

PLANNING BOARD NEW MEETING SCHEDULE

Beginning on February 4th, the planning board will begin its meetings at 7:00p.m. This earlier start time should be more convenient for applicants and the board alike.

The Planning Board meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month. During February, March and April, the first Thursday meetings will be used for review of applications and meeting with the public; the third Thursday meetings will be workshops where the members can focus on the update of town zoning regulations.

Residential wind energy will be the focus of the February, March and April workshop meetings. This topic is of special interest to many, and the public is invited to attend to listen as the board prepares zoning recommendations for consideration by the Town Board.

All meetings are public meetings, and the public is welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information, please visit the Town webpage www.berneny.org or contact Planning Board Secretary, Anita Clayton at 872-0034.

SEWER DISTRICT UPDATE

In late December, the Town began the Eminent Domain process by using certified mail to serve notice to all residents of Berne Sewer District # 1. This step was taken because before the project can be bid, clear access and title to all properties involved is required. In rare instances, the owner of a piece of property may not be able to convey that easement because of encumbrances on the title to the property. There is also the possibility that an amicable agreement to obtain a voluntary easement for the property may not be able to be reached. Unfortunately, it was necessary that all residents of the district be served. Apologies to those who found the service process upsetting.

The first steps of the Eminent Domain process were taken in September and October with scheduling and holding a public hearing. Subsequently, the Town Board declared the project to be in the public interest by passing RESOLUTION #36 of 2009 at the December 9th meeting.

For the collection system, the district seeks easements of two types:

Easements for lateral connections to a single property. This is termed a non-shared easement, in that only one residence in the district is dependent upon this easement. Early on, the district decided that it would run lateral lines to within five feet of a residence's connection point. This results in a significant savings to many residents, since their cost is only the cost of connecting to that lateral line.

Easements for shared lateral connections to more than one residence and easements for the "main line" pipe. These easements are called shared or main line easements.

The district will not pursue obtaining access to non-shared easements through eminent domain. State law requires that once the system is operational, all residences must connect to the system. Those with non-shared laterals who chose not to voluntarily provide an easement will be required to pay for the lateral and connection at that time. More information is available, such as team meeting minutes, financing arrangements, meeting schedules, etc. at <http://sites.google.com/site/bernesewerdist1/>

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT



The Town of Berne, in cooperation with the City of Albany, is again this year able to offer to its youth a Summer Employment Program. This program provides the opportunity of part time employment to young men and women between the ages of 16 – 18 for a six-week period at 20 hours per week beginning July 6. Interested participants should call the Berne Town Hall at 872-1448

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW PLAN

The Comprehensive Review Plan Committee would like residents to be aware that the survey results and the Town Maps can be viewed on the town's web site at www.berneny.org. Also, to assist Town citizens in keeping abreast with their Comprehensive Plan Review, the committee is making available all email communications. If you would like emails generated by the Berne Comprehensive Plan Review Committee to be forwarded to you; please submit your request and your email address to compsecretary45@yahoo.com. If a problem occurs, please contact the Committee chair, James Cooke at 872-0519 or email compplanberne@aol.com. Printed emails as well as meeting minutes are available at the Town Hall for review.

Interested residents are welcome to attend meetings on both the third Monday and the fourth Thursday of each month beginning at 7:00 PM at the Berne Town Hall to comment on procedures.

HILLTOWN COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

The staff at HCRC wants to thank all those who again helped them help others have a brighter and merrier Christmas. The Hilltowns Community Resource Center was able to provide 107 families with a more joyous Christmas in 2009. In addition, this generosity enabled HCRC to provide the senior neighbors in need, \$50 each as a small Christmas gift. The annual Hilltown Christmas programs are a huge undertaking and could not be done without the many individuals, families, businesses and organizations supporting their efforts. They are grateful to all who, in many and various ways, contribute to the well-being of others through this effort.

As part of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany (New York), the Hilltowns Community Resource Center strives to continue to offer a steady level of assistance to those in need even during times of reduced funding from many of our sources and are thankful for the steadfast support they receive from the community. For further information, please contact Kathy Speck @ 797-5256.

*When faced with a challenge
Look for a way, not a way out.*

TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday.....4 PM to 8 PM
Wednesday....Noon to 8 PM
Saturday..... 8 AM to 4 PM
Phone - 872-0451

****Closed Holidays****

Obtain permit from Town Clerk

THE 2010 CENSUS

Every 10 years, a census of our population is conducted. The results help determine representation in government, as well as how federal funds are spent in each community on items such as roads, parks, housing, schools, and public safety.

The US Census Bureau is now recruiting to hire over 1,400 temporary part-time census takers for the 2010 Census in the Greater Capital District. The pay is good, (\$15.00 - \$16.50, depending upon the job), the hours are flexible, workers are reimbursed for all mileage, and the work is close to home. CALL (518) 362-2170, to learn how and where to apply. **Applications and testing at Berne Town Hall every Monday at 10AM. No appointment is necessary. Bring proper ID. (passport or driver's license)**

Census taker jobs are excellent for retirees, college students, persons who want to work part-time, persons who are between jobs, or just about anyone who wants to earn extra money while performing an important service for their community. Besides good pay, the hours are flexible, training is free, and there is the opportunity to work locally.

Applicants may choose to take the practice test which is available: http://www.census.gov/2010censusjobs/documents/Practice_Test.pdf. For further information, go to: <http://www.census.gov/2010census>



ELECTRONIC POLICY

Due to the sharp increase in the cost of recycling some electronic items, Town of Berne residents will now be required to pay for disposal of items as follows:

Televisions.....\$10
Microwave ovens..... \$7
Computer monitors.....\$7

Still accepted at no cost to residents: Computers, Terminals, Printers, Fax Machines, Typewriters, & Photocopiers. Transfer Station Permit must be affixed to back of rear view mirror.

ASSESSOR'S NOTES

GRIEVANCE DAY

— May 25, 2010 —

Any person aggrieved by an assessment may file a complaint.

The assessment that may be reviewed is the assessment on the current tentative assessment roll which is completed by the assessor by May 1st of each year. A separate complaint should be filed for each separately assessed parcel.

The complaint must be filed with the assessor or the Board of Assessment Review in the town in which the property is located.

The complaint may be mailed but it must be received by the assessor or Board of Assessment Review no later than the day the board meets to hear complaints.

Complaint forms are available at the Assessor's Office in the Berne Town Hall. The Board of Assessment Review meets the fourth Tuesday in May. For further information please call the assessor's office at 872-1448.