

SYLVAN TOWN NEWS



FALL/WINTER 2013 Important Dates

November 11, 2013
Veteran's Day
November 28, 2013
Thanksgiving Day - Town Hall Closed
November 29, 2013
Town Hall Closed
December 5, 2013
AWAIR Mtg - 6:45 PM
December 19, 2013
Reg. Board Meeting canceled
December 24,25, 2013
Town Hall Closed
Christmas Holiday

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULES

Town Board Meets:
1st & 3rd Thursdays

Planning Commission Meets:
2nd Thursdays

Pillager Lake Park Advisory Board Meets:
As required

Fire Association Meeting
First Monday of each month - 7:00 pm at Pillager Fire Hall

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings begin at 7:00 pm at the Sylvan Town Hall.

Septic System Inspections

The septic inspections are still ongoing with around 300 completed to date. Out of that number there have only been 13 failed inspections which is less than 10% of the systems inspected. Sylvan East is approximately 85% completed. They will continue working this area until all the systems in Sylvan East are completed and then begin Sylvan West. For the residents whose system did fail there are loan programs available for septic systems. In cooperation with Cass County and local lenders, the MN Dept. Of Agriculture has a low interest program available to help Minnesotans protect water quality through septic system compliance. The AgBMP Loan Program is available to all rural landowners regardless of income level, and can be used with other sources of funding such as low income cost share grants offered by the Region 5 Development Commission. You can contact Cass County ESD at 218-547-7291 and Region 5 at 218-894-3233.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission has 2 new members this year. Brenda Silgjord joined on March 21, 2013. Brenda has been a resident of Sylvan Township since she built her home on Kramer Lake in 1998. She works full time at Northern Pines MHC as the Crisis Services Program Assistant. Brenda states she enjoys working out at FitQuest, swimming and walking her dog Sunshine.

Bill Carrington joined on Oct. 17,2013. Bill and his wife have called this area home since 2003. Bill owns a real estate business and does consulting work for several businesses in northern MN. Bill states he is grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Sylvan Township Planning Commission and looks forward to working with the Township residents and businesses during his term.

Sylvan Town Hall

(218) 746-3652
Hours: Mon.-Fri.
8:30-12:30 pm.
1:00pm-2:30 pm
Website:
[http://
www.sylvantwp.com](http://www.sylvantwp.com)

For address changes, contact Cass County at 218-547-7260

Town Board:
Greg Booth:
Chair, Weeds
Lee Shade: Vice Chair, Fire
Roland Anderson:
Co-Road & Driveway Supervisor, Park
John Wulff:
Co-Road Supervisor
Yvette Dullinger
Planning Commission
Co-Road Supervisor

Comprehensive Plan

Starting in the spring of 2013 the Sylvan Township Planning Commission and the Township Board of Supervisors set out to re-write the Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) for Sylvan Township. The plan had last been updated in 2004 and many things have changed since then. In particular the population, which was surging at that time, has continued to grow from a population of 1965 then to over 2700 currently.

A Comp Plan is a document that expresses the vision of what you, the citizens of Sylvan Township, want the Township to become over time. The plan also offers guidelines to accomplishing those desires. It is used as a touch point to weigh the appropriateness of new development, and new ordinances relative to the desired characteristics that have been articulated.

In order to gain greater input from township residents, three different processes were used. The first was a survey which was sent out to all addresses in the township which asked various questions regarding characteristics and important elements in the township. There were 148 responses to that survey.

Next the same survey was given to a class of high school seniors from the Pillager High School in an effort to judge which characteristics were most important to the youth of the area.

A third process was a Visioning Session conducted with 16 residents which included a portion of the Town Board, a portion of the Planning Commission, and area residents, (both seasonal and full time residents). The vision session was used to determine what residents thought the township should be five years from now.

The apparent wishes of township residents were not extremely different from those expressed in the Comp Plan of 2004. Some of the differences may have reflected the fact that in 2004 we were at the height of a building boom that has since subsided significantly.

The areas of discussion for the citizen input processes were:

- The Natural Environment
- The Pace of growth
- Township Atmosphere and Rural Character
- Agriculture
- Residential Development
- Commercial Development
- Transportation
- Administration and Public Services
- Recreation

The themes that seemed to move to the forefront, reflecting a high level of importance for all of our participants were to:

- Maintain the natural characteristics of the Township preserving woods, forests and quality waters
- Keep costs down with innovation and cooperation
- Manage growth thoughtfully, creatively, but strongly to protect the environment
- Add recreational opportunities
- Encourage better stewardship of land and water through education and persuasion
- Educate residents in regard to township governmental operation
- Cleanup some of the blighted areas and junky situations

The Comp Plan has a policy section that gives guidelines for accomplishing the desired outcomes expressed by residents. Prior to the adoption of the plan there will be a public hearing to once again seek public input. A draft copy of the plan will be available for your review prior to the public hearing.

Members of the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors would like to thank those who took time out of their busy schedule to take part in this process. We also encourage you to participate in the adoption portion of this process. The plan will help guide the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission, and Cass County (they manage the zoning and permitting for residential properties) as we consider ordinances, education, permitting, and enforcement .

**SYLVAN TOWNSHIP – CASS COUNTY
ICE AND SNOW ---“TAKE IT SLOW”**

SNOWPLOWING POLICY (Revised 10-07-2013, Approved October 17, 2013)

Emergencies should be reported to Cass County Sheriff’s office, 218-547-1424.

All other calls: 218-746-3652 (Town Hall). After hours call, 218-746-3652 (on voice message there will be an “on call” Supervisor and number you can call).

WHEN DOES PLOWING BEGIN?

The Town usually dispatches plows after a snowfall has stopped. Exceptions may be made during extended snowfalls, but the plow will not be sent out in hazardous conditions.

If the snowfall stops during the night or early morning, plows will be dispatched at that time. Weekend plowing will be handled the same way.

WHAT GETS PLOWED?

The Town has 112 lanes (56 miles, of two lanes) roads to maintain. Roads are prioritized by traffic counts, hazardous conditions. (RR crossing, hills, curves, drifting, etc.)

WHAT IS THE PLOWING PROCEDURE?

The Town does not assure a completely bare road and it will not sand entire sections of roadway.

Phased Plowing – there are three phases to the process.

1. Make the road passable by cleaning one lane in each direction.
2. Widen the lanes to the edge of the shoulders & cul-de-sac. Sanding takes place at problem locations, including intersections, curves, hill and bridges. Salt mixture varies with temperature and road conditions.
3. Clean-up, during which ice and slush are removed and the sun is allowed to do its work.

WHAT ABOUT PROPERTY DAMAGE CAUSED BY PLOWING?

Mailbox Damage: the Town will repair, at its expense, only those mailboxes that are properly located, and installed (swing away supports), which were damaged by actual contact with contractor’s equipment. No property located in the Township Road Right-of-Way will be compensated for. Damage resulting from snow flying from the plow is not the responsibility of the Town or Road Contractor.

WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY?

Town Residents are reminded that it is **unlawful** to plow snow from their driveways onto or across Town Roads. Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass, causing a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Accidents and damages caused by snow placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner. Piles of snow increase the chances of snow drifting onto the roadway. As snow is plowed from Town roads, operators leave as little snow as possible across driveways. Town removal of the snow is not feasible and is the property owner’s responsibility.

WHAT ABOUT PARKED VEHICLES?

Town residents are reminded to remove parked vehicles from Town Roads so as to assist in snow removal.

Co-Road Supervisor
Roland Anderson



Sylvan Township
12956 24th Avenue SW
Pillager, MN 56473

Phone: (218) 746-3652
Fax: (218) 746-3612
Website: <http://www.sylvantwp.com>.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Road Report

The Town Board has approved the paving of Pine Tree Lane and 600 feet of 127th Street SW.

The Town Road Engineer, Bryan Drown of Bolton & Menk, is preparing the plans for bidding in the spring of 2014. The Town of Sylvan has 47.3 miles of paved Town Roads and 8 miles of gravel roads. Town Roads not on the list for future paving are share roads with other government entities, minimum maintenance roads and State Park roads.

The Town Board of Supervisors by resolution approved several Town Roads to be posted at 35 MPH. These roads meet the MN Statute §169.011. subd. "a" for posting speed limits.

We will be replacing road signs, as needed, to meet the Federal guidelines.

Have a safe winter and remember, "ice and snow" — "take it slow."

Cass County Offers Nixle

Cass County offers this for you to warn of tornadoes, bad weather, etc. Stay instantly informed of trusted, neighborhood-level public safety and community information.

You chose the information you want, for the addresses you want, all delivered at no cost, by text message, email and web.

SIGN UP AT www.nixle.com