source of food if fed) pollutes the water and can lead to sickness and discomfort such as swimmers itch and giardia. It is also important to keep dogs and their feces out of the water and to make use of the out houses to keep other contaminants out of our water.

Website

We are very excited about our new website, <http://eidelweissvillage.com> professionally created by Tomo360. Susu Wong, owner of Tomo360 and a property owner in the Village, along with the help of our Board Members, launched our new website this past winter. Our new website has gorgeous pictures of the Village and our last Summer Cookout. We have included lots of new useful tools to help and communicate with our members.

Members' Tools

You have the option of renewing and paying your membership dues online through PayPal, a secure online payment gateway. New members can also submit their membership applications and make their payment online. You can still mail us a check if you prefer.

Calendar of Events, Blogs and more

Check out the latest Village events, news and special announcements on our online calendar and blogs. Find out about the summer cookout, lobster dinner, road repair, kayak/canoe racks, and open board meetings. Our meeting minutes will be posted there as well.

Blogs and FAQ's

If you are interested in sending us updates – e.g., where you caught a big fish from the pond or found some good hiking trails, a great sale at the outlets, or things that you would like to swap or giveaway -- send an

email to susu@tomo360.com, and she can post them for you. Alternatively, if you are interested in blogging, please email us for our guidelines. We also have a FAQ's section on the website to provide information and recommendations for new (and not so new) residents of Eidelweiss.

Picture Gallery

We love to replenish our pictures. Please send us pictures of the Village, loons (or loch ness monster sightings!), etc. Email them to susu@tomo360.com (less than 2MB please) and let us know if you wish to be identified as the photographer.

A website is a living tool, please send us any suggestions on how we can improve the website. We want to thank Susu for her many hours of work developing and maintaining the website this year.

Projects

Adopt A Highway

For many years the EPOA participated in the Adopt A Highway program with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. We are responsible for the stretch of Rte 113 from Eidelweiss Drive to the corner near the Madison Church. We had two very successful cleanups last year thanks to all of the volunteers. **This year we will do our spring cleanup on Sunday May 25th**. Last spring it only took about an hour as we had close to 20 volunteers. We really appreciate all the help we can get. Volunteers should plan to meet at the mailboxes at **9:00 A.M.**

Playground Cleanup

Once again last year, members of the EPOA did work to improve the quality of the play experience at the playground. In late spring Ray and Barbara Bush got the playground area cleaned of leaves. We also had a major portion of the fence repaired / replaced. This year we may need to add sand. We will again be looking for some help to clean up the area and possibly spread some sand. Look for more info next month. It is amazing how often the playground is used. Please try to remember to carry out any rubbish found. If we all keep a watchful eye it will help keep the area clean and safe for all to enjoy.

T Shirts

We continued our sales of T Shirts at all events last year and will have more this year. A great buy for only \$10

Social Events

We were very lucky last year with the weather. The day of our annual Family Cookout was perfect. The event was attended by more people than any other year. Great job by the planners, as we had just enough hamburgers and hotdogs to feed everyone and I think everyone especially enjoyed the strawberry shortcakes for dessert. More kids participated in the games as well. It turned out to be a great event. Special thanks to all who helped especially the cooks, those who prepared the strawberries and Nicole Linton for coordinating the games. Hope we can do it all over again this year.

Once again, the Lobsterfest, held in August, was a big success. This yearly event is the highpoint of the summer. The lodge was filled to capacity and whether you had lobster or steak, everyone agreed that a good time was had by all. There is a tremendous amount of prep work and it takes a crew of many people to do the shopping, prepare the lodge, the food, the fire pit, cook, and cleanup. Thanks to all those who helped.

We finished the year with two events. In September we had a shared steak dinner. Thanks to Paul McKenna for grilling. It sure isn't easy to grill steaks for 20 people and have them all taste as good as they did. We ended the season in late fall with an Italian night. Thanks go out to Bev and Paul Mattatall for hosting the night at their home. They may not draw the same crowd as the Lobsterfest, but the shared dinners have become a favorite for many folks.

Plans for 2014

The following projects are planned for this season

- Village Cleanup
- Adopt a Highway Cleanup
- Spring Playground Cleanup
- New Garden at the Eidelweiss Dr. Entrance

Suggested / Planned Social events

- Annual meeting to be held Memorial Day weekend
- Family Cookout and Field Day
- Lobsterfest
- Shared Dinners

In addition to the above, we are always looking for new ideas. Keep in mind all of these projects require lots of help. For more information or to volunteer for any of the projects please contact us via email at epoa@eidelweissvillage.com

Hope to see you all at the annual meeting on Saturday, May 24th.

PLEASE, BECOME INVOLVED!!!