



# ELVD NEWSLETTER



## ELVD VOLUNTEERS MADE IT HAPPEN

Since May, your Board has given monthly reports on our attempts to comply with the 2012 DES Violations Report on our well sites, and our commitment to get those well sites fixed up in any case.

Here is the background. We have eight wells. Three of the wells are in residential part of the District: Hummingbird, Mary Rowe, and Meetinghouse (at the ELPOA beach). The other five are up on Patten Hill in two clusters. See the Map in this issue to see our water system laid out.

DES is interested in two things in their report. **First**, that the wellheads (source) be protected from potential contamination, vandalism, or other risks, through fencing and related security measures such as lighting and alarm systems. So, security is one issue. **Second**, DES regulations require a sanitary buffer zone around each well site. This means no trash and no undue vegetation. In other words, we need to have an environmentally clean area around each wellhead site. Then, they must be maintained.

The well sites which this Report focused on were Meetinghouse and Hummingbird. The Board started with those issues this past June.

### **MEETINGHOUSE WELLSITE**

The Board got the Meetinghouse fenced in and mostly cleaned out as required by DES and have started painting fixtures. We have more cleanup to do in addition to getting the area mowed. Next, the Board will get an estimate on gravel for the enclosed area. The district now owns the former ELPOA adjacent beach property which serves the district as a new buffer zone for the well site. The Board will be considering what is needed to add sand to that beach which has eroded. Also, whether we can hard pack the parking area to prevent further erosion.



**HUMMINGBIRD WELLSITE**

The Board has completed the Hummingbird well site and what a remarkable difference it makes. The above photos are provided to those who haven't driven by the site. We wish to thank those dedicated volunteers that made it happen. Big thanks to Warren Fleck, Jeanne Popielarz, Bill Clohessy, Dave Holmes, and Carolyn Renken without whom Commissioners Dahood and Caron would not have been able to complete it by themselves. Going forward, we will establish a maintenance program for all finished well sites to prevent degeneration of those sites again.

A grant application for fencing the other well sites is almost done. Those funds will not be available until 2015. Finally, the Board will be reviewing and discussing at meetings, an evaluation for long-term capital improvements to the water treatment and distribution system for possible consideration at the ELVD Annual Meeting.



**EMERALD LAKE BEACHES**

Summer went by fast and this year we were able to keep up on our beaches through the dedicated volunteer efforts of Wayne Held, Dick Morency, and Bob Winters. The district gives them a big thanks for their help, but more needs to be done. The district now has four beaches with the acquisition of Meetinghouse Beach. That beach will probably remain the same for now, but later, the picnic table will be replaced, and sand added to repair the beach erosion, in addition to keeping it well maintained.

A couple of residents were asked to do a "beach assessment" for all beaches with the main focus on Eastman Park since that one gets the most use. The Board would appreciate residents recommending any inputs for improvements and what to spend on our beaches. Our first priority is to install kiosks on all four beaches and improve signage. This would help improve communications, provide a signage center and a community bulletin board. Also, we need equipment, mostly for Eastman Park. The playground is very old and the equipment needs attention. On the bright side, the Board found some equipment up at Patten Hill which included a couple of new swings for Eastman Park. The cleanup and fence replacement around the basketball court will probably wait until next year.

**DISTRICT VOTING-HOW DOES IT MATTER?**

Our district started as a vacation camp but now we have more permanent than seasonal. Does it matter if you live here year round and whether this is your second home? Indeed many "permanent" residents are snowbirds and may spend more times away, while many owners of "second" homes are here almost every weekend or more, and plan to retire in their district home.

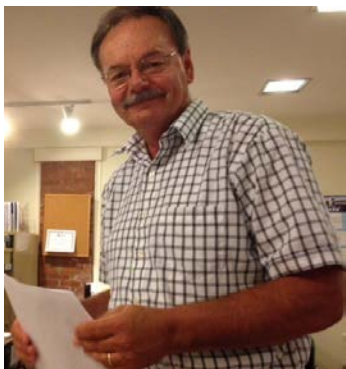
Here is where the law does not make a lot of sense. New Hampshire law allows a person to have only "one domicile" for all purposes. In other words, you can only register to vote in one place. According to a letter received from the Secretary of State's Office in April, this restriction is in the New Hampshire State Constitution. But it is reasonable to ask why the owner of a property within the district cannot vote on matters governed by the district – electing commissioners, and warrant articles affecting roads, beaches, and water. Assume the owner registers to vote in Massachusetts and voted for president and governor there. This person would not be voting twice on those issues by voting also as a homeowner within the district on the water budget.

It does indeed seem like taxation without representation. Many people have asked about this issue but they need to know two important things:

First, this is a position taken by the state of New Hampshire, not by the Emerald Lake Village District. Perhaps with enough pressure from voters, this issue could be changed.

Second, the district is here for all residents, not just for the people who have a legal right to vote at the Annual Meeting. The commissioners want to do what's in the best interests of everyone who owns property here or lives here and not just the people who are "registered voters".

While it is true that only people registered to vote in the State of New Hampshire can vote at the Annual Meeting once a year, that meeting is a culmination of a year of input regarding possible warrant articles. Every "resident" is entitled to an input. The Board of Commissioners does not consider whether a person can legally vote before they listen to them. Therefore, EVERYONE who has a home here or lives here should be coming to the meeting throughout the year. Your opinion matters to the Board. We answer complaints from people who are not registered to vote all the time. The district is a community. The bottom line is: Come to the meeting and be part of the community!



**NEW DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

ELVD has a new Administrator. He is David (Scott) Osgood who hails from Henniker, NH. He has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from UMass; Post Graduate coursework in Business, Planning and Engineering from both Miami University and Bentley College; and AutoCAD 2011 from NHTI Concord, NH. He is a member of the Henniker Selectman Board; a registered NH Professional Engineer – Civil Certificate Local Project Administrator NHDOT/FHA; a town representative to the Contocook/North Branch River Local Advisory Committee; along with a few other local civic community committees. His employment history includes the Town of Enfield, Community College System of New Hampshire, Trumbull Nelson Construction Co., and Bechtel Corporation. He is well versed for our future community needs and we welcome Scott as our new Administrator and his contributions to ELVD's future.

**ELVD WEBSITE LISTING**

Just a reminder that the Emerald Lake Village District's current events can be found on the web site by logging into [www.elvdnh.com](http://www.elvdnh.com) . Commissioners and their points of contact include: John Dahood, Chairman 464-2549 ([smd7411@aol.com](mailto:smd7411@aol.com)); Denise DeForest, 464-3173 ([denised54@tds.net](mailto:denised54@tds.net)); and Martha Caron, 510-301-2074 ([mlcaron@caronassociates.com](mailto:mlcaron@caronassociates.com)).

**HOUSE NUMBERING**

Finding it hard for family, friends, along with delivery and emergency services to locate your home? Maybe it's because your house isn't easily identifiable because the number address isn't attached to your home. ELVD officials are reminding district homeowners that state law directs and it is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure house numbers are attached to their homes, making it easy to locate for all concerned.



**SAFETY FIRST**

**Speeding:** One of the main issues this past summer was the amount of speeders on district roads. Residents are once again reminded that the speed limit on all district roads is 15 MPH. We live in a recreational environment in which adults and children walk district roads at any given time, especially now that school has started again. Driving slow and defensively will anticipate the unexpected. Also obeying all posted traffic signs help alleviate those "near misses".

**Health:** During morning beach cleanups, it was noted that dirty diapers were left in beach areas.

This is not only unacceptable behavior, but poses health issues as well. Residents should be vigilant about removing any and all items brought with them, including trash. Other trash articles found were multiple beer cans and broken glass. Also as a reminder, dogs are not allowed on any district beach except the inlet beach.

**Hunting:** This is deer hunting season for archers. When walking in wooded areas, make sure you and your pet(s) are wearing appropriate clothing to deter any hunting accidents.

**Conservation:** Winter is just around the corner. Seasonal residents are reminded to shut off their water before locking up their homes for the winter. Also, this is a great time to winterize the vehicle, have the furnace checked, and rev up the snow blower before the snow deepens.

**Flu Season:** Reminding all residents that flu season is just around the corner and to get your flu shots that are now available at most retail stores and supermarkets.

**ELVD BEACH SEASON NOTICE**

The ELVD swimming season is coming to a close. The rafts on each of the district’s beaches will be pulled the weekend of October 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Additionally the dam boards will be lifted so that Emerald Lake can be lowered for the winter season. Residents should plan accordingly.



**LANDSCAPING**

The district is requesting residents to help keep roadside vegetation to a minimum. When mowing your lawns, please trim the roadside vegeta-

tion that borders your residence. This will add to the natural beauty this district has to offer. Also picking up any nearby litter surrounding your property shows that extra measure of community pride. Your assistance would be greatly welcomed and appreciated.

**WATER LEAKS**

The district’s water system is managed and run by Water System Operators (WSO) in which our Commissioners are the direct liaison for any water issues that may occur. Water leaks may occur from cracks in water lines and frozen pipes during winter months. If you see a puddle that doesn’t seem to go away on the roadside or even on private property, this may be a leak. Water leaks can be reported by contacting any of the Commissioners. Summer residents are asked to ensure to close off all water lines leading to their residents at the end of the season. Water conservation is everyone’s responsibility.

**RETURN OF THE LOON**

He’s back. The loon that once inhabited our lake has returned.

Three years ago we had a mating pair but unbelievably someone shot the female. We’re hoping the loon finds a mate. Hearing those wonderful haunting wails and yodels is quite an experience in New Hampshire and especially within our district. With your support, we are notifying the NH Loon Preservation Center and asking for signs to post, informing people that they need to be cautious around our loon. Loons are solitary birds and should not be approached. Soon he will leave for the coast during the winter months. We hope he and a mate will return in the spring. It makes Emerald Lake even more special.

