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SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) UPDATE

by Chair Jack Bast

Reconciliation Attempt

On September 24, 2026, the School Advisory Committee (SAC) requested an October 6th meeting with the Ticonderoga Central School District (TCSD), Supervisor Patchett, and me as to initiate a plan for reconciliation and cooperation between Hague and the district. Hague and SAC want a reset. We sought to put past differences behind us and work together toward our shared goals: an excellent education for all students and sound financial management for all school taxpayers.

TCSD denied our request on October 1st, (which we received on October 2nd), questioning SAC's sincerity saying Hague continues to seek inclusion in financial matters affecting Hague school taxes, including in a potential BESS project.

TCSD also cited "continued miscommunication in *The Hague Chronicle*." In our meeting request, SAC explicitly offered to review and publicly correct any inaccurate or misleading statements, provided TCSD identify its specific objections. TCSD has refused to do so.

Despite our good-faith effort to reconcile, TCSD has declined to engage. SAC is reassessing its strategy in response to TCSD's continued unwillingness to cooperate.

The status of four ongoing SAC projects is:

1. Equalization Rate Appeal

In August, New York State denied Hague's February application for a special equalization rate to address

inequitable TCSD school-tax apportionment. In October, they denied our immediate request for a redetermination, citing a technicality that (through no fault of our own) it was too late for them to act in the 2026 tax season. We are considering our options.

2. State Comptroller Complaint

In June, Hague filed a formal complaint alleging four systemic and legal failures by TCSD that unfairly increase Hague's share of school taxes. In August, the New York State Comptroller's Office declined to audit TCSD this year, but agreed to consider prioritizing an audit in 2027. We will continue to follow up.

3. CHPE PILOT-to-Host Agreement and Project Performance

Hague's February 2026 Resolution #62 opposed converting the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) PILOT to a Host Community Agreement, citing legal and financial risks, including potential effects on school-tax apportionment. Concerns have since intensified as CHPE's reported year-to-date capacity factor of 15% is way below the planned 95%, with estimated total losses above \$400 million. TCSD has provided no explanation of its decision, project risks, or risk-management plans. We will continue to follow up.

4. Proposed BESS Project and Potential PILOT

Hague opposes the proposed \$100 million Brookfield/New York State battery storage project in Ticonderoga and requested consultation before any financial agreement affecting Hague taxpayers is approved. On October 1st (received October 2nd), Superintendent Nephew and Board President Russell

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LGLC'S 10TH ANNUAL AMY'S ADVENTURE RACE

The Lake George Land Conservancy's (LGLC) 10th annual Amy's Adventure Race for the Lake (Amy's Race) took place Saturday, October 3, 2026 at Amy's Park in Bolton Landing. The event included 87 racers and 33 volunteers, marking its largest participation in its ten-year history.



Amy's Race offered two course options — a 4.5-mile and 10-mile course that followed rugged trails with 700 feet of elevation gain amidst ponds, marshes, and forests. A virtual option was also available for athletes to run the required distance at Amy's Park or from wherever they chose on or around the race date.

(Continued on p. 9)

MARK DELANEY IS LGLC VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) hosted its annual Volunteer Porch Social recently, taking the time to thank those who have donated their time and talents to helping the LGLC throughout the year at its events, on its preserves, and at its office.

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SENIOR CLUB NEWS

by Mike Kowalsky

On September 23, 2026, club members donned their Sherlock Holmes caps and boarded the *Lac du Saint Sacrement* for the Murder Mystery Cruise, a Roaring 20's play performed by the Murder Café Repertory Company. The show was delightful, although the sound system and ship's engine made it somewhat difficult for our senior ears to follow. While no one in the group solved the mystery, all in all, it was a pleasant evening spent on Lake George.



With October brings Octoberfest, a celebration that originated in Germany in 1810 and was enjoyed by several Hague

seniors at the Lake George Village Octoberfest and Fall Festival on October 10th. It presented an opportunity to stroll down the center of a crowded Canada Street, closed to traffic for the festivities. German music, food and *bier* were plentiful, along with vendors and activities for the children.

A caravan of senior vehicles wound its way to Burlington, VT, on October 17th for a ride on the Champlain Valley Dinner Train to Middlebury and back. The food, the scenery and the companionship were universally regarded as well worth the trip despite the journey home in the dark.

This month's senior meeting will be on **November 17th at 1:30 pm** at the Hague Community Center. The meeting will include an afternoon of bingo, so please bring a gift to share and come join in the fun. And speaking of fun, Game Night will be at the home of Pat Hintze on **November 5th at 6:30 pm**.

For all those interested in getting their Christmas shopping done early, this year's Senior Shopping Spree will take place on **November 12th**. Since our usual stop, The Christmas Tree Shop, has closed, any new suggestions will be appreciated.

And finally, the Annual Christmas Dinner will be held on **December 1st, at 5 pm**, at Frederick's Restaurant in Bolton Landing. Those who plan on attending either Christmas event, should please contact Senior President Pat Hintze. ■

T'AI CHI AND CHI (QI) GONG CLASSES OFFERED

Fall and early winter classes in T'ai Chi and Chi (Qi) Gong are being offered by Mae Pagan at the Black Watch Library in Ticonderoga on **Tuesdays at 11 am from November 10th through December 15th, 2026.**

The practices of T'ai Chi and Chi (Qi) Gong have been proven to:

- Reduce stress
- Improve balance and flexibility
- Increase vitality and resilience
- Lesson arthritis symptoms
- Benefit heart and cardiovascular systems
- Optimize health
- And most importantly, create a sense of joy and well-being

For more information, please text or call 518-586-6780 or email returntomountain@yahoo.com. ■

HVFD

by Donna Trudeau



The Hague Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) ended the month of September with four fire calls, six EMS assists, and five training drills. EMS had 16 calls with three drills and one marine call for a total combined volunteer and paid hours of 196.5.

We always strive to train so that we can be ready to serve our community with pride and dedication and to be prepared for any response.

We are proud to have gained a couple of new members. We are always looking for volunteers to help out with our fundraisers or to learn to be firefighters, EMS drivers, or EMTs.

In the fall, remember that your smoke detectors can save lives and that seconds matter. As you set the clocks back, check your carbon monoxide detectors and change those batteries. Be sure to have an escape plan.

If you need assistance checking your smoke detectors or carbon monoxide detectors, reach out to us at 518-543-6059. ■

SAC UPDATE, CONT'D

summarily rejected Hague's August 7th and September 26th requests for involvement, criticizing the town's communications. They informed Patchett that they are "increasingly concerned with Hague's ongoing communications and Hague's attempts to pressure TCSD into actions which (Hague) desires." Patchett was informed, "in the future, the district will only respond to (Hague) correspondence which is required by law or policy."

The regular November School Board of Education meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 17th at 6 pm**. Be there! ■

TOWN BOARD - 9/8/2026

Present were Supervisor Josh Patchett and Board Members Maureen Cherubini, Lara Smith, and Jack Bast. Edna Frasier and Town Clerk Kim Coffin were absent. Also present were Deputy Town Clerk Amanda Peterson, Bob Holmes, Ginger Henry Kuenzel, Tina Barth-King, Pat Hintze, Nancy Young, and Jami Jordan. John Smith joined via ZOOM.

The meeting began at 6 pm with a moment of silence for Carol Barnwell and Holly deBuys.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Kuenzel and Barth-King asked about implementing the 2025 Comprehensive Plan. Kuenzel requested an oversight committee and regular updates on its eight priority projects. Patchett said the town was working on four of the eight priority projects, including work on Chapter 4. No committee was immediately planned; winter discussions were anticipated. The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Committee might undertake projects.

Hintze thanked the board, Highway Superintendent Chad Dunklee, and highway employees for installing the boat launch gate.

The board approved the \$49,008.11 September warrant and August 11, 2026 minutes.

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration (*Patchett*): Staff is preparing the budget.

Building/Grounds (*Frasier/Patchett*): Roof leak repairs above the community room are being arranged.

Museum/Historian (*Bast/Smith*): Kuenzel requested public access to six courtroom historical plaques when court is not in session; signage currently prohibits entry. Citing a 2006 Warren County building assessment identifying space and structural concerns and the need for sprinklers, she expressed concern about fire threatening historical records and artifacts.

Personnel (*Bast/Cherubini*): Residents interested in alternate positions on the Hague Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals should contact the town. Resignations and Jordan's appointment were addressed under new business.

Planning/Zoning/Stormwater (*Cherubini/Frasier*): ZEO reports were received; four public hearings were scheduled.

Recreation/Promotion/Youth (*Smith*): The 2026 Lake George Open Water Swim was successful.

Sewer (*Smith/Patchett*): John and Eric were preparing the budget and completing Cape Cod Village projects.

Town Park/Beautification (*Smith/Frasier*): Thanks went to highway employees for the gate and lifeguards, whom the town hopes will return. Seasonal help for Todd at the beach was discussed.

Environmental Concerns (*Cherubini/Bast*): Cherubini will meet National Grid September 9th about outages and tree maintenance.

School Advisory Committee (*Bast*): The committee reported on school tax matters.

Special equalization rate: The town's February application challenged Ticonderoga Central School District tax apportionment. Additional evidence followed in April and May, with an urgent August 11th appeal. The Office of Real Property Tax Services denied it August 14th.

On August 24th, Hague requested reconsideration, asking the agency to establish a segment special equalization rate for Hague or identify the appropriate administrative process and obtain information to address the alleged inequity. No response arrived; the request did not affect the 2026–2027 levy.

Comptroller complaint: Patchett's June 12th complaint alleged four systemic and legal district failures increasing Hague's tax share. On August 12th, the Comptroller's Office declined to do an audit this year but said it would seriously consider one in 2027.

Champlain Hudson Power Express: The committee questioned replacing the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement with a Host Community Agreement, including its effects on school tax apportionment. It also questioned the project's reported operating performance, financial condition, and tax litigation against other jurisdictions. The district had not answered requests for the rationale, status, and risk management plans.

Battery energy storage proposal: Hague opposed the potential \$100 million Ticonderoga project, requesting participation in financial discussions and Industrial Development Agency proceedings if it advances. Essex County IDA responded positively; Ticonderoga, the district, and its board of education has not.

School taxes: August 18th rates were approximately \$8.2067 per \$1,000 assessed value for Hague and \$7.4650 for Ticonderoga. Hague's levy share was 56.6%. Representatives planned to attend the September 15th school board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

October 13th wastewater variance hearings were scheduled for Buchanan, 11 Paine Road, three variances; MacDowell, 240 Silver Bay Road, four; Popora, 239 Silver Bay Road, five; and Offerman, 9675 Lakeshore Drive, 13 (all motions carried).

The board accepted resignations from ZEO Clerk Kelley Noel, effective August 27th, and Planning Board Member Pamela Peterson, effective September 8th. Jordan resigned as alternate and was appointed through December 2027 to complete Peterson's term (all motions carried). Patchett thanked Peterson for over 20 years' service.

An October 13th hearing was scheduled on authorizing the board to exceed the 2027 tax levy limit after required budget procedures (motion carried).

TOWN BOARD 9/8/2026 CONT'D

An October 1st special meeting at 6 pm was scheduled to present the tentative budget and set budget meetings (motion carried). Cherubini requested prayers for the Smith family.

Young questioned inconsistent National Grid tree clearing along Route 9N near Arcady and south, noting possible Verizon involvement. Answering Jordan, the board said the public could attend Ticonderoga's battery storage research group meeting, but could not comment. Answering John Smith, it indicated the committee would file a Freedom of Information Law request for district information.

The meeting adjourned at 7 pm. The next regular Hague Town Board meeting was scheduled for October 13, 2026.

This article was written by the editor of The Hague Chronicle from draft minutes of the Hague Town Board. ■

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - 9/17/2026

Those present included Deputy Chairman Chris Richards and board members Oliver Gourley, Tina Barth-King, and Thomas LaPointe; ZEO Ed Kirchberger; Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello; Planning Board Chairperson Sandra Powell; and Cape Cod Village Club President Mike Rizza. Chairman Robert Goetsch was absent.

Richards opened the meeting at 6 pm. The board approved the August 20th minutes (4-0).

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Quinlan, 13 Bayberry Lane: *Rear setback and lot coverage.* The proposed 571-square-foot addition to a 576-square-foot home also requires Hague Planning Board site plan review because construction is within 100 feet of a brook.

Rizza submitted club and neighbor letters expressing no objections. No one spoke against the application. The hearing closed (4-0).

OLD BUSINESS

Quinlan: *Rear setback and lot coverage.* The planning board unanimously recommended approval, provided exterior stairs remained outside the setback and stormwater management was implemented.

Gourley recommended prohibiting further footprint expansion; proposed lot coverage would exceed 30%.

LaPointe suggested surveyor verification of property markers. Richards said applicants should establish boundaries. Barth-King supported surveys for undersized lots and projects near sideline setbacks, despite costs.

Rizza said Cape Cod Village lots were surveyed within ten years and all Quinlan stakes located. Kirchberger saw no verification issue here but favored clearer future requirements. Barth-King suggested zoning changes

address the village's pre-existing, non-conforming small lots.

The board designated the Town of Hague lead agency for State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) (4-0), reviewing floodplain mapping, water supply, stormwater, and endangered species. The Quinlans plan their own well. Runoff toward a common area made mitigation essential. Members reviewed these issues in the environmental assessment form.

The board adopted a negative declaration of no significant adverse environmental impact (4-0).

Variances 07-26 and 08-26 were approved (4-0), with three conditions:

Exterior stairs must remain outside the setback.

Stormwater management for the entire structure must follow plans prepared by a qualified engineer.

The structure's footprint may not be increased.

The board found the proposal consistent with neighborhood character, with alternatives limited by the pre-existing 0.1-acre lot. Members acknowledged possible occupancy and parking effects but anticipated environmental benefits from improved stormwater management. The difficulty arose from the lot's pre-existing, non-conforming status. These findings addressed the variance criteria.

Kirchberger will review requirements with the applicants and verify compliance before issuing a certificate of occupancy.

NEW BUSINESS AND REFERRALS FROM THE PLANNING BOARD

McEwan, 10 Anchor Way: *Sideline setback and expansion of a non-conforming structure.* A proposed second story over an existing patio would lengthen the structure within the sideline setback. Applicants requested a seven-foot setback instead of ten feet and expansion exceeding 25%.

Proposed one-foot eaves would affect setbacks and lot coverage, requiring a third variance. The application remained incomplete.

Barth-King questioned coverage calculations, bow windows, rain garden location, exterior steps' setback encroachment, and crawl spaces. Kirchberger reported 32.5% lot coverage and will investigate windows and calculations. Applicants must locate the rain garden.

An older survey was on file; a previous variance required an approved septic system. Asked about additional bedrooms and sewer demand, Kirchberger said the town system had capacity. Gourley raised the question about increased sewer demand.

The Hague Planning Board will provide an advisory opinion. Kirchberger said site plan and SEQR reviews were unnecessary. The property should be staked for a site visit after September 18th.

ZONING BOARD 9/17/2026, CONT'D

The board adjourned at 7:30 pm.

This article was written by the editor of The Hague Chronicle from final approved minutes of the Hague Zoning Board of Appeals. ■

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD - 9/22/2026

The Hague Town Board met September 22, 2026, at the Hague Community Center. Present were Supervisor Josh Patchett and Board Members Jack Bast, Maureen Cherubini, Edna Frasier, and Lara Smith. Also present were ZEO Ed Kirchberger and Town Clerk Kim Coffin.

NEW BUSINESS

The board approved hiring Brandy Lynn Frasier as Zoning Enforcement Clerk, effective September 15th, at \$20 per hour, with a potential increase after a positive ninety-day review (5-0).

After reviewing Kirchberger's revised short-term rental (STR) law, the board tabled Local Law #3 of 2026 pending sufficient evidence of need (3-0-2), with Bast and Cherubini abstaining.

The board entered executive session at 4:55 pm and returned at 5:05 pm.

The board adopted Resolution #110 of 2026, authorizing Patchett to solicit three appraisal proposals for a 30-by-50-foot easement area owned by Cape Cod Village Club, Inc. (5-0). The town is considering full ownership to ensure continued wastewater operations.

A March 25, 2025 agreement ratified the town's existing wastewater easement. According to the resolution, the town later identified equipment and operational needs for power emergencies and environmental protection, including Lake George. The club objected to the proposed equipment configuration.

The board maintains that existing and proposed uses comply with the agreement. Acquisition could involve New York State's Eminent Domain Procedure Law, requiring an appraisal to establish owner compensation. The resolution authorized appraisal proposals and implementation steps.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

This article was written by the editor of The Hague Chronicle from draft minutes of the Hague Town Board. ■

PLANNING BOARD - 10/1/2026

Present were Chairperson Sandra Powell and Board Members Henry Friedman, Alane Vogel, Chris Navitsky, and Jami Jordan. Also present were Mike Rizza, Ric Santamaria, Tony Hutchins, Kristin Darrah, ZEO Ed Kirchberger, and Recording Secretary Kathy Santaniello.

Powell opened the meeting at 6 pm, recognizing Pamela Peterson's retirement after more than 20 years of environmental advocacy, service to applicants, leadership, and mentorship. Jordan was welcomed as a regular board member after a year and a half as an alternate.

The September 3, 2026 minutes were approved (5-0).

NEW BUSINESS

McEwan, 10 Anchor Way: *Sideline setback and expansion of a non-conforming structure by more than 25%.* The proposed second-story addition over an existing patio required referral to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), but no Site Plan Review.

Members found the house consistent with surrounding homes. The Cape Cod Village Club board of directors supported the project; no neighbors submitted concerns. Club President Mike Rizza said the applicant welcomed stormwater recommendations.

The board approved a positive referral (5-0), requiring stormwater management and conveyance, including upgraded gutters; replacement of at least one tree on the Anchor Way side; and protection of the large southern tree's roots from construction compaction.

Quinlan, 13 Bayberry Lane: *Rear setback, lot coverage, and development within 100 feet of a brook.* The proposed addition measures 571 square feet; the existing home is 576 square feet. The ZBA granted variances and completed State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR), issuing a negative declaration.

Members found the project compatible with surrounding development. Parking across the street supplements limited parking. The property uses town sewer and a community well.

The board approved the Site Plan Review (5-0), requiring an engineer-prepared stormwater plan for the entire structure; no future footprint expansion; exterior stairs outside the required setback; and accurate, complete application information. Stormwater work must precede issuance of a compliance certificate.

Burke/Day, 29 Waltonian Road: *Development within 100 feet of the lake.* The applicants propose replacing failing retaining walls, stone steps, and a stone patio. Contractor Ric Santamaria said equipment access would require removing and replacing obstructing features, potentially including a small fire pit.

Conflicting application materials prompted requests for an updated plan based on a 2023 survey, showing existing and proposed features, dimensions, shoreline distances, and setbacks; corrected project and environmental assessment descriptions; and construction measures protecting the lake. Navitsky questioned whether water pressure or inadequate stormwater management might have caused the wall failure.

No public hearing was needed. Kirchberger was asked to inspect for code compliance. A board site visit was

PLANNING BOARD 10/1/2026, CONT'D

scheduled for October 14th at 2 pm, with revised drawings requested beforehand. Review will continue in November.

Brown, 23-29 Abenakis Drive: *Walls within the shoreline setback, wall height, and development within 100 feet of the lake.* Review continued on improvements requiring after-the-fact variances: the shoreline boulder wall, walls north and south of the house, and a five- to seven-foot wall near the southern steps.

ZBA conditions require removing as many seawall rocks as possible for native planting pockets and a 15-foot buffer measured from the seawall's back. The buffer must contain 14 trees, each three inches in diameter at breast height, equally divided between coniferous and deciduous species.

The applicants offered to replace diseased or dead plantings within seven years and add plants draping over the wall. Property manager Tony Hutchins confirmed native plantings were installed, but not all required trees. Powell said the board could not change ZBA conditions.

Members supported another site visit and requested a plan showing buffer and tree locations, completed work, and implementation of remaining conditions before Site Plan Review and SEQR proceed. Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) responses remained pending; Warren County reported no issues.

SUBDIVISIONS

McMahon, New Hague Road/Summit Drive/Cold Water Canyon Road: Preliminary plat review continued for approximately 50 acres, reduced from eight lots to six.

Kristin Darrah of Darrah Land Surveying presented revised boundaries, potential driveways, development layouts, and soil test locations. The owner chose fewer lots over cluster development because of the initial investment.

Discussion addressed steep terrain, streams, rock outcroppings, septic suitability, stormwater, and emergency access. Lot One's limited accessible building area and percolation testing outside it remained concerns. Further testing and an engineered septic plan will be required before installation.

Powell questioned emergency access on Lot Two; Navitsky raised development concerns about Lots Five and Six. The owner must accept deed restrictions prohibiting further subdivision.

The board designated the town as SEQR lead agency and adopted a negative declaration (5-0), requiring major stormwater design for all lots under LGPC regulations and site plan reviews for Lots One, Two, Five, and Six because of terrain, streams, and rock outcroppings.

Review included site visits, soil investigations, and an APA finding of no impact on identified wetlands. Development of the Cold Water Canyon Road lot would require APA review.

The board deemed the application complete and scheduled a preliminary plat public hearing for November 5th (5-0).

Owners within 500 feet will be notified, with notice in *The Sun*. Final approval remains pending.

OTHER BUSINESS

Powell reminded members of the annual four-hour training requirement and requested consideration of 2027 meeting dates. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

The next **Hague Planning Board meeting will be held on November 5, 2026 at 6 pm.**

This article was written by the editor of The Hague Chronicle from draft minutes of the Planning Board. ■

TOWN BOARD - 10/13/2026

The Hague Town Board met October 13, 2026, at 6 pm at the Hague Community Center. Present were Supervisor Josh Patchett and Board Members Jack Bast, Maureen Cherubini, Edna Frasier, and Lara Smith. Also present were Highway Superintendent Chad Dunklee, Bob Holmes of RU Holmes Engineering, Nick Bandel of Cedarwood Engineering, Rich Buchanan, Cape Cod Village Club President Mike Rizza, Hague Historical Society President Ginger Henry Kuenzel, Town Clerk Kim Coffin, and other community members.

Rizza objected to Resolution #110, authorizing appraisals for acquiring Cape Cod Village Club property through eminent domain for a sewer pump station. He cited the club's cooperation, including a free easement and agreement to a permanent back-up generator.

The club approved a 250-gallon fuel tank, then accepted 500 gallons, but a 1,000-gallon tank was installed without consent. Rizza questioned its size, permitting, foundation capacity, and eminent domain costs. He urged a 500-gallon compromise, offering to withdraw the club's Notice of Claim upon execution of an agreed amendment.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Buchanan, 11 Paine Road: The board approved three wastewater system variances required by the property's size and layout, with Cedarwood's recommendations. Bandel found the requests reasonable (5-0).

MacDowell, 240 Silver Bay Road: Holmes presented four wastewater system variances allowing replacement of a shared septic system with an independent holding tank system. Space limited setbacks. Bandel recommended returning to the board if the proposed pump station fails. Approval required following Plan A or Plan B in Cedarwood's October 13th letter (5-0).

Porpora, 239 Silver Bay Road: Five wastewater system variances concerned the property sharing MacDowell's system. Holmes said there was a reported buried well, which could not be located, required relocating the leach field. Bandel questioned proximity to a neighboring well. The board tabled the application until November 10th for neighbor consultation.

TOWN BOARD 10/13/2026, CONT'D

Offerman, 9675 Lakeshore Drive: Holmes presented 13 wastewater system variances for a steep property north of Indian Kettles, calling the site the only practical location. Bandel said it was an improvement over existing conditions. The board approved the application (5-0).

Tax Levy Limit Override: With no public comment, the board adopted Resolution #112, permitting a local law to exceed the state tax levy limit for 2027 following required budget procedures (5-0).

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Patchett announced an October 15th budget workshop at 3 pm for Highway, Street Light, and Occupancy Tax budgets, with another October 21st at 3 pm if needed. The budget hearing was scheduled for October 29th at 6 pm at the Hague Community Center (5-0).

Warren County extended the \$150,000 Hague Event Pavilion Occupancy Tax Agreement through December 31, 2027. The proposed location and drawing are displayed in the community center's large meeting room.

The town is not pursuing a short-term rental law now.

Officials contacted Warren County leadership and Assemblyman Matt Simpson's office about discontinuation of copper-based telephone service. Simpson's office said removal required a reliable alternative and was researching that standard. Cherubini said Verizon indicated planned cable installation would preserve service during power outages. Updates will follow.

REGULAR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building/Grounds (Frasier/Patchett): Bids were solicited for community center roof repairs.

Highway (Frasier/Cherubini): Dunklee expected foundation concrete and county fuel tank placement work to finish within days. Paving on Cemetery Road, Sunset Hill, Pine Orchard, and Spring Rock was expected within weeks.

Museum/Historian (Bast/Smith): Kuenzel expected a pictorial history book to be available in May or June 2027. She requested county confirmation through the Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) that the community center meets safety codes.

Personnel (Bast/Cherubini): The town seeks Hague Planning Board and Hague Zoning Board of Appeals alternates. Applications for these paid, part-time positions should be submitted promptly to the community center.

SAC (Bast): Bast reported on School Advisory Committee (SAC) efforts concerning Ticonderoga Central School District finances and Hague's school-tax share.

After the state denied Hague's special equalization rate application in August, the town requested reconsideration, citing overlooked tax-base distortion. A response remains pending.

The State Comptroller's Office declined an audit this year following Hague's June complaint alleging financial and legal

deficiencies, but will consider prioritizing one in 2027.

Bast questioned converting the Champlain Hudson Power Express payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement to a Host Community Agreement, citing project performance, tax litigation, and school-tax apportionment risks. SAC seeks the district's explanation and risk-management plans.

He also reported Hague's opposition to a proposed \$100 million Brookfield/New York State battery energy storage project in Ticonderoga and requested consultation before financial agreements affecting Hague taxpayers. District officials rejected consultation and said future responses would be limited to those legally or procedurally required.

The district declined SAC's proposed October 6th reconciliation meeting. SAC offered to review and publicly correct inaccurate or misleading statements in *The Hague Chronicle* if specific concerns were identified. SAC is reassessing its approach and plans to attend the October 20th school board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The board approved the \$639,869.32 October warrant (5-0) and September 8th regular and September 22nd special meeting minutes (5-0).

Resolution #113 transferred \$2,500 from sewer contingency to sanitary sewer E-1 pump repairs for an emergency E-One cart purchase (5-0).

A New Holland Powerstar 75 tractor with an 88-inch right-wing flail mower, costing \$110,621.06 plus \$770 shipping, was tabled pending Frasier's bid review.

Wastewater system variance hearings were scheduled for November 10th at 6 pm (5-0):

- Corsi, 274 Silver Bay Road: five variances.
- Fallahpour, 28 Paine Road: four variances.
- Johnson/Blike, 30 Paine Road: one variance.
- Penfield, 14 Silver Bay Road: two variances.
- Dickson, 62 Sabbath Day Point Road: two variances.

Resolution #114 set Brandy-Lynn Frasier's ZEO clerk rate at \$22 hourly and classified her combined ZEO Clerk/Transfer Station Attendant position as full-time for Employee Manual benefits, effective November 19, 2026 (5-0).

Residents questioned the lack of a Deputy Highway Superintendent appointment. Patchett will review town law.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

The next Hague Town Board meeting will be held on November 10, 2026 at 6 pm.

This article was written by the editor of The Hague Chronicle from draft minutes of the Hague Town Board. ▣



**REMEMBER TO
VOTE NOV. 3RD!**

HAGUE SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE: LEARNING FROM RURAL SCHOOLS

Dr. Linda Fusco and Michael Galow represent the Hague School Advisory Committee (SAC) at the Rural Schools Association of New York State (RSA). For the past two years, they have attended RSA's twice-yearly conferences in Lake Placid and Saratoga, connecting with school administrators, teachers, Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) representatives, and school board members from across the North Country.

Their goal is to learn how other rural districts address common challenges involving budgets, staffing, and educational opportunities. Galow contributes his school board experience, while Fusco draws on six decades as a New York State educator to share current educational developments and best practices.

At RSA's July 12 to 14, 2026, Lake Placid conference, *"Our Roots, Our Rise,"* several innovative approaches stood out:

- **Reimagining graduation:** Cassadaga Valley Central School District aims to prepare every student for independent living by age 25. Its approach emphasizes grade-level reading and math, career pathways, internships, college credit opportunities, and professional portfolios, transforming high school from a checklist of credits into preparation for life and work.
- **Using technology effectively:** THiNKtech demonstrated how schools can turn overwhelming amounts of data into practical instructional strategies, including the thoughtful use of artificial intelligence.
- **Expanding educational opportunities:** A session on regionalization described how 19 component districts in the Otsego Northern Catskills/Jefferson area began developing a framework to expand curriculum choices through regional cooperation.

Fusco also connected with superintendents and principals who welcomed future school visits. At Lake George Elementary School, she met with teachers, counselors, curriculum directors, and the principal to learn how the iReady program supports improved student reading achievement.

They plan to attend RSA's December 2026 winter conference. Their participation continues to provide insights and practical ideas for SAC and the Ticonderoga Central School District (TCSD) Board of Education (BoE), helping identify opportunities to benefit students throughout the TCSD community. ▣

NEWS FROM THE LAKE GEORGE ASSOCIATION (LGA)

by LGA board member and Hague resident Ginger Henry Kuenzel

11th SALT SUMMIT HELD THIS YEAR IN ALBANY

For the past 11 years, the Lake George Association (LGA) and Lake George Waterkeeper Chris Navitsky have been hosting a salt summit in the Lake George region, bringing together a variety of stakeholders who are responsible for keeping our roads, driveways, parking lots and pathways clear of snow and ice, and thus safe. The Salt Summit aligns perfectly with LGA's strategy, which is focused on using science to develop solutions, educating and mobilizing community members, developing strong partnerships, and advocating for codified lake protection. This year, for the first time, the summit moved to Albany and was presented by the *Times Union* newspaper.

Salt has long been a component in winter snow management. But, there has been increasing awareness of the damage that this salt does to our water as it seeps into streams, lakes, and ground water. Recent research has shown that road salt use has tripled chloride levels in Lake George over the past 40 years. Whether you get your drinking water from the lake or from a well, this is an issue to stay informed about.

With significant support from the LGA and the Lake George Waterkeeper, Hague's Highway Department staff now uses equipment and technology that keeps our roads safe while reducing the amount of salt used by more than 50 percent. Brining is one of the key strategies. Brine is created by dissolving salt in water and applying it ahead of a storm, making it easier to clear the snow once the storm arrives. In addition to providing training, the LGA has helped Hague purchase salt-smart equipment and technology.

The decision to move the Salt Summit to Albany this year was designed to bring the discussion closer to state legislators and agencies who are making state-wide decisions regarding salt usage. The more central venue attracted more than 200 stakeholders from across the state, including municipal leaders, highway professionals, scientists, legislators, businesses, and environmental advocates. Speakers and panels examined road salt reduction from scientific, operational, environmental, and public-policy perspectives, connecting the latest research with practical solutions that can be implemented across the state.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about why road salt is a threat to Lake George. Click [HERE](#) and scroll down to "Priority Actions for Residents and Small Businesses" to learn what you can do on your property to reduce salt usage. Click [HERE](#) to view highlights from the recent Salt Summit on YouTube ▣

The Hague Chronicle is happy to publish announcements of births, marriages, graduations, anniversaries of 50/55/60/65+, awards, or deaths in Soundings. We can include a high quality photo.

Our submission deadline for Soundings, and all other articles, is 6 pm the 20th of each month, for inclusion in the following month's issue.

Please send to
editor@thehaguechronicle.org.

SILVER BAY YMCA TO CELEBRATE 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Silver Bay YMCA will celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2027 with events throughout the year, culminating in a gala-style celebration on **July 30, 2027**.

Silver Bay's beginnings date to a 1901 mission conference that brought more than 200 delegates to the Silver Bay Hotel. Its success led to a full summer of conferences in 1902, laying the foundation for the organization. The Silver Bay Association for Christian Conferences and Training incorporated in 1904 and purchased the hotel property from Silas Paine for \$70,000, which was \$80,000 below its market value.



CEO Lucas Callahan said the anniversary reflects the lasting impact of Silver Bay's mission to cultivate relationships, strengthen communities, and nurture spirit, mind, and body for all. Board Chair Elise Walton described Silver Bay as a welcoming place for connection and community for generations.

Additional celebration details will be announced toward the end of 2026. For updates, visit silverbay.org or follow @silverbayymca on social media. ▣

WALMART GIVES GRANT TO BACKPACK PROGRAM

The Ticonderoga Area Backpack Program recently received \$5,000 from the Walmart Spark Good Local Grant Program. The Spark Good program sprung from a simple question, "How might we do more good in our communities more often?"

The Backpack Program is an all-volunteer organization that provides backpacks filled with nutritious foods to deserving local area children on weekends throughout the school year. In addition, there also is a summer food program which provides a whole week of food in each of eight weeks during July and August. These grant funds will be used exclusively to purchase the food from the Regional Food Bank of Northeast NY.



Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are committed to providing opportunities for organizations to improve the communities they serve. Walmart has a long history of giving back to the communities where they operate. One of Walmart's priority areas is strengthening communities by providing access to healthier food for all. Walmart strives to enable strong vibrant towns that provide convenient access to healthier foods, stable jobs, and support in times of disaster. Walmart provides support to more than 10,500 communities.

The initial roll-out of the Ticonderoga Backpack Program in early 2013 served 30 needy children at Ticonderoga Elementary. The program now includes seven local area schools and 300 children are served each weekend during the school year.

The hope is to be able to continue to grow and expand the backpack program and to provide additional food for more and more local area children who need help.

The cost to sponsor one child for an entire school year is \$300. One hundred per cent of all donations are used to purchase the food to fill the backpacks for deserving local area children. Donations are tax-deductible. For more information, contact John Bartlett at jbartlett1@nycap.rr.com. ▣

LGLC VIEWSHED AVAILABLE

The Lake George Land Conservancy's (LGLC's) fall/winter issue of *Viewshed* is now available for online viewing.

Featuring its long-term forest restoration work at Cook Mountain Preserve, this issue also includes an update on Mud Pond West and its watershed-wide invasive species work; spotlight on the eastern whip-poor-will; changes in its board of directors and staff; recognition of Helene Wilson Horn in its People of the Land series; and a colorful recap of its outreach, and educational events throughout the spring and summer.

To read online, click [HERE](#). ▣

LGLC'S 10TH ANNUAL AMY'S ADVENTURE RACE, CONT'D

The overall and top male winner of the ten-mile race was Alexander Reynolds with a time of 1 hour 33 minutes. The top female winner was Sally Ryan with a time of 1 hour 43 minutes. The overall and top male winner of the 4.5-mile race was Tim Caramore with a time of 36 minutes. Top female winner was Anna Dufford with a time of 49 minutes.

After the race, more than 50 attendees joined together at the Bolton Landing Brewing Company for an After Party, complete with refreshments and basket raffles.

All proceeds from Amy's Race and the raffle go to the LGLC's initiatives to protect the land that protects the lake.

Amy's Race was spearheaded in 2017 by the LGLC's Next Generation (Next Gen) Committee, a group of young professionals committed to bringing awareness to LGLC's mission by organizing innovative events geared towards engaging communities around the lake.

More information about the race, including complete race results, sponsor listing, and event photos, can be found at <https://lglc.org/amys-race>. ▣

LOOKING BACK

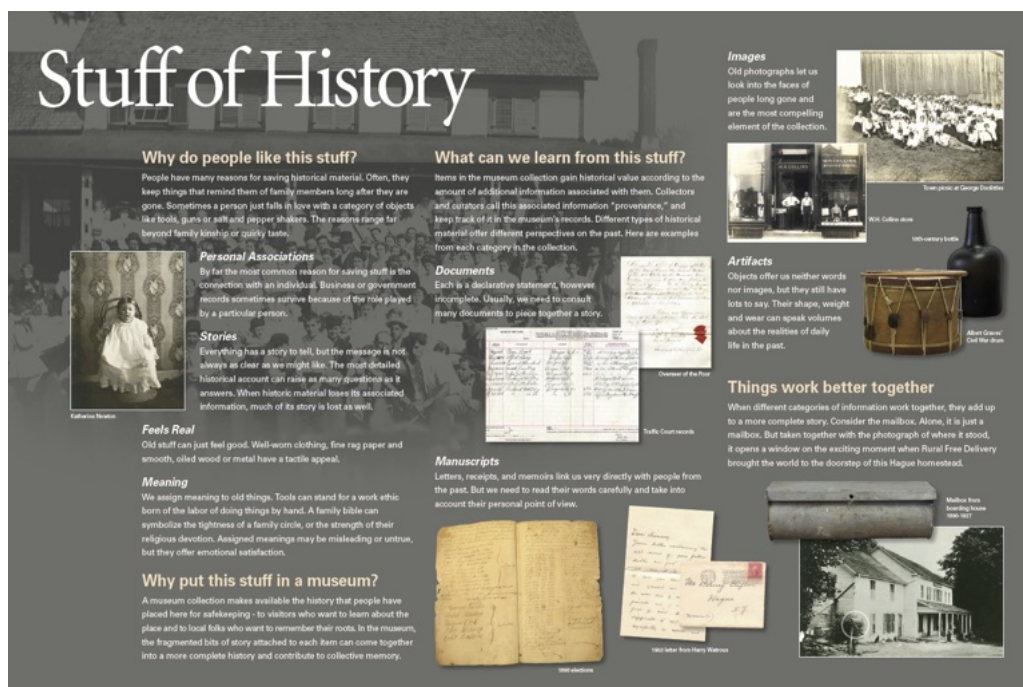
Six Huge Panels Showcase Hague's History

by Hague Historical Society
President Ginger Henry Kuenzel

In October, we spotlighted number one of the six panels that were created in 2007, Hague's bicentennial year, to celebrate the town's history. They are on display in the court room in the community center and we encourage everyone to spend time reading about the fascinating history of our town.

This month we take a look at panel number two, entitled *Stuff of History*. With its focus on objects and documents, it addresses questions such as, "Why do people like this stuff?" and "What can we learn from this stuff?"

Many of us save objects because they convey a personal connection with a family member, perhaps a parent or grandparent. Or, maybe it's something that's been handed down through many, many generations. However, if we don't record the relevant information about the object and our connection to it, those who come after us might never know its history and meaning when we're gone. That's why it's important to preserve it and to record the stories about it. This stuff could be furniture or other objects; it could be letters or photographs; or it could be personal journals, business ledgers, or meeting minutes.



The Hague Historical Society (HHS) has lots of stuff in all of these categories. These items have been entrusted to us to preserve and to share with townspeople and visitors to help them learn about the history of Hague and the people who lived here before us. One such item is the Civil War drum that belonged to Albert Graves. Originally from Vermont, he joined the Union Army as a drummer boy. Captured and incarcerated in Libby Prison in Virginia, he escaped and headed back north, eventually settling in Hague, along with his drum.

He changed his name to Albert Clifton and built the Island Harbor House Hotel. The HHS has this drum as well as a wealth of photos, letters, documents and other stuff from

the hotel. One of the letters pictured on this panel is from Harry Watrous — creator of the Lake George Monster — to Albert's grandson, Bernie Clifton, expressing his condolences on the death of his father.

We also have journals from Walter Watts, who recorded detailed information about the

weather, the lake, the heights of his children, and much more. Ledgers from stores that previously existed in Hague show us the price of goods and who bought them. Last but not least, we have an incredible collection of historical photos, many of which we plan to publish in a book in 2027. Stay tuned for more information on that!

What stuff do you have in your home that provides you with a connection to your family's history? Share your stories with us by sending them to haguehistorical@gmail.com. ■

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE SUBMISSION DEADLINES:

All articles must be submitted by 6 pm the 20th of each month, for inclusion in the following month's issue. Send to editor@thehaguechronicle.org.

MARK DELANEY IS LGLC VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, CONT'D

Mark Delaney was chosen as its 2026 Volunteer of the Year.

Mark first volunteered with the LGLC at Amy's Race, and since then he hasn't met a task he couldn't handle.

Mark comes in each week to help with the long-term project of digitizing the files of the LGLC. He brings diligence, focus, and determination to every stack of documents, along with a few jokes to keep everyone smiling.

Since the beginning of 2025, he has given 189 hours of his time at the gala, the Amy's Race, and in the LGLC office. ▣



FALL/WINTER FIVE HUNDRED DOLLAR FRIDAYS

The Ticonderoga Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) will be holding a fall/winter fundraiser called "Five Hundred Dollar Fridays."

A \$20 donation will purchase one ticket for a chance to win. Tickets will be available at the TACC office throughout November 2026, as well as from TACC board members, ambassadors, and volunteers. Only 300 tickets will be sold.

Tickets will be hand-drawn at random on December 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th. Each winner will receive \$500.

All proceeds will benefit the TACC programs, services, events, economic development initiatives, and other efforts to serve and promote the Ticonderoga area.

For additional information, please contact the TACC at 518-585-6619, or email adminassistant@ticonderogany.com. The TACC office is located at 94 Montcalm Street, Suite 1 in Downtown Ticonderoga. ▣

LGLC RECEIVES NYS CPP GRANTS

The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) has been awarded two grants totaling \$74,742 from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program (CPP) to help further its mission to protect the land that protects Lake George.

One grant of \$40,742 will reimburse transaction costs in the acquisition of the 158-acre Spruce Mountain Addition property in the Town of Dresden, purchased by the LGLC in January 2026.

A second grant of \$34,000 will be used for educational and interpretive signage at the multi-use Dennis L. Dickinson Recreation Park at the McPhillips Preserve. The 317-acre preserve was permanently protected through a partnership between the LGLC and the towns of Lake George and Queensbury in 2018. The recreation park has several miles of professionally built trails for mountain biking and hiking and an outdoor education pavilion, which will be publicly unveiled in spring of 2027.

Including this latest round of awards, the LGLC has received 29 CPP grants since 2004, totaling more than \$760,000. The CPP grants are supported by the State's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and will leverage an additional \$2.2 million in private and local funding. The Land Trust Alliance administers the program in coordination with DEC. ▣



SUPPORTING THE HAGUE CHRONICLE: You can make a tax-deductible donation to *The Hague Chronicle* any time **HERE**. Our all-volunteer staff thanks you for the encouragement and the support you provide! We couldn't do it without you!

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE is a monthly news journal, which has been published by volunteers since January 1972. Current board members are Taylor, Quinn, Kowalsky, Schaffer, (see below) and Paul Budd.

Please send all news items and Soundings to editor@thehaguechronicle.org by the 20th of the preceding month. Please send any comments to publisher@thehaguechronicle.org.

Publisher/Editor: Bobbi Bryant Taylor
Layout Editor: Chris Quinn
Secretary: Mike Kowalsky

Treasurer: Charlene Schaffer
Staff: Claire Best, Carolyn Hoeschele, and Pat McDonough

MASON/STAR DINNER

A public roast pork dinner, sponsored jointly by the members of Mount Defiance Lodge No. 794, F. & A.M., and Fort Ticonderoga Chapter No. 263, Order of the Eastern Star, will be open to the public on **Monday, November 16, 2026, from 4:30 to 6 pm** at the Ticonderoga Masonic Temple, 10 Montcalm Street, Ticonderoga (across from the Stone House). Take-outs will be available. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 years old and under and will be available at the door. Parking will be along Montcalm Street and in the Hancock House parking lot. ▣

THE HAGUE CHRONICLE

PO Box 748
Hague, New York 12836-0748



ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT

NOVEMBER

November 2026

1		November issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i> published	16	4:30 – 6 pm	Mason Star Dinner
		Daylight Savings Time ends	17	11 am	T'ai Chi and Chi (Qi) Gong
3		ELECTION DAY		1:30 pm	Seniors Meeting
5	6 pm	Planning Board Mtg.		6 pm	TCSD BoE Mtg.
	6:30 pm	Seniors Game Night	19	6 pm	ZBA Mtg.
10	11 am	T'ai Chi and Chi (Qi) Gong	20	6 pm	Deadline for the December issue of <i>The Hague Chronicle</i>
	6 pm	Town Board Mtg.	24	11 am	T'ai Chi and Chi (Qi) Gong
11		VETERANS DAY (Town offices closed)	26		THANKSGIVING DAY (Town offices closed)
	11 am	Veterans Day Memorial Ceremony at park	27		BLACK FRIDAY (Town offices closed)
12		Seniors Shopping Spree			

TRANSFER STATION HOURS: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm