

CLT Newsletter

Winter 2017-18

1651 Frankfort Hwy/ POB 2129
Frankfort, MI 49635
#231-352-9791 and www.crystallaketwp.org



Airport: Crystal Lake Township is one of three principals, along with Benzie County and the City of Frankfort, in the Frankfort City-County Airport Authority (FCCAA) that owns/operates the local airport. As such, Brooke Trentham (CLT Treasurer) and Tammy May (CLT Trustee) represent township interests on the larger Authority Board, have a 4 year term that runs concurrent to their elective terms, and attend meetings at the airport building on every third Thursday of the month at 7 PM. The public is not only welcome at these meetings, CLT residents are highly encouraged to voice their opinions and get involved about the future of the airport, especially since some of your tax dollars go to support it. The past year's priority for the Authority was working on complying with certain regulations that would allow Frankfort Dow Memorial Field to regain its General Aviation (vs. a "Basic" status) and thus qualify for more non-local funds. This was achieved shortly before going to print with this newsletter. Here is the airport's website: www.frankforddowfield.com

Blight: We asked what you thought and listened to your complaints. Thus, many moons ago, based on your supportive responses, we compiled a list of those properties deemed to need some degree of intervention to get cleaned up. Slowly and surely, with the un-tested means at our disposal, from friendly persuasion and helping hands to legal recourse, the township board proceeded. Some interventions were remedied with only some good communication between parties, resulting in full or partial clean ups. Other interventions are taking considerable time and money, energy and patience to process as the amount of junk is immense and owner's opposition strong. We have had some notable success thus far, but know we have a long road ahead of us. The township encourages your continuing feedback on blight remediation efforts in order that we continue to accurately reflect the community's wishes.

Board of Review: We are looking for some volunteers to sit on this board but, first, do you know what this board does? Understanding starts with the fact that all non-exempt property must be assessed at 50 percent of true cash value and uniformly assessed with other property in the classification. The purpose of the Board of Review is to ascertain that this has been accomplished. This is the panel of fellow CLT property owners who meet in March, July and December to correct errors & omission/adjudicate complaints constituents have regarding their property tax assessments. Currently there are three members who sit on this board, but we are looking for alternates who must qualify and may be called to perform the duties of a regular member when there is a conflict of interest, or other vacancy. Time and cost of training is compensated. Contact the Supervisor if you're interested.

Cemeteries: Cemeteries are community-based places. Efforts continue to answer the often differing needs, expectations and requirements of many diverse groups of folks. These groups include the deceased themselves, friends & families, and maintenance personnel, to name the principals involved. But there are also other factors/groups to consider: the record keepers, adjacent highways, neighboring properties, state-dictated standards, Michigan Township Association recommendations, adjacent township communities and the funeral service industry. Crystal Lake Township does a juggling act of sorts, all the while striving to simultaneously have the cemeteries give comfort, look nice, and meet all legal standards. Remember that if you have any questions regarding purchase, burial, monuments, decorations/planting, our rules & guidelines are available at the hall or online. The Ordinance is being updated soon and, among other things, will reflect growing interest in "green" burials. We thank Beverly Augustine for her continued financial support of East Cemetery through her family endowment fund, and North Cemetery's Grand Traverse Community Foundation-based endowment started by Fred Auch and Doug Putnam. Both endowments are going to be used for beautification of their respective cemeteries. The latter endowment is currently deciding on projects with which to assist the township and would welcome your input; it is also looking for volunteers to serve on its board. The Supervisor has contact information.

Clean Up Day & Recycling: At the time of this printing, no date has been set for our annual junk collection. Whatever date is finally decided, come early that day before the truck is full for higher chances of being relieved of your stuff. You must be a CLT tax payer to participate. This year, as in other years, we will have a recycling team present to pick over

any reusable junk that could be averted from landfill. Other County-sponsored dates/locations for the Household Hazardous Waste, Electronics and Scrap Tire collections are June 16th Frankfort (HHW, Electronics and Tires) 9-1, July 14th Thompsonville (Tires Only) 9-1 and August 4th Honor (HHW, Electronics and Tires) 9-1. All County-sponsored clean up days require an appointment through 882-0554, or benzierecycler@benzieco.net. Also, check for news /updates on the county website under the Solid Waste/Recycling Tab in the Departments section. Did you know that paint can be recycled at anytime at Ace Hardware for a small fee? Lastly, extra special kudos goes to our heroes Dave Schaffer, grant writer and director of the Benzie County recycling program, together with Mike Mackin and Paul Sowards. They went above and beyond the call of duty in helping with one blighted property in particular, one near the Arch and in the line of sight of all those entering and departing our township. Only with their hard labor on a hot July day did we successfully remove more than 1000 abandoned tires via a DNR grant and some CLT matching monies.

Environment: Have you noticed anything going on in the underbrush near the Arch? Pat and Scrib Sheafor have headed up a hard working team which included Carolyn Thayer & Benzie Conservation District folks, first to eradicate the Autumn Olive and other invasives, then to replant native species. Funds were donated via CLT and the DNR. Are you interested in helping out with watering the saplings in the future, or have other environmentally minded ideas for our township? Your volunteerism would be most appreciated.

Newsletters: This vehicle for getting information out to CLT residents/taxpayers, via a free ride in the bi-annual tax bill envelope, was a project started 5 years ago. Now there is debate amongst board members about the usefulness of these newsletters. What say you? Should they continue? Do you get any useful information from them or are they a waste of paper? Should they stay in this same general format? At this juncture, it is very important to hear from you to determine future newsletters. Please give your opinion via supervisor.clt@gmail.com AND, simultaneously, clerk.clt@gmail.com.

Planning & Zoning: During the next several months, the Planning Commission will be studying both medical marijuana and sign regulation as they effect zoning in CLT. They are also working on “dark sky” and solar energy ordinances. Your feedback is welcome, as is attendance at PC meetings held monthly (schedule posted online and at hall.)

Roads: Your tax dollars continue to work with very notable results. To the cheers of many, the County millage has paid for and repaved a large section of Lobb Road. Some other road-related projects involved the township and the County sharing the cost to replace two culverts, one on Bellows and one on Weishaar Road. Your CLT millage monies allowed 3 years’ worth of work to be finished in 2 years, thanks to credit extended to us by the Benzie Road Commission. This year we repaved Bellows/7th Street (Thomas Road to Cox,) Glory Road, Elm Road (Lobb to City Limits), Adams Rd, Robinson Rd, Palcich and 1.08 miles of Mollineaux. There was only one request for brining, on Marquette Court.

Looking ahead to future work, we are in the planning stages for the following roads (their lengths in fractions of miles): Martin .625, Runway .25, Nugent .10, Snell .20 and Nelson .70. But due to recent changes in the BCRC’s fiscal policy, at this time we are working on coordination on everyone’s calendars for both millage collections and warm weather in which to execute the projects. Therefore, we do not have a set date for the next phase of work to be accomplished.

Weather: If there are two things true about our area, they are how much weather matters to us and how quickly weather changes. If you would find it helpful, there is a handy option to have specific, local Benzie County weather alerts appear on your cell phone. To sign up, go to the county website www.benzieco.net and give them your contact number(s). Do this via their Home page, click on the heading “Departments/Committee.” When the drop box appears, select “Emergency Management.” Scroll down with an eye on the right side of the page until you see the sign up instructions.

How many times have you driven by this sign on M-22 near Old State Road going south?



This sign has been up for decades and it wasn’t until this summer that a passing cyclist alerted us to the misspelling.