

Town of Bedford Annual Report

For the year ending
December 31, 2018



Town of Bedford
321 Bedford Road
Bedford Hills, NY 10507

www.bedfordny.gov/

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Town of Bedford, NY
 Founded 1689

Town Government
Town Board



Chris Burdick
Town Supervisor



Lee Roberts
Deputy Supervisor
Board Member



Don Scott
Board Member



MaryAnn Carr
Board Member



Kate Galligan
Board Member

Town Government
Town Board

The Town Board is a five-member board elect that consists of four Board Members and a Supervisor.

The Board Members are elected for four-year terms, and the Supervisor is elected for a two-year term. The Town Board functions as a legislative body of the Town and is responsible for setting policy, adopting the annual budget, and enacting laws and resolutions for the “health, safety and welfare” of the Town’s residents.

The Supervisor functions as the Chief Fiscal Officer and Chief Executive Officer. A Deputy Supervisor is appointed to assist with the duties of the Supervisor during his or her absence.

All Town Board meetings are open to the public, and only certain legally sensitive issues may be discussed in a private executive session.

Please refer to the Town’s website for the time, location and agenda of meetings: www.bedfordny.gov/

The Town Board meets twice monthly
(first and third Tuesdays or as set by the Board)

Bedford Town House
321 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507
Phone: (914) 666-6530 | Fax: (914) 666-5249

Town Government - Town Clerk

Lisbeth (Boo) Fumagalli
Town Clerk

The Town Clerk is elected to a four-year term and serves as the Records Management Officer and the Registrar of Vital Statistics. This office is responsible for the safekeeping of Town records and assists in local elections.

Hours of Operation: 8:30-4:30, Monday through Friday
Evening/weekend appointments are available
by appointment for Town residents only.

Main phone number: (914) 666-4534 | **Fax:** (914) 666-5249
townclerk@bedfordny.gov

Town Government - Town Judges

Erik P. Jacobsen
Justice



David A. Menken
Justice

The Town of Bedford has two Town Judges, each elected to a four-year term, holding sessions of Criminal Court, Civil Court and Traffic Court.

Sessions are held in the Courtroom located at the
Town of Bedford Town House
321 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507.

2018 County, State & Federal Elected Officials**WESTCHESTER COUNTY**

County Executive George Latimer
148 Martine Ave., White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 995-2127
ceo@westchestergov.com

County Legislator Kitley Covill
148 Marine Ave., White Plains, NY 10601
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covill@westchesterlegislators.com

County Clerk Timothy C. Itoni
110 Dr. Marine Luther King Jr. Blvd.
White Plains, NY 10601 (914) 995-3080
cclerk@westchestergov.com

NEW YORK STATE

Senator
Shelley Mayer
222 Grace Church St., Suite 300
Portchester, NY 10573
(914) 934-5350
smayer@nysenate.gov

Assemblyman
David Buchwald (D, Dist. 93)
125-131 East Main St., Suite 204
Mount Kisco, NY 10549
(914) 244-4450
buchwaldd@assembly.state.ny.us

UNITED STATES

Senator
Charles E. Schumer (D-IN-L)
780 Third Ave., Suite 2301
New York, NY 10017
(212) 486-4430
schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck

Senator
Kirsten E. Gillibrand (D)
780 Third Ave., Suite 2601
New York, NY 10017
(212) 688-6262
gillibrand.senate.gov/contact/

Representative
Sean P. Maloney (D, Dist. 18)
123 Grand St.
Newburgh, NY 12550
(845) 561-1259
seanmaloney.house.gov/contact

TOWN SUPERVISOR'S REPORT OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR

2018 Annual Report

Chris Burdick
Supervisor

Lee V.A. Roberts
Deputy Supervisor

Phyllis Cohen
Confidential Secretary
to the Supervisor



TOWN BOARD

Don B. Scott
MaryAnn Carr
Kate Galligan



I am pleased to provide the 2018 Annual Report of the Town of Bedford. This is the fifth such report since I became Supervisor in January 2014, which we are providing to inform the community on the work of your Town government. I am grateful for the excellent work of our staff and employees who provide the high level of services which we all have come to expect.

FINANCES

Continuation of Property Tax Cap Compliant Budgets

I wish to thank my colleagues on the Town Board for their support in adopting in December 2018 a fiscally responsible 2019 operating budget which provides for modest increases in services we provide while remaining under the State Property Tax cap. While carefully considering the competing demands for limited resources, the Board works diligently to balance such demands and be responsive to the community's priorities.

On December 5, 2018 the Town Board adopted the 2019 Town budget which meets the Town Board's objectives of staying below the tax cap, maintaining or improving Town services and providing a sustainable financial course for the coming years. The budget carries a tax levy increase of 2.77% which is within the State tax cap of 2.82%.

The 2019 budget includes the following, which provides improved services and programs for the Town:

- Increase in funding for the hamlet libraries in the amount of \$33,000 (\$11,000 per library)
- \$81,450 increase in funding for the Recreation & Parks Department budget to expand existing programs and provide new programs.
- \$75,000 increase in the paving budget to a total of \$1.3 million (which includes \$100,000 under our Capital Plan) to enable us to keep up with inflation and pave a bit more than we did in 2018.

- Increase in the Open Space Fund in the amount of \$59,454, which is based on the first year of the phased increase in the levy as authorized by voter referendum. The increase is one-quarter of one percent each year and capped at a total of 2.0% in 2022. The additional funding will enhance the ability of the Town to acquire ecologically sensitive properties which otherwise might be developed and to provide passive, low impact recreational uses for the community, such as walking paths and hiking trails. We are grateful to the volunteers on the Town's Open Space Committee in their work to identify the most critical properties for protection.
- \$32,000 increase in funding for the Recycling Center and for shredder services (the services now are offered monthly):
- Full funding at \$32,000 for the Senior Advocate Program under the auspices of the Recreation and Parks Department. Our thanks to the Senior Advisory Committee for its advocacy of this new program.
- Increase in funding for Town co-sponsored community events. The 2019 operating budget represents the fifth consecutive budget since I became Supervisor which complies with the Property Tax Cap.

Capital Planning and Strong Financial Position (Triple AAA Bond Rating)

Ten Year Capital Plan Preparing for future capital needs and budgeting for them is critical to the Town's financial stability. The Town Board in December 2018 adopted its ten year Capital Plan for the period 2018 through 2027.

Highlights of the Capital Plan:

- \$2.3 million for additional funding for the renovated/expanded Police Station arising from \$1,000,000 in environmental remediation and \$312,435 for carports (which at the outset of the project we reasonably believed would be paid by third parties through a Power Purchasing Agreement for solar topped carports). The additional funding brings the total, including contingencies, to \$9.1 million, though the final cost may be slightly under \$9 million.
- \$468,000 funding for trucks and heavy equipment for the Department of Public Works.
- Funding for replacements for high mileage vehicles with increased maintenance costs, including funds for electric vehicles which enable the Town to make good on its Gold Pledge challenge of Sustainable Westchester and the New York League of Conservation Voters for the Town to "purchase Zero Emission Vehicles for 10% of new light-duty fleet purchases and leases by the end of 2020 and revisit this level annual to consider adopting a higher purchasing commitment." The electric vehicles provide low maintenance and operating costs.
- An additional \$100,000 for 2019 road paving bringing the total from capital to \$475,000.
- \$80,000 for improvements to commuter parking lots – lighting, landscaping and signage.

- \$50,000 in each of 2019, 2020 and 2021 for removal of dead or diseased trees on Town property and \$15,000 in each of 2019, 2020 and 2021 for tree replanting. This funding grew out of recommendations from the Davey Resource Group, consulting arborists, which prepared a tree inventory and maintenance plan for the Town under a grant provided by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (thanks to the work of the Conservation Board).
- \$40,000 for improvements/beautification to the north end of Cherry Street (gateway to the hamlet).
- \$64,000 in additional funds for window replacements for the Town House at 321 Bedford Road bringing the total to \$144,000.
- \$65,000 for traffic safety equipment for the Police Department and \$65,000 for the Department of Public Works.
- \$40,000 for license plate readers for parking enforcement.
- \$20,000 for emergency generators for traffic lights.
- \$10,000 for improvements in Town owned cemeteries.
- \$95,000 for park improvements and replacements: \$25,000 for aerators and oxygen bubblers (Bedford Hills); \$10,000 platform tennis improvements (Katonah) \$35,000 for pool house improvements (Bedford Village) and platform tennis improvements (Bedford Village).
- \$214,000 combined for Indian Hill Park, Leatherman's Ridge, the Vernon Hills property (adjacent to Bedford Village Memorial Park) and the Zema parcel (adjacent to Katonah Memorial Park) with the same amount provided from Open Space reserves. The priorities will be addressing the pervasive invasive plants in Zema (and to some extent Vernon Hills); clean-up of rubbish and debris (all areas except Indian Hills, which presently is not easily accessible); and planning, engineering and, if possible, creation of an access drive off of Indian Hill Road. The Recreation and Parks Department would be responsible for the work and would engage neighbors, the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee, Conservation Board, Wetlands Control Commission and other stakeholders.

As detailed in Comptroller Abe Zambrano's report, the Town completed 2018 in a strong fiscal position. Due to conservative budgeting and the restraint which our department heads and staff exercised, aggregate expenses ran somewhat below budgeted levels and non-tax revenue was stronger than budgeted (tax revenue was as anticipated). This positive position is anticipated to result in the Auditor's Report showing an increase in reserves (fund balances). We anticipate an approximately \$300,000 increase in fund balances for the General Fund and \$50,000 increase in fund balances in the Highway Fund with an estimated, unaudited year-end balance of \$8,113,000 (0.03% increase) and \$2,132,000 (0.02% increase), respectively.

Town Auditor Confirms Strong Financial Position. Alan Kassay of the Town's auditors, PKF O'Connor Davies, in presenting the 2017 audit report to the Town Board last spring, concluded that the Town remains in a very

strong financial position. Note that the 2018 audit report is not available as yet. At year-end 2017, the Town's general fund balances had increased, highway funds and special district funds remain strong, our internal controls were found to be sound and our debt levels are modest. This has resulted in Standard and Poor's rating agency having reaffirmed its top bond rating for the Town of Aaa/Stable, as mentioned above.

Triple A Bond Rating

We are pleased that Standard & Poor's reconfirmed its AAA credit rating for the Town – the highest credit rating available. Why is a triple A credit rating important? It's important because quite literally it saves tens of thousands of dollars in interest costs to the taxpayers, as credit markets consider the risks of repayment very low.

2018 CAPITAL PROJECTS AND IMPROVEMENTS AND TOWN SERVICES

We are fortunate to have Town forces which provide the following:

- Conscientious, speedy and cost-effective snow removal, road paving, road repairs and drainage work.
- A 24/7 Police Department whose protection of the community was critical in ranking Bedford as one of the safest municipalities in the state.
- Recreation and Parks Department for the splendid and beautifully maintained hamlet pools, parks and other facilities and its well-regarded programs.
- The Building and Planning Departments that help residents and businesses work through applications and needs.
- Our Town Clerk, Tax Receiver and Assessor who provide clear and helpful assistance to residents and business owners.

Here are some of the improvements in facilities, infrastructure and services:

Completion of Police Station

Leading the completed 2018 Capital Projects is the renovation and additions to the Police Station – a sorely needed project, for a building which hadn't been overhauled for over 40 years and had been deemed "functionally obsolete" by the consultancy firm the Town had retained to evaluate the existing building and the Department's needs to meet its mission. The renovated building with additions increases the available space from approximately 9,000 square feet to nearly 12,000.

Before the work, the police station was functionally obsolete with the 40 year old physical space unable to meet the needs of the department. The building was in poor condition with roof leaks, insufficient insulation and maintenance and repair problems.

The newly renovated building provides significant operational improvements:

- Improved safety and security for employees and the public.
- Flow improved so that it is efficient and rational (as an example,

previously could not get to the office of the Chief's assistant without walking directly through the Chief's office).

- Operational spaces are logically located to function properly, such as roll call can now be held adjacent to the dispatch desk
- Interview space now available for victims of crime and others seeking police assistance which did not exist in previous building.
- Private and dedicated space for supervisors to perform supervisor's functions with members of their staff as well as their administrative duties
- Energy efficiency (old building was severely energy inefficient) including high efficiency insulation, HVAC and climate control; as well as solar panel carports that will provide a substantial portion of the electricity for the station; LED lighting
- Carports with solar panels which may provide up to 70% of the electricity demand for the station. The carports were planned to provide shelter for police vehicles, thereby prolonging their lives
- Increased training space allowing for onsite training, reducing the need for overtime for officers attending offsite training venues. This can also reduce overall training costs in instances where our Police Department can host training sessions with other police or law enforcement agencies at reduced tuition rates
- Increased secure evidence storage. The previous evidence storage space was too small for the amount of evidence on hand
- In the previous space our utility access points were spread throughout the building including in sensitive and secure locations requiring police escort for service techs within those spaces. We now have all of those utilities consolidated into one main space for ease of access for service or repair
- Female officer locker room only had room for 5 patrol lockers for female officers and we have 7 sworn female officers plus civilian staff. The new space allows for adequate locker space for all female employees, sworn and civilian

Paving More Roads

The Town continued into 2018 its higher funding level for road paving at \$1.225 million from the previous \$1.115 million level, which enabled DPW to pave approximately eight miles of roads. The 2019 approved budget and Capital Plan raises the funding level to \$1.3 million.

Adams Street Highway Garage

In 2014 the Town Board approved a \$2.5 million renovation plan for the Adams Street Highway Garage. The \$2.5 million included a \$175,000 grant from Westchester County for the salt shed project. The project necessitated relocating the adjacent recycling center to its new site on Railroad Avenue. As earlier reported, the Department of Public Works completed the relocation of recycling center and in 2017 completed the new salt shed which has proved very helpful for road treatment

operations. The increased salt storage capacity reduces the need to haul material from our Bedford Village yard to our Adams Street Highway Garage, therefore reducing cost.

In the 2018 capital budget the Board approved an additional \$700,000 in funds for constructing a mechanical maintenance building for fleet maintenance. This change to the scope allows us to meet all of the project goals that we initially set. The goals were to provide regulatory compliant winter materials storage (completed in 2017), improve indoor vehicle storage, provide adequate facilities for mechanical fleet maintenance, and provide truck washing facilities. The fact that sewers will now be provided to the Adams Street Highway Yard allows for a simpler vehicle washing facility, which frees up funds to allow for construction of the mechanical maintenance building, and allows the DPW to meet all of the aforementioned goals.

Architectural and engineering designs are progressing well on the new facility, and we anticipate going to bid in the first half of 2019, with construction beginning in summer 2019. The building is being designed to architecturally match the salt storage building, which it will be adjacent to.

Phase I of the Sewer Project and Looking Ahead to Phase II

We are very grateful for a grant award of \$1 million toward our sewer project. Governor Cuomo announced the award on December 18 under the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Quality Improvement Program. The project is described in the award: "The Town of Bedford will construct a sewage collection system consisting of six miles of sewer main and three sewage pump stations. This project will reduce the amount of nutrients entering the Upper New Croton Reservoir, a drinking water supply for New York City."

By way of background, this project has its origins going back as much as a century when Katonah Village Improvement Society first discussed the benefits of sewers for the hamlet. There had been several attempts to bring sewers to the more densely populated areas of Bedford Hills and Katonah septic systems are more likely to fail due to their age, small lot size (less area for septic fields) or poor soil conditions. The sewer project addresses the most severe septic issues which are in the hamlet business districts of Bedford Hills and Katonah. It also provides for sewer service for Katonah Elementary School, Bedford Park Apartments in Bedford Hills and property of St. Mary's Church in Katonah – all as alternative to individual wastewater treatment facilities at each of these sites.

We are fortunate to have significant funding from third party sources providing over 95% of the estimated \$23 million project costs. New York City's Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) is the source of \$13.1 million of the funding; Westchester County's Water Quality Improvement Program fund is the source of up to \$6.5 million and we were just awarded a \$1 million water quality grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. We also have an agreement with the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) providing for DOCCS conveyance to the Town of its

wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) serving the two correctional facilities in Bedford Hills. This conveyance is authorized under special "Home Rule" legislation adopted by the New York State legislature and the Governor signed into law earlier this year.

The Town Board recognizes that the project addresses only some of the wastewater problems facing our community.

We need to do more. For this reason in September the Town Board commissioned Woodard & Curran, design engineers for the sewer project, to consider a Phase II. Woodard & Curran has completed its preliminary assessment and issued its report with regard to it. The report suggests that we consider an expansion of the capacity of the Bedford Hills WWTP. They also suggested extending the sewer system to connect the rental and condominium units at Bedford Lake (adjacent to the Bedford Hills Memorial Park). This would be in collaboration with NYCDEP as an alternative to a new wastewater treatment facility at this site. In this regard, we have been made aware that NYCDEP is in a holding pattern with regard to its replacement project. It may be mutually advantageous for NYCDEP, the Town and residents at Bedford Lake to consider the alternative approach, as the Town and NYCDEP are in the process of implementing under Phase I with respect to Bedford Park Apartments, Katonah Elementary School and property of St. Mary's Church in Katonah, as mentioned above.

Recreation & Parks: Continuation of Successful Programs; Launch of New Programs; Improvements to Town Parks

Please see the annual report of Recreation & Parks Superintendent Bill Heidepriem for a review of capital projects undertaken in 2018 as well as continued, expanded and new programs offered to the community.

Westchester Power, a/k/a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

Thanks to the Town's participation in Sustainable Westchester (SW), SW's Westchester Power continues to provide residents and small businesses a price guarantee lower than the benchmark of the twelve months previous to the adoption of the program. Through the date of this writing, Westchester Power has resulted in thousands of dollars in electric cost savings to Bedford residents and small business. The program simply leverages bulk or aggregated purchase by SW of electricity supply on behalf of municipalities and their residents and businesses. The electricity still is delivered over the poles and wires of Con Edison and NYSEG and billed through those utilities. Because of the success of the program, Bedford was the first municipality to renew in December its participation in CCA for the Con Edison service area in town. We did so based on the new fixed rates for a second contract term beginning January 2019 and ending December 31, 2020. The new rates, effective January 1, are 7.96 cents/kwh for 100% renewable energy, with standard supply a fraction of a penny less at 7.71 cents/kwh. And if you have questions about your electric bill, the highly responsive and courteous customer service at Westchester Power (call 914-242-4725 or e-mail jenna@westchesterpower.org) is second to none.

We are especially proud that Bedford is one of 15 Westchester municipalities that not only offers this attractive pricing through Westchester Power, but also promotes the development of non-fossil fuel energy resources.

Sustainability and Partnering with Bedford 2020 to Advance our Community's Climate Action Goals

The Town continues to work closely with Bedford 2020 on programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce waste and preserve our natural resources. This includes: making our electric supply cleaner through Community Choice Aggregation; making our homes and building more energy efficient and cleaner through the Energize Bedford and HeatSmart Westchester programs; encouraging plant-based eating during the Meatless Mondays with Bedford 2020 effort; reducing solid waste through single stream recycling, Community Compost, book recycling bins at the Recycling Center, the new Take it or Leave it Shed, and a new reusable bag law that takes effect on April 1; converting the Town fleet to EV's and installing community EV charging stations.

Bedford 2020 and the Town are in the process of completing a Greenhouse Gas Inventory to gauge our progress in achieving the goal set in 2010 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 20% by 2020. These results will be used to help set post-2020 climate goals and advance our community's commitment to making Bedford a healthy and sustainable community.

Partnering with the Town's First Responders

Launched as a forum to work together on storm and emergency preparedness, I expanded the scope of our regular meetings with the Town's first responders: fire departments, Katonah Bedford Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps and the Town's Police Department and Building Department. We now discuss and coordinate on a wide range of issues including building life safety matters; communication equipment and software; and alarm monitoring, to name a few. My thanks to each of these volunteer agencies for the time and effort they have taken in this effort.

OTHER SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

Septic System Repair and Replacement Program. In its third full year of operation, the program has reimbursed, as of this writing, \$704,154 to 98 property owners whose septic systems failed and required either repair or replacement. With all \$3.5 million from Westchester County, under its Water Quality Improvement Program fund, the Bedford Program reimburses property owners 50% of the cost of repairs or replacements.

New Recycling Center In its second full year of operation, the Department of Public Works operates the recycling center on Railroad Avenue. Our thanks to the New York State Department of Transportation for allowing us to use their land at no cost to the Town, saving us literally hundreds of thousands in land acquisition cost and making the upgrade project possible. The Recycling Center continues to offer Single Stream recycling, refuse disposal for Senior Citizens (60 and older), electronic

waste recycling and we are continuing a food composting program initiated in 2017. We also have expanded to monthly the frequency of shredder truck availability. We thank Winters Brothers and their staff for good operation of the facility.

Bedford Hills Train Station In the winter of 2017 work was completed on the interior renovation at the Bedford Hills Train Station. Community access and use of the station has greatly increased. The interior space of the train station is able to host meetings, a variety of programs and special events. The main room may be rented on a space-available basis for Town of Bedford community groups, residents and local businesses.

For additional information please contact the **Recreation office at 666-7004**. Facility use rental forms may be found online at Bedfordny.gov on the Forms and Applications page in the Recreation sections. The Bedford Hills Library, The Community Center, Junior League of Northern Westchester, Antioch Baptist Church, the Bedford Hills Lions Club, Bedford Hills Neighborhood Association, the Bedford Democratic Committee, B2020, Energize Bedford to name a few, taking advantage of the glorious facility. We also continued the extended hours for commuter and others' use of the lavatories (from 5:30 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday).

Increased Services by Clerk's Office The Clerk's Office had a very successful year handling all applications for film permits, saving residents and businesses the need to appear before the Town Board. The Clerk's Office also launched a "Do Not Knock" registry under a new Town law to provide residents some respite from door to door sales. In addition, the 2019 budget and Capital Plan provides for even more online capability to serve our community better and more efficiently.

Traffic Court Improved Schedule In 2017, the Justice Court had its third year with an improved schedule for vehicle and traffic matters, starting court earlier in the day to accommodate people who cannot miss an entire day of work to come to court to meet with a prosecutor and appear before a Judge. We managed well notwithstanding the reduced parking availability due to the renovation work on the Police Station.

Improving Parking Recognizing that parking is the lifeblood for our merchants, the Town Board has increased parking enforcement in the hamlets (to ensure turnover), changed parking limits in Bedford Village in response to recommendations of the Bedford Village Business Association and moved ahead with plans for a new municipal parking lot. The Capital Plan includes \$1.1 million for acquisition of vacant land off of Court Road from the Bedford Presbyterian Church. The parking lot will provide free municipal parking for businesses and their customers and clients in the hamlet.

Commuter Parking The Town Board moved ahead with a user-friendly online parking system through Parkmobile (which has parking systems for White Plains other Westchester municipalities and New York City) which should make the entire process far easier for residents, enable the Town to better evaluate utilization and issue more resident permits thereby reduce waiting lists. The implementation of the online parking system has

streamlined the permitting process and has allowed the staff to issue permits to residents on the wait list. Prior to the implementation of the software, the name at the top of the list dated back to 2013. As of December 31, 2018, the name of the top of the list has been waiting since early 2016. Permit usage information will continue to be evaluated over the next few months in order to determine the number of additional permits that can be issued without affecting town residents' ability to find a parking space. As the result of the system implementation, the wait time has been decreased from 5 to 2 years.

Communication and Transparency

I wish to thank the readers of my weekly newsletter for providing feedback that they find it useful. When I took office, I pledged I would do my best to provide more outreach and transparency about what your government is doing. The newsletter has evolved and expanded. I thank my amazing secretary, Phyllis Cohen, for applying her prodigious design skills and experience in making the newsletter more user friendly and visually appealing. We have expanded the comprehensive weekly Community Calendar compiled from information and website postings from community organizations. I've expanded the monthly Supervisor reports, and increased postings to the Town's websites, popular community Facebook groups and alerts and news reports. We reply and post, as appropriate, to community Facebook pages as well as my Facebook page. We have informed the residents on a variety of subjects through mailings, eNews and other media outlets on a variety of subjects, including power outages and other emergencies, road closures, traffic safety improvements, the police station renovation project, the sewer project, Westchester Power, single stream recycling, septic system repair and replacement program, and relaxation of the Historic Building Preservation Law, Town Board meetings and decisions, to name a few.

The Town's successes would not have been possible without the dedication, hard work, and commitment of many people. We look forward to continued progress and achievement in 2019.

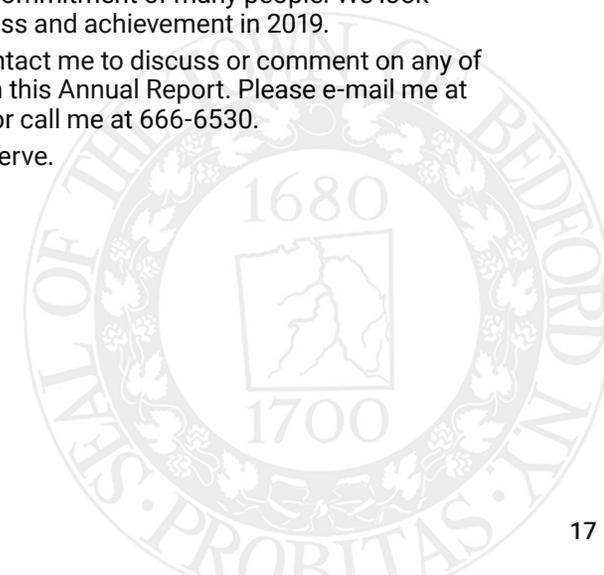
As always, I invite you to contact me to discuss or comment on any of the information contained in this Annual Report. Please e-mail me at supervisor@bedfordny.gov or call me at 666-6530.

I'm here to listen, help and serve.

Warm regards,



Chris Burdick
Town Supervisor



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

321 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills NY 10507
 914 666-4543 • Fax 914 666-5249
townclerk@bedfordny.gov



Lisbeth Fumagalli
 Town Clerk



Nina Kellogg
 Deputy Town Clerk

The Town Clerks Office is known as the “Doorway” to local Government. It is a central place for people to call or visit when they don’t know who else to call or see about a problem. We strive to supply information that we feel is important and helpful to all residents. In the last year we have continued to make improvements to our information to residents by creating “Welcome to Bedford” folders for new residents – a one stop guide for all items related to the town.

Make a sharp left at the Rotunda in Town Hall, the Clerk’s office has available a wide selection of information on programs from hiking trails to energy saving tips and programs. Please stop by and take a look!

Over 200 years of birth, death and marriage records are maintained by this office and we are frequently asked to research records and provide documents. We act as the Town’s Records Access office as well as the keeper of Town Board minutes and legislative history. The Town Board minutes are on the Town’s web site and in 2018 we added the Wetlands Control Commission, Planning and Zoning Board minutes. Our goal is to have the minutes of all boards on our web site.

Town Board meetings can be watched live through our web site and local Public TV access: [Town Board Meeting](#)

Another area of responsibility in the Town Clerk’s office is the issuance of licenses and permits including hunting and fishing licenses, marriage licenses, dog licenses, handicap parking permits, local licenses such as peddling and soliciting, cabaret, refuse and taxi licenses, senior refuse tickets, games of chance, filming and new this year is an Alcohol permit fee.

In looking back on 2018, our revenues for these licenses and permits increased by 4.5%. This increase was due to Filming permits which were up by 24% at \$21,750. Filming in Bedford is not something we can

control therefore we have been working with our Filming Committee to put in place a campaign to convey to the filming industry that Bedford is “film friendly”. Senior refuse coupons remained the same, recycling permits and EZ-pass sales were down slightly. Resident dog park permits both resident and non-resident were down from last year. Our vitals numbers (Marriage, Birth and Death) were up. Records management is another very important responsibility of our office. We must ensure that all Town records are maintained for the appropriate retention period and they are securely destroyed when appropriate and permanent records are protected.

FOIL (freedom of information) requests in 2018 were 200. Our office receives these requests and must review and coordinate with various departments within the Town. There are very strict rules regarding timing so follow up is never ending.

Since I have become the Town Clerk, my office has taken on many additional duties. We are in charge of Insurance – not only for all of our facilities and vehicles but we ensure that every vendor working for, or someone renting a field or facility from the Town has proper insurance. We have also introduced a great way to get rid of surplus items (cars, trucks, chairs, desks, & lockers from the old PD) to mention a few – in the last 2 years we have made \$45,000.

We act as a liaison with our technical support company and recently worked with the Communication Committee to complete an upgrade to the viewing and sound systems within the courtroom. And last but not least are the Town’s phones – both office and cell phones are our responsibility. We are very proud of the new system recently installed for all employees.

Our main goal continues to be “better ways of doing everything”. We have been working to expand the installation of Laserfiche scanning system to all departments, allowing us to better manage our scanned information bringing maximum efficiencies to our record management and information retrieval.

The philosophy in the Clerk’s office is that the job description here is “whatever it takes” and we will continue to do whatever is required to serve the Town residents in Bedford.

Lisbeth Fumagalli
 Town Clerk

TOWN JUSTICE COURT

321 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills NY 10507
 914 666-6965 • Fax 914 666- 2490
court@bedfordny.gov

Town Justices
 Erik P. Jacobsen
 David A. Menken



Court Clerk
 Nancy D. Artese
 Diane Georgio

The Town of Bedford Justice Court, administered by Justices Erik Jacobsen and David Menken, continued in 2018 to work productively and efficiently in carrying out the administration of justice in the Town of Bedford.

With a Court staff of five (5) full-time employees and one (1) part-time employee, we are dedicated to providing the best services possible to the residents of Bedford and all that come before the Court. The Court in 2018 maintained its traditionally busy calendar. Matters which came before the Court on a weekly basis included cases ranging from criminal, landlord/tenant, small claims, vehicle and traffic, parking, and building and zoning code enforcement cases.

On the civil side, the Court hears actions seeking monetary awards up to \$3,000 and small claims proceedings for awards up to \$3,000. Often, individual litigants do not use an attorney in these matters and are not required to do so. The Court also handles landlord/tenant matters that may involve possible evictions, as well as money judgements for back rent. On the criminal side, the Court handles matters involving the prosecution of misdemeanors and violations that were alleged to have been committed within the Town's geographic boundaries. The Court also conducts arraignments and preliminary hearings in felony matters.

In addition, the Court hears Vehicle and Traffic law misdemeanors and traffic infractions.

Bedford's Town Justices continue to be on call 24 hours a day and are often called upon to arraign defendants on misdemeanor and felony charges, as well as to act as Family Court Judges when the Westchester County Family Court is not in session.

In cases involving domestic violence, the Justices are also authorized to, and in appropriate circumstances do, issue orders of protection.

Eight enforcement divisions bring their matters to Bedford Town Court:

(i) the Bedford Police Department; **(ii)** the Bedford Office of Code Enforcement; **(iii)** The Bedford Dog Ordinance Enforcement Office; **(iv)** the Bedford Department of Parking Enforcement (patrolling the seven municipalities); **(v)** the Westchester County Police Department (patrolling the Saw Mill Parkway); **(vi)** the New York State Police Department (patrolling 1-684); **(vii)** the MTA Police Department (with two train stations serving the Town) and **(viii)** the Department of Environmental Protection (patrolling the reservoirs and the dams).

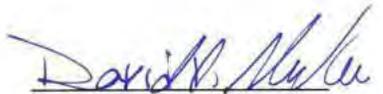
The Court hears criminal cases on a weekly basis, every Wednesday evening, and holds traffic court twice a month. In 2018, the Court's busy calendar included over 300 new criminal cases and over 11,000 new vehicle and traffic cases. It is common to hear 30 to 40 criminal cases and occasionally up to 60 cases on a Wednesday evening. It is also common to hear 250-300 traffic tickets on a Tuesday.

The Court has not increased its budget for 2018 in any significant manner, relying instead on increased efficiency and, where possible, on State grants. The Court has improved its record management and storage policies and practices.

The Judges are confident that all Court employees will continue to provide excellent service to the Town, and look forward in 2019 to improving the Court while balancing the needs of the citizens, the budget and the staff.



ERIK P. JACOBSEN



DAVID A. MENKEN

OFFICE OF THE TOWN ASSESSOR

321 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills NY 10507
 914 666-5149 • Fax 914 864-0060



Harold Girdlestone
 Sole Assessor

hgirdlestone@bedfordny.gov



Tatiana Guaman
 Assessment/Tax Aide
tguaman@bedfordny.gov

Summary: The Assessor’s Office published the 2018 Tentative Assessment Roll on June 1, 2018 with a stated uniform percent of value at 10.90%. The 2018 assessment is based on the physical inventory of the property as of May 1st, 2018 and the market value as of July 1st, 2017. There were approximately 136 grievance applications filed with the Board of Assessment Review. The Final Assessment Roll was filed on September 15, 2018. Approximately 40 Small Claims Assessment Review petitions and 33 tax certiorari petitions were filed in contesting their final 2018 assessment.

In 2018, we digitally updated three additional tax maps and continue to annually re-scan updated property records cards into Laserfiche. Pending final town board approval of our proposed capital project, we plan to update electronically all of our 222 tax maps into a GIS and/or AutoCad system. We plan to send a RFP in 2019 to solicit bids to conduct this tax map maintenance and conversion project.

Late in 2018, eligible homeowners who received a STAR exemption or a STAR credit check also received a property tax relief check from NY State. The property tax relief check amount was based on a percentage of their STAR saving depending on their income level and their age. The property tax relief program will be fully implemented in 2019.

Duties/Functions of the Assessor’s Office:

- To collect, review, record, and value real property from permits, sales, field review, and property inspections.
- Make assessment revisions where necessary to ensure fair and equitable assessments
- To gather and maintain parcel data regarding the physical characteristics of the property such as building style, size, age, condition, improvements etc

- To review and process all recorded deeds to maintain/update current ownership information for all properties
- To process all real property tax exemption applications according to NYS Real Property Tax Law
- To process tax parcel splits and mergers and to maintain and update Town tax maps.
- To annually publish a Tentative & Final Assessment Roll which lists all assessment data for all tax parcels
- To annually determine our stated level of assessing which appears on each assessment roll
- To make the assessment information, including challenge/grievance process, available to all property owners
- To be responsible for completing analysis and appraisals in Small Claims Assessment Review cases.
- Annually submit the Assessors Report to NY State and Westchester County

General Assessment Information: All new or renewal exemption applications such as the Veteran’s, Volunteer/Ambulance, Aged, Clergy and Agricultural MUST be filed with our office or be postmarked by MAY 1st 2019. Please note that all new STAR applicants MUST apply for the exemption with the NYS Dept. Tax & Finance. Please contact us if you have any questions or require any general assessment or exemption information at the phone number, address or email on the previous page.

2018 Assessment Roll Information

June 1st 2018	2018 Tentative Assessment Roll published
Valuation Date: July 1st of Prior year	Assessment based on Market Value as of this date
Taxable Status Date: May 1st	Exemption Deadline filing date Assessment based on the physical condition as of this date
Grievance Filing Period:	June 1st - the 3rd Tuesday in June to contest your assessment
Grievance Day: 3rd Tuesday in June	June 19th, 2018: Grievance filing deadline date Grievance Board convenes to hear grievance complaints
2018 Stated Level of Assessing:	10.90%
2018 Residential Assessment Ratio:	10.90%
2018 State Equalization Rate:	10.90%

TOWN BUILDING DEPARTMENT

425 Cherry Street, Bedford Hills NY 10507
 914 666-4585 • Fax 914 666- 2026
buildinginsp@bedfordny.gov



Alberto Ciraco
Building Inspector
 John Winter
Assistant Building Inspector



Gabriel Beltre
Code Enforcement Officer
 Alexandra J. Costello
Sr. Office Manager
 Donna M. Monaco
Sr. Office Assistant
 Michael Repp
Deputy Fire Inspector

The Bedford Building Department is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the New York State Building Code as well as Bedford's Town Ordinances. The Building Department staff assists persons in all aspects of land use and guides them through the building process. This includes working with individuals looking for information on specific properties, responding to code questions, handling sensitive enforcement issues, guidance through the approval process of the variance boards and commissions, and permit issuance.

Our goal is to provide a positive experience for all who use our services while adhering to State and Town Codes.

In 2018 our department was able to complete:

- The administration work, plan review and issuance of 945 permits which include construction of new buildings, interior & exterior alterations, additions, construction of accessory buildings, installation of solar panels, tree removal, sign installations, along with plumbing and electrical work
- Approximately 1,120 inspections associated with building permits which include but are not limited to, footing, foundation, concrete under slab, waterproofing, framing, insulation, plumbing and final inspections
- Code Enforcement responded to approximately 259 written complaints and conducted numerous re-inspections and attended Town Court each month to deal with building department court cases
- Our part time Fire inspector conducted approximately 417 fire inspections which also include operating permit type and re-inspections for failed initial inspections, which are required per the NYS Fire code

- Our administrative staff has processed and administered all paper work regarding but not limited to, building applications, issuance of permits, certificate of occupancies, attaining zoning minutes, foil and search requests, receiving and entering complaints, answering all questions the public may have
- Our 2-part time interns were able to scan over 1,000 building department files into our computer system. They also boxed all files that were deemed ready to be shredded on Records & Retention day.

This department is also responsible for maintaining the Town House, Police Headquarters, Bedford Hills Community House, 21 Park Avenue, 425 Cherry Street, Bedford Hills Train Station and then Bedford Hills Post Office.

Our two full time employees work diligently to keep these buildings clean and safe for staff and visitors that use these facilities.

Listed below are projects that were commenced & completed in 2018 in addition to the daily maintenance required:

- Hired a contractor to Commence the removal & installation of 31-windows in the original portion of 321-Town House building
- Hired and supervised a contractor to repair and replace the ADA handicap rail at BH Post Office
- Hired and supervised a contractor to repair the stair treads & railing at rear of court room and at rear of parks and rec administrative office at 425 Cherry St
- Hired and supervised a contractor to clean the rugs and polish the floors at both the 321-Town House and 425 Cherry St buildings
- Hired and supervised a contractor to cut back overgrown trees and heavy brush from over the 425 Cherry St parking lot
- Our maintenance crew re-secured all loose ceiling tiles for the auditorium ceiling at the Community House

In 2019 we will continue to provide outstanding service to our residents and the community and explore new and more efficient ways to serve them.

Thank you,

Alberto Ciraco
Building Inspector

OFFICE OF THE TOWN COMPTROLLER

425 Cherry Street, Bedford Hills NY 10507
 914 666-8283 • Fax 914 666-8025
finance@bedfordny.gov



Abraham Zambrano
 Town Comptroller



Elisa Alaimo
Sr. Bookkeeper
 Mariann Harold
Sr. Office Assistant - Comptroller
 Caroline Bruschi
Sr. Account Clerk
 Francine Luppino
Sr. Office Assistant

The Town of Bedford's Finance Department is the gatekeeper of the Town's finances and as such is responsible for ensuring compliance with State Law, regulations set by the Office of the State Comptroller and Town Board approved policies and procedures.

Elisa, Missy, Carolina and Francine are dedicated, work well with each other and continuously search for ways to streamline processes and bringing efficiencies to the office; individually and as a group, they are an asset to the Town. The department's staff is responsible for accounts payable, accounts receivables, payroll, payroll taxes, workers compensation insurance, and reporting to the Town Board and New York State as necessary.

The department also maintains meticulous records on capital projects, banking, bonds and debt service. Additionally, they also manage the issuance of fire and burglary alarm permits and the daily operation of the Town's commuter parking lots.

The following was achieved in 2018:

- The results of the 2017 annual audit indicated that the Town's finances are strong and that management had fairly presented the financial position of the municipality. Year end results increased reserves for all funds.
- As the result of strong financial management, along with the Town's ability to generate surplus even though the tax base ebbed slightly, Standard & Poor Global Ratings and Moody's Investors Services re-affirmed the Town's Aaa in 2018; a rating that is only earned by a small percentage of municipalities in New York State as the result of sound financial management, well established reserves and a stable tax base.

- Financial management of the Town's 10 Year Capital Plan continued in 2018. As reported in last year's annual report, the Town issued a \$10 million bond to fund several projects including the Police Station Renovations Project, computer and telephone system upgrades, and improvements to Town parks, to name a few. An updated \$5.6 million Capital Plan for 2019 was presented to the Board and subsequently approved in December 2018.
- With the collaboration of the all the department heads, the Finance Department was able to present to the Town Board a budget that not only maintains or improves services to our residents, but stayed below the tax cap. On December 5, 2018, the Board unanimously approved the 2019 Town Budget in the amount of \$39,070,117 which requires that \$25,251,132 be levied as taxes.
- Financial projections on major non-tax revenues have been provided monthly throughout the year to the Town Board. Based on forecasts for year-end, at the time of this report, 2018 activity indicates that we will end the year adding to the reserves of both the General and Highway Funds.
- The management of parking at the Town owned commuter lots has been a challenge and the demand for parking continues to escalate. Due to the increase in requests for non-resident parking, we have continue analyzing daily activity in order to make the most out of Lot 3 on Woods Bridge Road. As part of the Town's commitment to improve commuter parking efficiencies, the Town Board approved a paperless parking permit solution that was put into effect on July 1; the beginning of the commuter parking permit year. As the result of the conversion and implementation of the ParkMobile permit system and careful staff planning, the department was able issue parking permits to town residents that had been on the waiting list since 2013; thus increasing the number of parking permits for commuters. Due to the continuous analysis of usage data, we proudly report that as of December 31, 2018, the individuals at the top of the list date back to April 2016. Prior to the conversion to the paperless permit system, the waiting list dated back to early 2013. Phase II of the paperless Pay-by-Phone system will be completed in 2019 but preparation started during 2018. This option will allow town residents and non-residents to pay for daily parking using a telephone app.
- Along with the implementation of the ParkMobile paperless parking permit system, the Finance Department along with the Police Department were able to put into effect the LPR (License Plate Reader) technology that allows the Town's Parking Enforcement Officers patrol the lots to ensure parking permit compliance in the commuter lots.

- Due to the changes in technology, department staff worked with the Town Attorney to update the Town's parking law.
 - Planning and preparations have started to update the Town's Alarms law and we are working with the software company to make modifications to the existing alarm billing software. The software improvements will provide more information to property owners.
 - In 2016, the Town Board approved the acquisition of Tyler Technology's MUNIS financial Software. The implementation of the software started in the May of 2017 and we were able to "go-live" with financials in January 2018. The software has allow many processes to be streamlined, making staff more efficient; an added benefit to the software implementation is a substantial reduction in paper consumption. The implementation of the payroll module had a later start due to the intricacies of the collective bargaining agreements between the Town and the unions. However, all necessary set up was completed in 2018 and we were able to "go live" with HR and Payroll starting with the first pay cycle in January 2019. Later in 2019, the ESS (Employee Self Service) platform will be rolled out in an effort to make the payroll process as paperless as possible.
 - The Year-end Payroll process was completed efficiently and seamlessly during the last week of the year. Employee W-2's and 1095's were distributed or mailed in January.
 - We continue the management of the Town's EV Charging Stations at six Town owned locations installed at the end of 2017 as well as the additional EV Charging Station located in the Police Station parking lot.
- As we move into 2019, it is important that we recognize the cooperation of all the department heads and staff during the year and just as important, the professionalism, cooperation and dedication of the staff in the Finance Department.



OFFICE OF THE TOWN HISTORIAN

321 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills NY 10507
 914 666-4745 • Fax 914 666-8025
historian@bedfordny.gov



John J. Stockbridge
 Town Historian



Christina Rae
 Research Assistant

The Historian's Office maintains archival materials for the Town. The office serves the public through the provision of genealogy and land records.

The office is open to the public for research Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

The office routinely receives inquiries from the public as to family or property histories, and offers the service of written reports upon request. Extensive property reports are completed on a fee basis.

The office works closely with the Bedford Historical Society, the Bedford Hills Historical Museum, Friends of Bedford Burying Grounds, Westchester County Historical Society, and the Katonah Historical Library on research inquiries related to local history. We also exchange research briefs with other towns in Westchester County to broaden the collective knowledge base of historical information.

The Historian's office provides extensive research material to the Historic Building Preservation Commission. Using deed searches and early 20th century Assessor's records, property histories are provided to the HBPC.

In this past year, the Historian's office initiated a historic sign project for 19th century Bedford Schools. With the support of property owners, the first two signs were created and placed at the locations where the schools had existed.

The study of Bedford schools is an integral part of providing the public with an interesting component of it's growth and character. This year two to four additional signs will be placed.

John J. Stockbridge
 Town Historian

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

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pnisbett@bedfordny.gov

Joan Gallagher
 Director of Personnel



The Personnel Department is responsible for maintaining and coordinating all aspects of human resources for the Town of Bedford. These facets include but are not limited to: employee benefits for all active and retired employees; civil service rules/laws; union communications and contract terms; mandatory safety training; safety programs/policies; and, staffing & organization.

In order to maintain services to its residents, the Town hired nine individuals in 2017 to replace employees who previously retired/resigned: two Police Officers; one Sr. Office Assistant – Automated Systems in the Police Department; one Sr. Account Clerk in the Finance Department; one Code Enforcement Officer; one Laborer and one Motor Equipment Operator in DPW; a Program Coordinator for the DAPC; and, one School Crossing Guard.

The Town met with insurance brokers to ensure affordable benefits within the specifications of the union contracts. Bedford's primary health insurance provider, the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) increased 8.4% which was well below that national average. The Town's secondary health care option continued to be CareConnect, however, notification was received that they would be dissolving in 2018. The Town changed dental insurers from MetLife to The Standard for a savings of approximately \$20,000.

The Town of Bedford remains in compliance with mandatory training requirements. These training programs include but are not limited to OSHA safety training, defensive driver training, anti-harassment training and workplace violence prevention training.

The Safety Committee continues to meet every other month to review any injuries and accidents in order to make improvements to ensure the safety of Town employees.

Director of Personnel Joan Gallagher retired on January 31, 2019 after 17 years of dedicated service. We wish her the best in her next chapter, and welcome Paula Nisbett who started on February 11, 2019.

OFFICE OF THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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planning@BedfordNY.gov



Jeffrey Osterman
Director of Planning



Anne Paglia
Planning Secretary

Francine Luppino
Wetlands Secretary

Bedford Town Planning

Planning has been a part of the Town of Bedford's history since its inception in 1680 when 22 men from Stamford, after acquiring the "Hopp Ground," set out to plan for a meeting house, a grist mill on the Mianus River and a burying ground – and agreed no house lot would be less than three acres, but could be more. Town planning is a deeply rooted American tradition and is of critical concern today in Bedford as the Town faces the challenges of needed housing, prudent land use, and environmental protection.

Bedford's planning policies are implemented at three levels:

- The Town Board approves the laws establishing planning policy.
- The Planning Board, Wetlands Control Commission, Bedford Village Historic Review Commission, Katonah Historic Commission and Town Historic Building Preservation Commission assist in the formulation and carrying out of policy.
- The Zoning Board of Appeals has the authority to grant variances from the Zoning Ordinance.

To accomplish these goals, several tools are available to the Town:

- The Town Comprehensive Plan, a land use plan for the development of the community. This document is a statement of planning policies and goals of the Town to guide future growth and development.
- The Zoning Ordinance, a document adopted by the Town Board defining the various districts within the Town and the regulations concerning land uses and lot areas in these districts.
- The Land Subdivision Regulations, a part of the Code of the Town of Bedford dealing with procedures and standards under which new lots are created.
- Specific Regulations concerning Wetlands, Steep Slopes and Ridgelines, Historic Districts and Historic Buildings.

Town Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan was last adopted in April of 2003. With the assistance of Pace University Land Use Law Center, the Planning Department has begun updating the Comprehensive Plan through a series of public meetings. These meetings were held with senior citizens, the general public and owners of commercial properties in the Town to discuss the following topics: Commercial Development and Town Centers, Open Spaces, Environmental & Natural Resources, Transportation, Parks, Recreation and Civic Spaces, Town Services and Utilities, Housing Needs, Historic Preservation and Community Appearance, and Sustainability. More meetings were held in 2018, after which the direction of the Comprehensive Plan was discussed by the Town Board and Planning Board.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Town has been working with the County of Westchester to prepare a joint Hazard Mitigation Plan with the County and other municipalities. The purpose of the Plan is to identify and describe hazards to the community and prepare a mitigation strategy to minimize risks from these hazards.

Planning Board Activities in 2018

The Planning Board conducted 23 public meetings in 2018, during which the Board considered various permit applications and discussed land use policy issues. The Board also took 5 field trips to inspect 9 individual properties proposed for development. A total of 28 formal resolutions were approved by the Board during the year for new development projects of all types, including minor subdivisions, accessory cottages and apartments, and improvements to commercial properties.

Wetlands Control Commission Activities in 2018

The Wetlands Control Commission held 6 meetings in 2018, reviewing applications for activities within a wetland or wetland "buffer," which are lands within one hundred feet of a watercourse or wetland. The Commission took 6 field trips to review these applications. During the year, the Commission approved 9 permits for these activities. In addition, 14 Administrative Permits were approved by the Wetlands Permit Official for minor activities.

Historic Building Preservation Commission Activities in 2018

The Town Board adopted major amendments to the Historic Building Preservation Law in 2017. The amendments included a revised Survey of Historic Buildings, a two-tiered system of regulation, a revised appeals process and clearer definitions of regulated actions.

The Historic Building Preservation Commission held 7 public meetings and 1 work session in 2018 to review applications under Section 71-25

of the Town Code. The Commission took 5 field trips during the year to review 9 building applications. During the year, the Commission approved 8 Determinations for historic structures.

Department Activities

The staff of the Planning Department also spent significant time on the following activities in 2018:

1. Preparing for the construction of the Bedford Hills-Katonah Business Sewer District.
2. Processing 30 applications for reimbursement under the Town's Septic System Repair, Remediation or Replacement Reimbursement Program totaling \$196,660 in direct grants to property owners.
3. Revising Town regulations on horses.
4. Analyzing traffic calming measures throughout the Town.
5. Amending Town laws regulating wireless communication facilities.

Jeffrey Osterman
Director of Planning



THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

307 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills NY 10507
 914 241-3111 • Fax 914 241-0486
bedfordpolice@bedfordny.gov



Melvin Padilla
 Chief of Police

The Town of Bedford Police Department is a full time, full service police department with 40 sworn officers serving a community of approximately 18,000 residents over roughly 40 square miles. Uniformed officers of the Patrol Bureau provide services along approximately 161 miles of roadway within the town, as well as assistance along Interstate 684 and the Saw Mill River Parkway.

The Bedford Police Department also maintains a full service investigative division with detectives that investigate all criminal cases that are reported annually.

2018 Statistics at a glance:

- 29,926 Calls for Service
- 1,752 Alarm Call Investigations
- 145 Criminal Case Investigations
- 108 Arrests (including 14 DWI and 39 for suspended license/registration)
- 3,612 Summonses Issued
- 5,734 Parking Summons Issued
- 83 Child Safety Seat Inspections performed
- 537 reported motor vehicle accidents (105 injuries, 0 fatalities)

Calendar Year 2018 Highlights:

- The Police Headquarters renovation project reached the “substantially complete” milestone and was operational as of November 14, 2018. Solar Carport project set to start in spring 2019.
- Two hardwired variable message boards were installed 2017. One on Cherry St in Bedford Hills and one on Pound Ridge Rd in Bedford Village . These message boards continue to be used to alert motorists of their speed in relation to the speed limit in an attempt to gain increased compliance. We have seen up to a 5mph reduction in 85 percentile speed when these signs are in use.
- The Police Department hired 7 new police officers, 6 officers retired and 6 were promoted (2 Lieutenants and 4 Sergeants including the first female police officer promoted to Sergeant).

Melvin Padilla Jr.
 Chief of Police
 Bedford Police Department



photo PCohen

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

301 Adams Street, Bedford Hills NY 10507
914 666-7669 • Fax 914 666-4987

kwinn@bedfordny.gov



Kevin Winn
P.E. Commissioner



Robert Mascianica
Deputy Commissioner

William Nickson
Water Foreman

Andrew Rosafort
Road Foreman

The Bedford Department of Public Works (DPW) is pleased to serve Town residents and strives to provide excellent service in a cost effective manner. We are proud of our dedicated employees who deliver these services to you.

DPW consists of four divisions: Highway, Water, Sewer, and Recycling.

The Highway Division is responsible for maintaining 128 miles of roads and 14 miles of sidewalk. Employees plow snow, repair roads, install and maintain drainage systems, and maintain commuter parking lots and bridges throughout Bedford.

The Water Division is responsible for operation and maintenance of the Town's four water districts.

The Sewer Division is responsible for planning, implementing, and operating sanitary sewer systems within the Town.

The Recycling Division oversees the Railroad Avenue Recycling Center, which is operated by an independent contractor.

A wealth of recycling information can be found at
<http://www.bedfordny.gov/departments/dpw/recycling/>

2018 was a difficult year for our highway division due to the impact of storm debris cleanup from the March storms and heavy rains, causing increased dirt road maintenance needs.

In 2018 Bedford DPW's accomplishments included:

Highway Divisions:

- Increasing road paving funds from \$1.15 million to \$1.25 million through a combination of operating and capital funds. DPW paved 8.5 miles of roads and enhanced the level of service to our residents
- Continued the process of upgrading our Bedford Hills Highway Yard in order to accomplish four items:
 - Storage of road salt in adequate quantities in a facility that is compliant with environmental regulations and best practices, which was completed in 2018.
 - Improved facilities for truck washing in order to reduce corrosion and extend equipment life, which will be completed once the Adams Street yard is connected to the Bedford Hills / Katonah Business Sewer District.
 - Upgraded mechanical maintenance facilities to allow for safer working conditions on larger DPW equipment. A new mechanical maintenance building is currently in design, and planned to be constructed by 2020
 - Improved truck storage to reduce exposure to the elements and extend equipment life, which will be accomplished by utilizing the space occupied by the current mechanical maintenance facilities.

Water Division:

- Initiated planning for replacement of older water piping in the Katonah hamlet
- Worked with Mount Kisco on replacing our emergency interconnection with their water system

Bedford Hills/Katonah Business Sewer District

The Town of Bedford has created a public sewer district to provide sewers to the commercial business districts of Bedford Hills and Katonah and including the Bedford Park Apartments, Katonah Elementary School and St. Mary's School and Rectory.

The district was formed by a successful referendum of property owners within the district in March 2017, with a 94% positive vote and over 80% voter turnout.

Presently, wastewaters in these districts are treated by septic systems and cesspools, many of which are beyond their useful life. Under an agreement in the late 1990s with Northern Westchester municipalities, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

established and funded the East of Hudson Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) to help finance the cost of wastewater treatment facilities, such as a sewer system. DEP also established a program to upgrade nearby wastewater treatment facilities at Bedford Park Apartments in Bedford Hills (BPA), the Katonah Elementary School (KES) and the property of St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Katonah (St. Mary's). These three sites, known as the Upgrade Sites, will also be served by the proposed sewer district.

Sewage from these areas will be sent to and treated at the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility operated by the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS). Ownership of this plant will be transferred to the Town.

The Bedford Hills and Katonah business districts lie within the Croton Watershed system of New York City's water supply and are close to the Cross River Reservoir. This focus area has been identified as a Priority Project by the Northern Westchester Watershed Committee who have committed to expend WQIP funds for the creation of this sewer district.

In addition to concern regarding treatment of wastewater from these areas, property owners within the proposed district have expressed concern about the vitality of their businesses, given the restrictions and in many instances inability to change or expand uses, such as from a "dry use" to a restaurant. The DEP has stated that change or expansion of use will be possible within the sewer district.

The total capital cost for establishing a new sewer district and building a collection system is estimated at \$20,459,800. The Town will receive up to \$5,500,000 from Westchester County's WQIP Funds, up to \$12,800,000 from DEP, and \$1,000,000 from a NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Water Quality Improvement Grant. The outside funding totals up to \$19,300,000. Therefore, the project costs will be funded largely through these sources. Based on the estimated project cost and the outside funding commitments, the Town will fund the estimated balance, or \$1,200,000, through issuance of sewer bonds. Additional user charge revenue will be required to fund the debt service to repay the sewer bonds and will be based on water usage and assessed value. All debt service for this borrowing will be paid for by property owners within the sewer district with the exception of the Upgrade Sites, which will not pay debt service due to their existing agreements for DEP upgrade funds. No cost will be allocated to property owners outside of the sewer district.

The Town has hired Woodard and Curran consulting engineers to design the sewage collection system. As of December 2018, the project design is 95% complete, with final design and regulatory approval expected by March 2019. The Town has completed negotiation of a funding agreement with NYCDEP, which is currently being registered in the NYC legal and purchasing departments, a process that can take up to one year.

The anticipated project schedule is:

- Complete design, regulatory approval, and funding agreement - June 2019
- Receive Bids for Construction Work - November 2019
- Start Construction - Spring 2020
- Complete Construction - Fall 2021

This is an aggressive schedule, with the intention of providing service to district customers as soon as possible. There is the possibility that delays may occur due to regulatory review or other matters beyond the Town's control.

Sewer System Planning

The Town Board recognizes that the Bedford Hills/Katonah Business Sewer District project which will get underway in 2019 only addresses some of the wastewater problems facing our community.

For this reason in September the Town Board commissioned Woodard & Curran, design engineers for the sewer project, to consider a Phase II. Woodard & Curran has completed its preliminary assessment and issued its report with regard to it.

The report suggests that we consider an expansion of the capacity of the Bedford Hills WWTP. They also suggested extending the sewer system to connect the rental and condominium units at Bedford Lake (adjacent to the Bedford Hills Memorial Park). This would be in collaboration with NYCDEP as an alternative to a new wastewater treatment facility at this site.

It may be mutually advantageous for NYCDEP, the Town and residents at Bedford Lake to consider the alternative approach, as the Town and NYCDEP are in the process of implementing under Phase I with respect to Bedford Park Apartments, Katonah Elementary School and property of St. Mary's Church in Katonah, as mentioned above. Engineering review and discussion with DEP are ongoing.

RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

425 Cherry Street, Bedford Hills NY 10507
 914 666-7004 • Senior Adults 666-7203
 Hotline: (914) 864-3777 • Fax: (914) 666-3863

Recreation@Bedfordny.gov



Bill Heidepriem
 Superintendent

The ongoing goal of the Town of Bedford Recreation and Parks Department is to offer a variety of recreation programs and services along with providing well maintained safe park facilities for the residents of the Town of Bedford to participate in and enjoy. In addition to the variety of programs offered the R&P Department has a number of partnerships with community organizations and businesses that further enhance recreation and leisure services and opportunities within the Town.

The Recreation and Parks Department has a full time staff of 4 full time Recreation staff, 2 administrative support staff and 8 full time parks staff. The Recreation and Parks Department employees over 250 seasonal part time/ full time staff to support the programs offered and to assist with the maintenance of our park facilities, historical properties, cemeteries and other outside properties. Most of these seasonal employees are local high school and college students.

Recreation & Parks Highlights 2018

Spring - Summer – Fall - Winter Activities

Online program registration was introduced in the spring of 2015 for most of the Recreation program offerings. It has continued to grow in popularity for those unable to come into the office during normal work hours.

Due to limited parking at the Town campus offices during the renovations at the Police Station the Town Board temporarily suspended the 2.5% fee associated with credit card use with online registration. This incentive was well received by the public and reduced parking issues at the 425 Cherry street offices and greatly increased resident's use of our online program registration option.

The **Flashlight Egg Hunt** was held at Bedford Village Memorial Park on March 28th with over 2,000 eggs and other special treats to the delight of over 93 participants.

The annual **Fishing Derby**, held at the Bedford Hills Memorial Park on May 6th, had 70 participants. The Sportsman's Club of Northern Westchester was on hand again this year to assist our young anglers in need! This event continues to receive great support from the Bedford Hills Neighborhood Association who for the sixth year in a row donated \$400.00 to cover the prizes awarded.

Unfortunately, the **Learn to Ride Bike & Car Seat Inspection Program** scheduled for May 12th was rained out as was the May 19th rain date. The event was scheduled to be held at the Bedford Hills Memorial Park and was a co-sponsored event with the Bedford Police Department.

Four popular kids and adult **Paint Escape programs** were held in 2018. Events were held in March, June and December at the Bedford Hills Community House. A Total of 76 "artists" participated in these events.

NEW – In early March the Department hosted a Murder Mystery Dinner Show event – "A Wee Bit O' Murder" for adults at the BHCH. A total of 61 resident "detectives" and their guests enjoyed a fun evening of solving the murder mystery as well as great food, beverage and friendship. This event received such positive feedback that the department will be hosting another Murder Mystery Dinner event "Death Takes a Cruise" in April 2019.

FREE - Summer Concert at Katonah Memorial Park – Held July 5th – This summer time tradition was sponsored by the Katonah Memorial Park Association in cooperation with the Recreation and Parks Department and featured "No Options Band". The concert was well attended by many Town residents and their guests.

FREE -Annual "C&M Movie Night" sponsored by the Chowder and Marching Club scheduled at Bedford Village Memorial Park on July 21st featuring the film

"**Paddington 2**" was postponed due to inclement weather. The movie was rescheduled and held on Friday evening September 7th and was enjoyed by many residents.

FREE – "Park It in Bedford" summer entertainment series which was reintroduced to the summer offerings in 2016 enjoyed a full line up in 2018. To compliment the C&M Movie Night and Katonah Memorial Park Associations free summer events, the Town sponsored additional entertainment at each of the three parks for the community to enjoy.

Swim and Dive Team Programs at the Bedford Hills (81 members), Katonah (81 members) and Bedford Village (67 members) pool facilities. All three teams enjoyed successful fun filled seasons. There were 229 youngsters ages 6-18 registered in the program in 2018. The Katonah S&D team hosted their annual invitational in July. The Bedford Village

Swim and Dive Team celebrated their 50th Anniversary of summer swimming and diving competition!

Pool & Library Partnerships - Pool side Story Time at the Pools – Was offered at each pool facility this past summer in cooperation with our three wonderful libraries. In addition the Bedford Village and Bedford Hills Libraries offered a Book Cart – “Take a Book / Swap a book” carts for the enjoyment, making it easier to “dive” into a good book and read in the summer!

Summer Camps in Bedford saw another summer of fun and great weather. Bedford hosts three main camps held in the parks, Bedford Hills (181), Katonah (128) and Bedford Village (102) along with two Tiny Tot Camps (116) and one Teen Get A Way Travel Camp (42). In 2018 there were 569 children ages 3 ½ through 13 registered in the various camp programs. In addition to the regular camp offering there were a variety of sports clinics and specialty camps offered after the camp season was over in early August.

Bedford PBA hosted their annual **free lunch and ice cream** for the Bedford Day Camps at Bedford Village Memorial Park as part of the annual BH, KT and BV Camp Carnival.

The **4th annual Community Family Camp Out** was held on September 8th at Bedford Village Memorial Park. In spite of inclement weather on Saturday over 39 families registered for this event. Thanks to the members of Boy Scouts Troop #1 Katonah for their assistance with families who needed help with their campsite set up. Special thanks to the Chowder and Marching Club for their generosity in supplying the snacks and breakfast for the campers

NEW – Bedford Tri – Festa Community Event. This free community event sponsored by the Town over 30 Bedford community organizations and business’s was held on September 22nd at the Bedford Hills Memorial Park. The event included a wide variety of Food Truck options, a beer garden sponsored by Captain Lawrence Brewery, great musical entertainment featuring Jake & the Mountain Men, Blonde Ambition, School of Rock and Annie & the Natural Wonder Band. In addition there was an assortment of children’s activities and inflatables that were featured as well. A number community organizations provided informational tables as part of the event. It is estimated that over 1,200 people attended the festivities. Mark your calendar – the 2019 Tri – Festa is scheduled for Saturday September 21st!

Ladies Bingo was another full house of fun and excitement at the Bedford Hills Community House on October 26th. Over 70 donated prizes from 40 local Town of Bedford businesses were donated for this annual event with over 71 ladies in attendance.

Bedford Community Theatre (BCT) fall production of Seussical the Musical performed to enthusiastic crowds during the 8 shows that covered two weekends in November at the BHCH. The show had a cast of 28 talented performers.

Bedford senior adults were treated to two delicious luncheons in 2018. The annual **St. Patrick’s Day luncheon** (59 attended) featuring a great Irish meal of corned beef, potatoes and cabbage was served along with Irish music and did not disappoint this year.

The **Holiday luncheon** (73 attended) was held in December with a good crowd at the Bedford Hills Community House. A delicious hot meal along with festive holiday music made for a wonderful afternoon of fun, good food and friendship.

The **St. Valentine’s Social / Coffee Hour for seniors** was held on February 14th at the Bedford Hills Community House. 34 people attended this festive social and enjoyed delicious valentine treats.

The **14th Annual Turkey Trot Road Race** was held the Saturday after Thanksgiving with the finish line at the Bedford Village Memorial Park. The all volunteer Turkey Trot Committee was pleased to report that the race registration was sold out (as it is every year) at the capacity of 475 runners.

Our annual **Breakfast with Frosty** event was held at the BHCH on December 8th with 70 participants registered. The event entertainment was provided by Seth Dale.

Youth and Adult Tennis lessons continue to be sponsored in cooperation with the Saw Mill Club at each park facility this past Spring, Summer and Fall tennis seasons. The Saw Mill Club also partners with the Town in offering late fall and winter platform tennis lessons at the Katonah and Bedford Village courts.

The fast paced game of **Pickleball** was first introduced to Bedford in the Fall of 2016 and continued to enjoy good crowds at Thursday Night and Saturday Morning Open Play sessions at the Bedford Hills pickleball (basketball) courts in the Spring, Summer and Fall in 2018.

The Bedford Meals on Wheels program – utilizing an all-volunteer delivery staff delivered 5,250 meals an average of 438 per month to Town of Bedford residents in need.

The Canine Commons Dog Park – Through the Town Clerk’s Office, 267 dog park permits were sold in 2018.

Miscellaneous Highlights 2018

Arbor Day Events – Sponsored by the Tree Advisory Board (TAB) marked the 18th year of recognition as a Tree City USA and was acknowledged with an Arbor Day Tree planting celebration at Bedford Hills Memorial Park near the scoreboard at BHKLL Frank Field.

The Cemetery Committee – An all voluntary group continued to work tirelessly in 2018 on cemetery restoration projects in various cemeteries throughout the Town. The committee coordinated the restoration of many headstones throughout the year with contractors who specialize in these type of restorations. In 2018 the Committee worked successfully on phase 2 of many with the restoration/rebuilding of 110 feet of stone wall at the Buxton Cemetery. The committee works closely with the Recreation & Parks Department and Town Clerk's Office.

Katonah Memorial Park Tennis Courts - In August the tennis court surfacing received needed maintenance work. The courts were power washed, cracks filled and re color coated. The courts now feature the US Open look of blue and green color surfacing.

Katonah Memorial Park Basketball Court - In September the basketball court had cracks repaired and was re colored coated. Poor weather prevented the lines from being painted. The lines will be completed in the spring of 2019. New backboards and rims were installed in late fall.

Bedford Hills Memorial Park Tennis Courts - In July the tennis court surfacing received needed maintenance work. The courts were power washed, cracks filled and re color coated. The courts now feature the US Open look of blue and green color surfacing.

Bedford Hills Memorial Park Basketball Courts - In early August the basketball courts surfacing had needed maintenance work performed. The courts were power washed, cracks filled and re color coated. The courts are a two toned blue and have yellow lines used when the courts are utilized for pickleball.

Bedford Village Memorial Park – Fenced Little League Field – In August of 2018 the fenced little league field had renovation work performed on the backstop, safety fencing and outfield fencing. In addition. Parks staff performed maintenance work in the infield in between the summer and fall seasons. BPRBA funded and coordinated the renovations to their dugouts prior to the start of the 2018 spring season.

Bedford Village Pool Bath House – In September 2018 the interior of the pool bath house was cleaned and painted. New epoxy floors for the breezeway and offices were scheduled to be installed in the fall but was delayed due to weather. The flooring work is scheduled for 2019.

Welcome:

Bill DiRago, a Bedford Hills resident and longtime seasonal Parks Department employee assigned to Bedford Hills Memorial Park, was hired as a full time Parks Maintenance Groundskeeper for the Department. Welcome to the R&P team Bill!

Recreation & Parks Staff:

Recreation

Bill Heidepriem
Superintendent of
Recreation and Parks

Daryl Ann Sudlow
Assistant Superintendent
of Recreation

James Whiting
Recreation Supervisor

Kimberly O'Brien
Recreation Supervisor

Susan DeFonce
Office Assistant

Kim Kowalski
Senior Office Assistant

Parks

Tom Megna
Parks Foreman

Mark Morin
Assistant Parks Foreman

Richard Pochintesta
Fleet Mechanic

John Goodman
Parks Maintenance

Matt Halpin
Parks Maintenance

Matt Van Dorn
Parks Maintenance

Mark Graniero
Parks Maintenance

Bill DiRago
Parks Maintenance



photo DSudlow

OFFICE OF THE TAX RECEIVER

321 Bedford Road, Bedford Hills NY 10507
 914 666-4475 • Fax 914 864-0060
receiver@bedfordny.gov



Amy Pectol
 Tax Receiver

The Town of Bedford Tax Receiver's office is responsible to collect all County, Town, Special Districts, and School taxes for all properties that are within the Town of Bedford. There are currently 6292 parcels of land in the town of which 5948 are taxable.

This tax office collects for three different school districts that have property with the Town of Bedford. These districts are Bedford Central, Katonah-Lewisboro and Byram Hills. The school tax year runs from July 1 to June 30 with due dates of 9/30 for the first half payment and 1/31 for the second half payment. In 2018 this office collected \$75,769,446 in base taxes and \$337,351 in penalties.

In addition to school taxes this office collects taxes for the county, town, highway, special districts and three fire districts. These taxes are more commonly known as property taxes. This tax year covers a calendar year and is collected in April of each year. During 2018 the tax office collected \$36,798,619 in taxes and \$91,862 in penalties. If you compare last year's report to this year's report you will notice that there is a significant amount less collected in 2018. This was due to over 1100 residents prepaying their 2018 County & Town taxes in December 2017. This lowered the tax burden for those residents in 2018 which ultimately lowered the amount collected in 2018. Unfortunately, this also created some confusion for some residents and they forgot to pay the taxes by 4/30 so in result we had an increase in penalties for 2018.

It has been a goal since I became tax receiver in 2006 makes the tax as automated and accessible as possible to everyone. In 2014 we were able to expand this type of service to include tax history and the emailing of bills and receipts to our residents. Our on-line payment option which has been available since 2008 continues to grow in popularity. This payment option allows taxpayers to pay taxes from home up until 11:59pm on the due date using a variety of payment options. We now accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover or by electronic debit from a checking account. I will continue to look for new options to make tax information more conveniently available to the current and future resident of the Town of Bedford.



photo courtesy of Bedford Loves Horses



photo PCohen



photo PCohen

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, COUNCIL, TASK FORCE

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW (BAR)

The Board of Assessment Review (BAR) is a three member quasi-judicial body appointed by the Town Board to staggered five year terms. Appointed terms commence on October 1st. The Board of Assessment Review hears complaints against tentative property assessment values.

Members of the BAR are charged with judicial responsibility to hear and weigh the facts, and apply appropriate laws and reasoning to the facts in a fair and judicious manner. BAR members are expected to have knowledge of local property values, and are periodically required to attend BAR training. Applications for review of assessments are to be filed in the Assessor's office beginning on June 1 (taxable status date) thru Grievance Day, the third Tuesday in June. On Grievance Day, owners can speak and meet directly with the BAR to provide any information they deem important or relevant. The BAR can receive information from both the property owners and the Assessor, who is required to attend all hearings of the Board of Assessment Board on Grievance Day. Grievance Day hearings are recorded and minutes taken. No action or determinations will be made by the BAR on grievance day.

After Grievance Day, the BAR holds deliberations sessions and may request submission of additional information in order to make its final determination. The Assessor does not attend the deliberations of the BAR. At the conclusion of all BAR deliberations, the BAR certifies the list of verified changes and notifies each owner or representative, in writing, of their determination and directs the Town Assessor to make all applicable assessment and/or exemption corrections to the tentative assessment roll. After the BAR has concluded all of its work and the assessor has finalized the assessment roll, petitioners to the Board of Review have 30 days to file further challenges through the state supreme court.

2018 Board of Assessment Review Summary:

In 2018, Grievance Day was June 19th and the BAR held hearings in an AM and Evening session. Seven property owners attended our grievance day hearings as well as the Town Assessor. Over the course of the summer, our board held deliberations to analyze and review all submitted documentation for each grievance and made final determinations for each of the 138 filed grievances. In early September, notification letters were mailed informing owners/representatives of our

determination and what further courses of action were available to them in contesting their assessment. The Final 2018 Assessment Roll was filed on September 15th, 2018 which contained all BAR certified corrections and determinations.

THE CONSERVATION BOARD

Application Reviews – the Conservation Board is part of the process in which the town reviews applications before the Planning Board, Wetlands Control Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Historic Review Board, and the Town Board. In order to have a timely input to the process, the Conservation Board assigns its members to all of the above boards and commission each month, and these members in turn present a report to the full membership at the following monthly board meeting.

In 2018, the Conservation Board reviewed the following applications and provided written reports regarding environmental issues:

- **Haines Road Site Plan** – ridgeline protection area designation
- **Harris Road and New Street Subdivision** – ridgeline protection area designation
- **Cantitoe Road** – impact of construction on wetlands
- **Harris Road Site Plan** – impact of construction on tributary to Croton Reservoir
- **Rt 172 Bedford Village Site Plan** – impact of structure on adjacent wetlands
- **Anderson Road and Whitlock Street Open Space** – impact of construction on wetlands
- **Upper Hook Road Subdivision** – impact of development on wildlife corridors, threatened species, and Cross River Reservoir
- **Mapping** – The Conservation Board has been involved in a number of multi-year projects involving mapping of the town. All these mapping projects have been either fully funded by grants and/or developed through volunteer efforts, supervised by qualified experts in the field of Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
- As part of our responses to application reviews, the Conservation Board has included portions of our Significant Habitats map to provide an expanded regional review of the applications' impact to our town.
- The Conservation Board has continued working on plans to make the maps created by the board available to both the public and other town

agencies, departments, boards and commissions. We hope to make these maps available in a comprehensive, yet user friendly, manner on the town website in 2019.

- **Nature Trails** – the Conservation Board in 2018 continued to add digital hiking maps to its web page on the Town website, so that those interested in enjoying the outdoor beauty of our town have a readily available access to the many preserve and park locations located in Bedford.

- **Pollinator Pathways** – the Conservation Board provided the inter-state organization, Housatonic to Hudson (H2H) with our Bedford Significant Habitat map in order for them to generate a map showing potential corridors throughout our town that provide means of pollinators to feed and reproduce. Pollinators provide a critical function in the human food network by assisting the propagation of plants vital to our society.

• **INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

- **Hardy kiwi** - starting in 2016 the Conservation Board, in partnership with the private firm of Trillium Invasive Species Management Corporation, obtained a grant from the Lower Hudson Partnership in Regional Invasive Species Management, an outreach arm of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, to develop a quick response effort to eradicate a newly identified invasive species called hardy kiwi, imported to the United States from northeast Asia in the late 19th century. A theory has been proposed by the state that hardy kiwi has mutated from a garden favorite to an invasive viney plant that smothers trees and shrubs, killing them in the process. Found only in 5 sites in New York State where it exhibits this invasive quality, Bedford was identified as one of these sites in 2014. This multi-year project continued in 2018 and is expected to be completed in the next 1-2 years. Each year requires the board to obtain a new grant to continue the effort. After the initial removal in 2016, the board expanded its outreach to neighboring properties not originally identified in the 2014 report. In obtaining this grant, the Conservation Board partnered with the Bedford Audubon Society, who provided publicity, as well as with Bedford 2020, who besides providing publicity, donated a complete tool kit for a 10-person vine removal crew. In 2018, we organized a hardy kiwi cutting day at the campus of Cisca School.

- **Bedford Vinecutters** – the Conservation Board has continued its efforts to establish a private group of residents to use the vine cutting tools donated by Bedford 2020 for use in controlling the invasive species, Oriental Bittersweet, along our public roads. This invasive eventually kills our trees, and during a storm event, these trees can fall and injure and damage both people and vehicles.

• **TREES**

- **Street Tree Inventory** – the Conservation Board initiated a grant application submitted by the Town to the New York Department of Environmental Protection for \$50,000 to conduct an inventory of approximately 4,500 trees within the hamlets of Bedford Hills, Bedford Village and Katonah and within the three main memorial hamlet parks. Besides producing an inventory, the grant also allowed the town to create a Tree Management Plan, which includes identifying sites for the planting of new trees, developing maintenance plans for existing trees, and providing a database for future reviews. It is anticipated that the funding grant for this next phase will be submitted in 2019.

- **Arbor Day** – the Conservation Board in conjunction with the Tree Advisory Board sponsored an Arbor Day celebration in 2018. As part of our participation in this event, the Conservation Board handed out to the public free silver maple seedlings, which will add to Bedford's stock of trees, as well as hopefully inspiring a new generation to appreciate the value of the natural environment in their daily lives.

• **Electric Cars and Electric Car Charging Stations**

- The Conservation Board generated a \$15,000 grant as part of the town's application for funding of an upgraded electric car charging station to be located between the town hall and police station.

- In addition, the Conservation Board in a separate grant application received \$5,000 funding from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to allow the town to purchase additional electric cars for its municipal fleet.

• **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

- **Town Rain Garden** – a project conceived and built by the Conservation Board in 2010, the rain garden located in front of the Town House, was given a substantial upgrade in 2018. An explanatory plaque next to the garden provides the public with a living example of how rainwater coming from a building's roof can be diverted back into the ground by creating a depressed area for water to gather during a rain storm, rather than enter the stormwater system, carrying with it harmful chemicals and automobile byproducts.

- **Coyotes** – as part of our public outreach, the Conservation Board added information to our web page on the Town website regarding coyotes and their impact to our residents and their pets.

- **Pollinators** – one of our regular participants in our board meetings published in 2018 an article in a local newspaper describing the benefits that pollinators have on our natural environment, as well as their vital connection to our human food supply.

Conservation Board (cont.)

- **Involvement with other Bedford and New York State Environmental Groups** – the Conservation Board continued in 2018 to have members that sit on other town and state groups that include: Bedford 2020 Land Use Task Force and Pollinator Pathway Task Force, Leaf Blower Town Committee, Plastic Bag Town Committee, and the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions. Further in 2018, our board has developed a close working relationship with the Pound Ridge Conservation Board and the Mount Kisco Conservation Advisory Council, which has resulted in a valuable transfer of environmental programs between our adjacent towns that have benefitted Bedford.
- **Membership** – the board’s membership illustrates the compassionate commitment that residents of Bedford feel about persevering and protecting our natural environment. Our members are volunteers who have put in countless hours to not only work on the above-mentioned projects, but also have chosen for themselves individual projects that are still on going.

These include:

- Climate change resilience strategies
- Communication through social media
- Manure management of horse farms
- Humane control of the deer population
- Opening up Indian Hill Town Park for gentle recreational uses

We have a full complement of **nine diverse and energetic residents** that include: Simon Skolnik (chair), David Beckett (also a member of the Bedford Wetlands Control Commission), Dan Farkas, Janeen Sudaka-Karlsson, Anne “Nancy” Kronenberg, Rosemary T. Lee, Frank Pizzurro, Fred Pollack, and Betsy Weir. The board also includes as an associate member, Susan Roos. Not officially a member, because she is not a resident of our town, Louise Gantress, has been a regular meeting attendee and has contributed to many of our efforts.

BEDFORD ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Bedford, NY usually meets the first Wednesday of every month. In 2018, we dealt with 52 applications from residents who were requesting relief from the current zoning codes. The Zoning Board of Appeals is a quasi-judicial body to whom residents appeal from a negative ruling by either the Building Inspector or the Planning Board regarding a project they would like to do on their property. We hold public hearings to hear a resident’s application with regard to what it is they want to do on their property and are being told that the Town Code does not permit it for whatever reason. The majority of our applications are for area variances which means a project does not fall within the legal distance from either a front yard or side yard distances from the property line.

We deal with the applications as a “balancing test.” The right of the applicant to do what they want, weighed against the health, safety and detriment to the community.

We do that by considering 5 factors:

- 1) will the proposed project provide an undesirable change to the character of the neighborhood or be a detriment to nearby properties
- 2) can what the applicant want be achieved by another means feasible that won’t require a permit or variance
- 3) will there be an adverse physical or environmental impact from the project
- 4) is the project substantial (not necessarily a mathematical number but substantial in light of the project and the property)
- 5) is the alleged difficulty self-created. There does not need to be an affirmative answer to all 5.

An application needs three “yes” votes from the Board of 5 members to grant a permit or variance.

The **5 members** of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Town of Bedford are:

Peter T. Michaelis, Chairman

Lisa Spano

Andrea Schaefer

Clark Petschek, Esq.

Meredith Black, Esq.

Our Board secretary is Alexandra Costello

Building Inspector is Alberto Ciraco

HISTORIC BUILDING PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HBPC)

The Historic Building Preservation Commission is the permitting board established by the Town Board to regulate and preserve the historic assets of the Town that exist outside of the two Historic Districts of Bedford Village and Katonah.

Applications from town residents or their representatives who seek to alter, add to or demolish existing historic structures must appear before the Commission. In 2016, the Commission reviewed sixteen applications for alterations or additions. There were no applications for the demolition of an historical structure. All applications for alterations were approved with conditions and/or modifications.

In addition, the Commission has been working on an overhaul of the existing Historic Preservation Law. Information Sessions have been held with the public and the Town Board in this regard.

BEDFORD VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT REVIEW COMMISSION

Within the hamlet known as "Bedford Village" there is an area designated as a historic district which dates from the founding of the Town in 1680 and contains a number of historic landmarks. This district is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and is under the constant vigilance of the Bedford Village Historic District Review Commission.

The commission is comprised of five members, each with a specified background or discipline. Alterations or additions to historic buildings and properties within the District shall be made with consideration for immediate context, village context and appropriate use within those contexts. Additionally, changes should seek to maintain and preserve the historic character of a property, taking care to minimize the removal or destruction of defining characteristics.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Working under the direction of the Superintendent of Recreation and Parks and the Town Historian, the Cemetery Committee works to preserve and protect Bedford's town cemeteries. They consult with conservators to determine needed preservation projects, seek grants and funding from government and private organizations and individuals. They suggest ways to promote public awareness and support for their initiatives and identify and engage community organizations and individuals with an interest in the goals of the Cemetery Committee.

The Committee works from a 5-year master plan developed and approved by the Town Board in 2017.

In 2018 the committee oversaw professional restoration of 13 headstones in Buxton Cemetery and Phase 2 of a wall restoration project. In a joint effort with the Penwood Homeowners Association, Phase 1 restoration was begun at the Raymond Owen Family Burying Ground, including tree work, wall restoration and professional conservation of 15 headstones.

Current Members: Chris Burdick, Lisbeth Fumagalli, William Heidepriem, Rosemary T. Lee, Patricia O'Donnell, Richard Schmitt, John Stockbridge, Jenny Weisburger

THE BEDFORD COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

The Bedford Communications Commission, nine member board chaired by Peter Michaelis, meets at least bi-monthly and more often if necessary. In 2018, we examined the cell phone "dead zone" issue in light of the cell tower application at Hickory Lane. While we sympathized with the neighbor's concerns, we unanimously agreed that "dead zones" in cell service throughout the Town of Bedford was unacceptable from a safety perspective.

Police and Fire Department first responders count on good cell service everyday. Residents who hike and bike the roads of Bedford should be able to make emergency calls for help when the case arises.

Bedford Elementary School has no cell service on which they can count were there to be an active shooter situation. For these reasons, The Bedford Communications Committee looked into smaller scale cell service answers. We looked into Distributive Antenna Systems (DAS) and a Data Center called Totem which employs a vehicle charging station combined with Cell amplification potential. The Town agreed to try these in the Town Parks. This service also had the added advantage of being able to handle 5G service as it is rolled out in the near future.

The Communications Commission also had an active role in helping craft the Town's new Wireless Facilities Law which categorized places where cell towers should be placed and made a distinction between small systems and larger towers. We also worked with Phyllis Cohen on revamping the Town's web site with the goal of making it more user friendly and information more readily available and accessible. We met with the Town's Film Committee representative to hear their plans for making Bedford a more user friendly place for movies and Television shows to be filmed. We agreed to help where we could.

Going forward in 2019, The Communications Committee will focus on negotiations with Verizon over renewal of their cable franchise agreement with the town.

OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION COMMITTEE

The committee was formed as part of the Town's commitment to preserve open space and is comprised of a seven-member board. The importance of the committee was reconfirmed recently when an increase to the open space tax levy was approved by citizens of Bedford on the November 7, 2017 ballot. The purpose of the committee is to help purchase and preserve open space, protect our water resources and wildlife habitat and provide public access for outdoor recreation.

The committee continuously looks for purchasing opportunities in all three hamlets of the town. To date, over 90 acres have been preserved. Our current list of properties of interest (both large and small) are located along the corridors of routes 22, 172, 121 and 137 as well as Chestnut Ridge Road, Stone Bridge Lane, Harris Road, Bedford Center Road, Crusher Road, Clark Road, Buxton Road, etc.

Current members include: George Bianco (Co-Chairman), Glenn Ticehurst (Co-Chairman), Linda Martin, Tina Foster, Rosemary Lee, Diane Lewis and Roger Savitt.

COMMITTEE ON SENIORS

Our Committee's mission is to promote policies and programs designed to help keep Bedford's senior citizens healthy, vital and active. To that aim we have reviewed existing senior services and programming, and consulted with the Parks and Recreation Department and other agencies.

Committee on Seniors (cont.)

Joanne Marcus (social worker), and Margorie Brown joined the Committee. Joel Goren resigned from the Committee.

- We met 5 times and have continued to gather information and to meet and communicate with representatives of Westchester County agencies that deal with seniors.
- We became a Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services Livable Communities "Village".
- We organized a Health for Life Program ("Help") for Bedford seniors, but unfortunately were unable to enroll the requisite number of attendees to run the program.
- We recommended that the Board hire a part-time social worker/ outreach worker.

The Board approved our recommendation, and we are in the process of compiling a list of job responsibilities to recommend to the Board.

Committee on Seniors (cont.)

Committee Members: Jo Voegel, M.S., Chairperson. Marjorie Brown, Deborah Frishman, J.D., Bill Heidepriem, Joanne Marcus, M.S.W., Lee Roberts, Ex Officio, Gina Shea, M.A.T., William Smith, Ph.D., Jim Whiting

THE FILMING COMMITTEE

The Filming Committee meets regularly to devise tactics to increase the amount of filming activity in the Town of Bedford.

We have investigated filming parameters in neighboring towns as well as areas that are successful in drawing productions to their towns.

While outside the Zone in which productions prefer to work (25 miles from Columbus Circle), Bedford offers many assets (landscape, architecture, etc.) that would both visually and practically be a boon for productions.

Our focus is to streamline the filming process. In 2018, we will propose a revision of our Town Code and permit application to make it easier for productions to work in Bedford. Our committee will be drawing up a public relations effort which will include updating the information on the town website, the creation of a "marketing page" on the website, and outreach to location professionals in the NYC area. Our message: we want you and will work with you to make it happen!

THE DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL (DAPC)

The Drug Abuse Prevention Council (DAPC) is a three-town cooperative effort funded by Bedford, Lewisboro and Pound Ridge, with representatives from each town serving as Council members. The DAPC is dedicated to the concept of primary prevention, defined as a program of activities directed at improving the general well-being of the community as it relates to raising awareness about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

We strive to promote healthy lifestyles and help create a positive and safe environment for individuals, families and the community. This is achieved by disseminating information, sponsoring workshops and presentations, and working with various community sectors.

Programs and information distributed by the DAPC focuses on the current research on drugs and alcohol, ways to identify a substance use disorder, resources for intervention, and strategies for prevention.

DAPC programming also aims to strengthen protective factors and reduce risk factors associated with alcohol and drug abuse. Risk

DAPC (Cont.)

factors addressed by the DAPC over the past several years include availability of alcohol and other drugs, family management problems, undiagnosed and/or untreated mental health conditions, and favorable attitudes toward problem behaviors.

Protective factors recently addressed by the Council include family and community opportunities for pro-social involvement, family attachment and bonding, and positive psychological and emotional development.

We will continue to assess the community's current needs to ensure pertinent factors are being targeted by future programming.

In addition, we will continue our collaboration with the Bedford Central School District and Katonah-Lewisboro School District to provide prevention information, materials, and events for students and parents.

This year, the DAPC planned both school and community programs on topics such as medicine safety, vaping, effects of addictive substances on the brain, and mental health and suicide prevention. Our monthly meetings are open to all community members.

Current members representing the Town of Bedford include

Kathryn Ferrara, Program Coordinator

Lynn Bayuk

Sally Corbett-Turco

Charles Della Penna

Trudie Goldmann.

LEAF BLOWERS TASK FORCE

Following the adoption by the Town in June 2018 of a new ordinance limiting the use of leaf blowers, a task force is working to promote cleaner, quieter methods of landscaping and property maintenance. Efforts include an education campaign for residents and landscapers about healthy yard practices, collaboration with landscapers regarding electric equipment options, partnering with suppliers of yard maintenance equipment, and providing educational material on the health and environmental benefits of reducing the pollution and noise caused by gas-powered blowers.

The Task Force is comprised of community members, landscapers, and other stakeholders as follows: Fiona Mitchell and Helene Kopal (Co-Chairs), Teresa Donkin; Ken Hubener, Owner, Bedford Landscapers; Midge Iorio, Executive Director, Bedford 2020; Clare Sherwood, Kate Galligan, Bedford Town Board, and Betsy Weir.

**BEDFORD VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2018 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:****Direct Outreach and Assistance**

- **Peer Mentoring.** 2 VAC members were trained and certified by ProVetus, a nationally recognized peer mentoring program that helps veterans transitioning from the military to the civilian sector; currently mentoring at-risk veterans appearing before the Westchester County Drug Court and the Westchester County Veterans Court.
- **Liaison to Veteran Support Staff.** Linked local veterans with County staff to facilitate and expedite applications for benefits; assisted Bedford veteran in obtaining a re-assessment and increase in disability rating.
- **Veteran Donation Drives.** Coordinated 4 collection drives (2 with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts) for Montrose VA Hospital, veterans in our community, and deployed service members.

Veteran Recognition

- **Katonah Veterans Memorial.** Coordinated design of and Town approval for a new, privately funded memorial in downtown Katonah; private fundraising campaign underway; anticipated unveiling on Memorial Day 2019.
- **Cemetery Wreaths.** Served as local chapter for Wreaths Across America; coordinated fundraising and laid wreaths at 270 veteran graves at Buxton and Bedford Union Cemeteries (Old Bedford Burial Ground added in 2018).
- **Education Outreach.** Met with students at 3 local middle schools to explain military service in the context of class curriculum; participated in John Jay High School and Middle School veteran commemoration ceremonies.
- **Honor Flights.** Participated in 2 honor flights to transport Westchester veterans to visit Washington, D.C. veterans memorials.

Town of Bedford Coordination

- **Veteran Identification.** Developed database of Bedford veterans (298 as of January 2017) to facilitate direct outreach; ongoing coordinating with Town, County, and local veteran community to update rolls.
- **Local Outreach.** Initiated resident veteran outreach through mail, email, and social media; created social media presence to highlight veterans issues and information.

Veterans Advisory (cont.)

- **Tax Exemption.** Coordinated with Town officials and advised Town Board regarding adjustment of veteran tax exemptions.
- **Public Meetings.** Met monthly to discuss veterans issues; meetings were attended by 35+ members of the public during the year.

Westchester County Coordination

- **Medicaid-Link Program:** Designed program to use existing County Medicaid rolls to identify veterans and connect them with accredited veteran services representatives:
- Proposal reviewed and recommended by County Veterans Agency and County Department of Social Services; and
- Program to be launched by County Executive in Spring 2019.
- **County Liaison:** Participated in monthly County veterans meetings to review and advise on local veteran matters and develop liaison with County Veterans Agency.
- **Northern Westchester Network:** As the only veterans committee north of White Plains, the Bedford VAC served as the hub for Northern Westchester veteran coordination.

2018 Members:

David Zapsky, Clark Petschek, Mark Sindeband, Joe Ruppenstein, Howard Stern, Rodger Guest, Ron Hagadus, James Polos, Amy Pectol and Dan Hollis (honorary).

**TRAFFIC SAFETY WORKING GROUP**

The following is a summary of 2018 actions the Town has taken on traffic, passenger and pedestrian safety in 2018.

- **Police Department Enforcement Actions** – The Police Department has issued 3371 summonses for moving violations (including 511 commercial vehicle, 739 speeding, 467 Seatbelt, 152 Cell Phone/texting, 56 Stop sign violations, and 12 DWI arrests. January – November 2018).
- **Child Safety Seats** – 81 Seats were installed and/or inspected
- **I-684** – The Town Board has been working with our elected officials and with the Regional Office of the New York State Department of Transportation to secure the repaving of the concrete portion of I-684 running through Bedford.
- **Planned Reconfiguration of Intersection of Harris and Babbitt Roads**
The Town has applied to Westchester County for a Community Development Block Grant which would fund in part improvements to this intersection, which would be designed to improve safety exiting Babbitt Road onto Harris Road.
- **Variable Message Boards** – Upon recommendation of Police Chief Melvin Padilla the Town Board authorized the purchase of two additional variable message speed boards. With the purchase, the Town now owns and deploys 10 variable message boards to announce events affecting traffic flows and to calm traffic.
- **Sidewalks** – To improve pedestrian safety, the Town installed new sidewalks along Valley Road between Cottage Place and New Street, and along Church Street near Babbitt Road. We also modified the sidewalk near the Katonah Elementary School in order to install a new crosswalk.
- **Emergency Backup Power for Traffic Lights** – The Town Board has authorized in its Capital Plan the purchase of emergency backup power systems to automatically start in the event of a power outage which cuts the power for the traffic lights at the intersection of Route 35 and Route 22 and at Route 35 and I-684 overpass.
- **Pedestrian Activated Lights – Route 117 and Haines** On petition from the Town, the NYS Department of Transportation has agreed to install pedestrian activated signaling for the cross walk near Haines Road over Route 117 in Bedford Hills. This portion of the road is four lanes in width and poses pedestrian hazards.
- **Raised Cross Walk and Speed Humps** – Cherry Street The Town replaced the crosswalk in front of 425 Cherry Street with a raised crosswalk and installed a speed table at Kelly Circle near the stop line and a speed table near Quicks Lane.

Traffic Safety Working Group (cont.)

- **LED Light Conversion** – The Town is proceeding with the conversion of 571 street lights in NYSEG service area to LED lamps. LED saves energy and reduces electricity costs. It also provides more uniform lighting for greater safety for pedestrians and motorists, and has much less frequent equipment failures than the lighting which is being replaced.

We also update from time to time the work of the TSWG on the Town's website which has a dedicated page at [traffic-safety-working-group](#).

My thanks to the resident members of the Traffic Safety Work Group:

Michelle Brooks, Mary Cassidy, Andy Guich, Drew Marchiano and Michael Weisburger. Thanks also go to Town Board Liaison Don Scott and our staff, Public Works Commissioner Kevin Winn, Police Chief Melvin Padilla and Planning Director Jeff Osterman for their work in focusing attention on traffic safety issues confronting our town.

Please let us know your suggestions and feedback. You can e-mail me at supervisor@bedfordny.gov or call at 914-666-6530.



BEDFORD WETLANDS CONTROL COMMISSION (BWCC)

The Bedford Wetlands Control Commission is comprised of five residents appointed by the Town Board and has the responsibility under Section 122 of the Town Code to review permit applications for activities within Town wetlands and adjacent areas. Westchester County has the largest number of lakes and ponds of any county in New York State and eighty-five percent of the Town lies within watershed with one out of every three properties in the Town containing regulated wetlands

While the number of full applications submitted to the Wetlands Commission has fallen over the past several years this is mostly due to the expansion of the administrative permit process which allows the permitting of certain activities without the need and expense for full wetlands permit.

Members Fiona Mitchell and David Beckett have revised and rewritten a pamphlet about the commission, its function and relationship to the community. This pamphlet was over 20 years old and has been updated to reflect changes in the law. The pamphlet will be online on the Commission's web page shortly and printed copies with photographs will also be available.

The town's environmental consultant, Beth Evans, and members of the commission continue to expand their awareness of wetland issues by attending conferences and seminars. Each year the TEC and the Chairman attend the annual meeting of the Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists where there is a full day of classes and working groups on wetland topics.

Ms. Evans and Mr. Messinger continue to attend a day of classes and presentations at the Ct. Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions. Mr. Messinger continues to attend classes and seminars on wetland and invasive species issues to maintain his certification as a level 4 Cornell Master Naturalist. Mr. Messinger also continues as a steward with the NYSDEC and stewards at an upstate DEC property that includes ponds, streams and a range of amphibians and reptiles.

He continues with his VSA (Volunteer Stewardship Agreement) that allows him to monitor and control certain invasive species and make observations related to the wetlands and wildlife on the property.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Bedford depends on its many dedicated volunteers, and we want to thank them for their many hours of service and active involvement and generous contributions to our community. The members of the Town’s numerous boards, commissions and committees spend countless hours working for the benefit of the Town and its residents.

If you would like to become involved in volunteering for a board or committee, please contact the Town Supervisor, Chris Burdick at (914) 666-6530 or email him at supervisor@bedfordny.gov.

Applications and board/commission/committee descriptions can be found on <http://www.bedfordny.gov/>

BOARDS

- Conservation Board
- Board of Ethics
- Planning Board
- Recreation and Parks Advisory Board
- Tree Advisory Board
- Zoning Board of Appeals

COMMISSIONS

- Historic Building Preservation Commission
- Katonah Historic District Commission
- Bedford Village District Review Commission
- Wetlands Control Commission

COMMITTEES

- Bedford Town Housing Committee
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
- Bedford Energy Advisory Panel
- Open Space

COMMITTEES (cont)

- Acquisition Committee
- Bedford Recycling Committee
- Bedford Cemetery Committee
- Communications Advisory Committee
- Filming Committee
- Traffic Safety Working Group
- Veterans Advisory Committee
- Committee on Seniors

COUNCIL

- Drug Abuse Prevention Council

TASK FORCE and Groups

- Leaf Blowers Task Force
- The Reusable Bag Task Force
- Wireless Facilities Working Group



Katonah-Bedford Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps, photo

Town of Bedford - Emergency Vehicles

Fire Protection in each hamlet is provided through the efforts of wholly volunteer Fire Departments, which provide round-the-clock protection. Volunteers are vital to the departments and anyone interested should contact anyone of the Fire Departments.



Bedford Hills Volunteer Fire Department
332 Bedford Road | Bedford Hills NY 10507



Bedford Village Volunteer Fire Department
34 Village Green | Bedford Village NY 10506



Katonah Bedford Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps
160 Bedford Road | Katonah NY 10536



Katonah Volunteer Fire Department
65 Bedford Road | Katonah NY 10536

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department	Contact	Email	Telephone
Alarm Permits	Alarms	alarms@bedfordny.gov	914.666.7273
Animal Control	Dog Control Officer	dogcontrol@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4855
Assessor	Harold Girdlestone	assessor@bedfordny.gov	914.666.5149
Building Inspector	Alberto Ciraco	buildinginsp@bedfordny.gov	914.666.8040
Finance/ Comptroller	Abraham Zambrano	finance@bedfordny.gov	914.666.8283
Historian	John Stockbridge	historian@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4745
Parking Permits	Carolina Bruschi	parking@bedfordny.gov	914.666.8097
Personnel	Paula Nisbett	personnel@bedfordny.gov	914.864.3835
Planning	Jeff Osterman	planning@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4434
Police Chief	Mel Padilla	bedfordpolice@bedfordny.gov	914.241.3111
Police Records	Records Clerk	bedfordpolice@bedfordny.gov	914.241.3111
Public Works/ Commissioner	Kevin Winn	highway@bedfordny.gov	914.666.7669
Recycling	Public Works	highway@bedfordny.gov	914.241.2671
Recreation & Parks/ Superintendent	William Heidepriem	recreation@bedfordny.gov	914.666.7004
Town Supervisor	Chris Burdick	supervisor@bedfordny.gov	914.666.6530
Town Clerk	Lisbeth Fumagalli	townclerk@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4534
Town Court	Nancy Artese or Diane Georgio	court@bedfordny.gov	914.666.6965
Tax Receiver	Amy Pectol	receiver@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4475
Water Department	William Nickson	water@bedfordny.gov	914.666.7855
Wetlands Commission	Jeff Osterman	wetlands@bedfordny.gov	914.666.5140
Zoning Board (ZBA)	Alexandra Costello	zoning@bedfordny.gov	914.666.4585