



Duluth Township scenes from the camera of resident James Munger

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

DULUTH TOWNSHIP WEB SITE: WWW.DULUTHTOWNSHIP.ORG

MAY 2008

What's Coming Up...

- Memorial Day Ceremony**, Township Lakeview Cemetery, May 26th, 11am. *Honor our service personnel.*
- Community Center/School Site Planning** (see insert)
The Public Open House is May 28th, 7pm, NSCS.
- Ride Share Parking.** Parking spaces at the Town Hall have been designated to encourage ride-sharing. A map is posted at the Town Hall so parking doesn't interfere with recycling and other Township functions (4 parallel parking spaces at south end of the road fence)
- Planning Secretary opening** (see article).
- Registering to Vote.** New Township residents (and others) who would like to register to vote can do so at the St Louis County Court House *Elections Office* (in the Auditors Office).

THE HOMESTEADERS

Helen Hendrickson

- May 7th**, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall, Gardening tips by *Lone Cooke*, Master Gardener.
- June 4th**, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Program to be announced.
- July 2nd**, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Annual Picnic and Bingo.
- Everybody is welcome.**
For information call Helen Hendrickson at 525-4154.

Thanks to the EPA lab for donating desk, table and comfortable chairs for our Town Hall.

Congratulations to Bill Lannon, newly appointed member of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Thanks to public spirited residents who also applied for the position.

Thanks to all contributors to this issue:

Jeanne Anderson, Valerie Brady, Dave Chura, Ann Cox, Steve Dahl, Bob Engelson, Dave Edblom, Helen Hendrickson, Janis Hooley, Heidi Horoshak, John Kessler, Sue Lawson, Todd Lindahl, Wendy Meierhoff, Dave Mount, James Munger, Ellen O'Neill, Shawn Padden, Dan Tanner, and our Webmaster, Linda Hollinday.

If you wish to contribute to the Newsletter — short articles about our history, poetry, pictures, masthead drawing or picture, etc. of interest to Township residents, leave a note for the editor at the Town Hall.



2007-2008 Duluth Town Board

Supervisors (starting at left) Dave Mount (Chair), Jeff Cook, Dan Tanner, Stephen Dahl, Wendy Meierhoff (Vice Chair).

Supervisor Election results: 135 Township residents turned out to vote March 11th for Town Supervisor. The results were announced at the Annual Town Meeting. Elected were incumbents Wendy Meierhoff (131) and Dan Tanner (134). Congratulations!

Annual Town Meeting, March 11th Residents attending elected George Sundstrom as moderator. Clerk Ann Cox provided a packet of materials for the meeting (minutes, budget, agenda). After approval of last year's minutes, the meeting voted *Lake Bank of Two Harbors* as our bank of deposit and the *Duluth News Tribune* as the official place of publication. Posting places were decided to be our *Town Hall, Scenic Café, Fire Hall #1, Lakeview Castle and North Shore Community School*. Budgets were presented by various Department heads and approved as presented (also listed in the *March Newsletter*). A citizen motion was made to increase the levy by \$6,000 for plowing/mowing at the Community Center, raising the approved Town budget for 2009 to \$332,755 (but still 1.7% lower than the approved budget for 2008). The meeting was closed (not adjourned) and a date for potential reconvening was set for Aug. 12th at 7pm should it be needed (otherwise it is cancelled). Next year's Annual Town meeting is March 10th (2nd Tues).

Community Services in Duluth Township

AA meets every Monday at 8pm at the French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road.

Clifton 4-H Club: contact Kate Edblom 525-1276

Cub Scouts: contact David Hooley 525-6617

Boy Scouts: contact Jim Atkinson

Girl Scouts: contact Julie Igo 726-4710

(Note: If other community service groups should be listed, please leave a note for the Editor at the Town Hall.)

Thank you.

The family of **Harriet Driscoll** wish to thank the many friends and neighbors who extended their condolences to us with cards, gifts, memorials and sympathy. She will be sadly missed by all. *The Driscoll family*

Thank You from Cub Scout Pack 162

Thank you to all who braved the snowdrifts to attend the Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 12th at the Duluth Town Hall. The Cub Scouts appreciate your support. Funds raised from the pancake breakfast help Scouts attend summer day camp and provide activities throughout the year. Thanks also to all the Scouts and their parents who set up, cooked, served and cleaned up. We appreciate all of you.

David Hooley, Cubmaster

AUCTION 2008 — North Shore Community School

will be holding another community auction on May 31, 2008. Please store those household, farm, and antique items for a few more weeks, so you can donate them to North Shore and support our local curriculum field trips. Cars? Boats? We'll take it! Many local businesses also donated items and services. Our goal is to earn about \$12,000, which is what we made three years ago with our first NSCS auction. This amount will last for 3 years, and allows for each grade to visit one or two local sites for hands-on learning. If you want to help with the Auction Committee, call Amy G. at 525-0663 ext 113.



Springtime in Eveleth, 2008

Flowers at the Duluth Township Lakeview Cemetery

In 2006 the Town Board decided to no longer permit artificial flowers in the Duluth Township cemetery. By the end of every summer we were ending up with a large pile of plastic flowers and pieces of flowers that had been run over by the mowing crew and that created an unsightly mess.

Instead, we are asking folks to use cemetery baskets or boxes with live flowers, or to plant spring-blooming bulbs. Live flowers in boxes are not a problem for the mowing crews, and we have installed two rain barrels to help folks keep their flowers watered (we even have a watering can available). We also encourage people to plant hardy (zone 2 or 3) spring bulbs such as daffodils and grape hyacinth, which deer typically do not eat. Thank you for helping us keep our cemetery a peaceful and beautiful place. *Dan Tanner, Town Supervisor*

The Clover Valley Locovores

Ellen O'Neill

This is a group of 30-40 folks who are interested in reducing the carbon footprint of our food related actions. This includes growing/consuming locally grown food, bartering food and goods through the use of ZOOKS, saving and exchanging seeds, sharing resources and skills to preserve, can and dry our own food, and cutting down on frequent car trips to the coop or grocery store.

We meet monthly at the Duluth Town Hall. From 4-5pm we share information and educate ourselves, and from 5-6pm we have a fabulous potluck of locally grown food and network with each other. Our next meeting is May 18th (but usually the 4th Sunday).

Please join us! For more information, contact Ellen O'Neill at sleon@cpinternet.com.

Growing soil, rotted manure, sand, gravel, rocks, big rock — **Replace that old cast iron sewer pipe** before it hits you in the dead of winter. Call for free inspection. (call Walt at 525-5092)

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Robin Whaley
834-3310

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LIGHTHOUSE
ON HOMESTEAD

Open 7 days a week at 11am

Join us for:
Sunday Brunch — 11-2
Wednesday: All you can eat
Fish Fry 4-9pm
5730 Homestead Road • 525-4525

Paid Advertisement

WANTED — Church Choir Director *French River Lutheran Church* is seeking a director for the adult choir. Rehearsal on Wed. eve, one Sunday service. Position available Sept. 2008. Responsibilities 5-6 hrs/week, Sept-May. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications. Send resume to French River Lutheran Church, 5310 Ryan Road, Duluth, MN 55804.

Paid Advertisement

Comments from the Chair

Dave Mount, Town Board Chair

Hello everyone — at the urging of the Newsletter Editor, this is the first of what is intended to be regular Newsletter contributions from the Chair of the Town Board. The tradition on the Town Board has been to rotate the Chair responsibilities around among Town Board members, and this year I am taking over from Dan Tanner who completed two years of excellent service as Chair.

This spring continues to be a very busy time in the Township. While there are too many things to discuss in one short article, I wanted to especially call your attention to some upcoming activities relating to our Duluth Township Community Center (DTCC) on Ryan Road, which also houses our North Shore Community School (NSCS).

In May, we will be kicking off an effort to plan for the future of the grounds at the DTCC, which is a 40 acre property. The grounds are already used for both educational and recreational purposes by many residents and students at the school. We are looking to further develop the facilities at the DTCC to make it an even more valuable resource for our Township.

Over the years our NSCS has been very successful at obtaining grant money to invest in the building and grounds and, most recently, secured a \$75,000 grant from Louisiana-Pacific to fund several improvements to the property, including a picnic pavilion and outdoor restrooms. With this, we have a chance to really enhance the DTCC at no cost at all to Township residents, and we want to make sure we make the most of the opportunity.

Please help by bringing your views and ideas to the public meeting on May 28th at 7:00pm at the DTCC/NSCS building.

In addition, we're looking for volunteers for a steering committee to coordinate the planning. More details can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter (*see insert*). Thanks for reading and have a great Spring.

**Estimated Total Market Value
Of Property in Duluth Township**

2007	\$ 205,503,700	<i>up 10% from 2006</i>
2006	\$ 186,365,300	<i>up 20% from 2005</i>
2005	\$ 155,302,100	<i>up 17% from 2004</i>
2004	\$ 132,499,100	<i>up 24% from 2003</i>
2003	\$ 107,141,700	<i>up 16% from 2002</i>
2002	\$ 92,237,300	

The County Assessor's office provided the 2007 total market value which is shown with earlier year comparisons. The total for 2007 is divided between land (\$82,552,300) and buildings (\$122,951,400). They indicated earlier this year that sales, although slower, were not down significantly from last year.

Duluth Township MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

honoring past and current service personnel at our Township Cemetery — *Palmers Lakeview Cemetery* — on Old North Shore Road East of Homestead Road, starting at **11am on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th**. Honoring comments will be by Bill Aho. There is a Scout flag ceremony, music, etc. Please attend. For further information, contact George Sundstrom.

Planning Points

John Kessler, Assistant Planning Director

After having published two essays in our short series about the new ordinance provisions, we are happy to report that it is being read, and questions are being fielded. Thanks for the response!

Egg on our face, though: we didn't start at the beginning! When any request for new or expanded use of any parcel of land in any governmental jurisdiction is received or even brought up for discussion, the **first question** to be answered is: "*Is the use allowed in the zone district where requested?*" If "no", the discussion is pretty much over. If "yes", then the plan is looked at closely to make sure that the detailed plan meets the dimensional requirements for footprint on the land in that district.

If so, and the application is complete, here in Duluth Township, a "Land Use Permit" is issued that only governs the size and placement of new use on the land.

In many larger places, cities for sure, one large additional question comes into play if the use in the zone is okay: "Is the plan designed to meet building code specifications established for that zone?" If so, in the jurisdictions where the codes are in place and met, a "building permit" is issued, and the construction is inspected as it proceeds. Duluth Township simply does not do this, and consequently has a much lower fee structure for only land use permitting.

SIGN: a simple, short word, but a much longer subject. Since one essay probably wouldn't be enough to cover it, we'll start in this issue and continue in the next.

"Sign" is defined in our ordinance as a device implemented to inform or attract attention. Everyone understands that much, for certain. The problem is that some signage devices are useful and absolutely necessary, others are not. The reason they are regulated here is that the citizens of the community sincerely want to keep the natural rural scenic beauty intact, provide important needed information to the public in safe and non-hazardous ways, and certainly keep visual clutter to an absolute minimum (we all have a good idea of that image).

What is NOT allowed?

Off-site signs, that is, one not on the parcel or service location being promoted. A sign obstructing official signs or traffic intersections, or saying "STOP" or "DANGER". A sign painted on rocks, trees, poles or abandoned buildings. A sign located in any public right-of-way. A sign that is structurally unsafe or in disrepair.

The simple rule is that all on-site signs require permits, with some exceptions and conditions which we'll discuss in the next issue: stay tuned!

The Lost Logging Engine of Duluth Township

Todd Lindahl

Over the many years that I've been involved in collecting the history of our region, I've heard many accounts of lost logging locomotives in the woods. In most cases the stories are simply that, just stories. In some ways they bear a certain familiar resemblance to tales of Bigfoot or some long-lost cache of treasure. Nonetheless, I have learned to never dismiss anything out of hand without at least some consideration of the account. Often a story that might be a bit askew as recounted may actually have some underlying basis in fact.

Duluth Township is no stranger to logging railroads. Both the Minnesota & Northern Wisconsin Railroad (Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company) and the Duluth & Northern Minnesota Railway (Alger-Smith Lumber Company) had numerous branch lines and spurs within Duluth Township. Therefore, I was not too surprised to hear about a lost logging engine there too. After a second source mentioned the locomotive in the very same location, I became curious. It was an easy matter to locate the landowner and I promptly paid him a visit. The fellow had purchased the land just after he and his wife were married. Much to his surprise, he soon found a large steel wheeled steam tractor abandoned in the woods at the back of his property. Since his vocation was boilermaker, it became immediately evident to him that the machine was still in pristine condition. Incredibly, even the glass in the steam gauge was intact yet. An examination of the boiler tubes showed that they too were in excellent shape. In all likelihood, the tractor may have been in a condition where it could have been run again with little effort or expense.

Unfortunately, the newly weds needed cash more than a steam tractor and reluctantly they sold the old relic to a scrap dealer from Duluth. He told me it was a decision he regretted ever since, but had little choice at the time.

So, the legend of the lost logging engine was still safe along with Bigfoot and all of that hidden treasure. The steam locomotive in this case was in reality a steam tractor and thus did have some basis in fact. It was for me another lesson in always keeping an open mind.

WANTED: Planning & Zoning Secretary

Our Township is seeking applicants for the Secretary to the Township Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission. Jeanne Anderson, the current secretary, will be leaving the Township this summer; we are very sorry to see her go, but this presents an opportunity for another resident to get involved with our Township.

The P&Z secretary is responsible for taking minutes at P&Z meetings and public hearings, processing paperwork associated with land use permits and other permits issued by P&Z, distributing information to the Commission members and department staff, filing and office work, and supporting the activities of the Planning Director and Assistant Planning Director.

Time requirements are estimated at 15 hours per month, which includes preparing for and attending the monthly P&Z meetings. Compensation is \$150/month plus an additional \$10/hour for additional meetings or special duties. The position requires basic computer and office skills, good interpersonal skills, and either experience or willingness to learn computer skills associated with web pages and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

To apply, please send a letter of interest along with a brief resume or other descriptive information by **May 16th** to: *Town Clerk, Re: P&Z Secretary, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804*, or email them to townclerk@lakenet.com.

Working with the Township is a great way to contribute to our community and meet other residents, please give it some thought!

Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District

D/NSSD Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7 in the morning at French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road. The public is welcome. For sewer service, contact **Eric Appelwick**, Northeast Technical Services, 624-8042, cell: 590-5911, Email: eapelwick@nettechnical.com.

Senior Housing Initiative

Dave Edblom, Chair

The Committee is exploring options for creating affordable housing alternatives for local senior citizens who would prefer to live in the Township near friends and family.

The Committee is awaiting results of a County study which will help determine support that the County might offer. The study has been delayed but is expected sometime in March, well, now May! We will also be discussing various site possibilities. If you have land suggestions, let us know. We are discussing coop housing alternatives and getting information from firms who have built coop senior housing.

No meetings are planned until the County survey report is available. Regular meeting times are the second Monday each month at 7pm in the Town Hall. Interested residents are welcome.

Building Assessment Team (BAT)

Supervisor Steve Dahl, Co-Chair

The BAT is working on a Comprehensive Plan for both the Building and Grounds at our Community Center. A public open house will be held on May 28th (*see insert*). There will be another meeting with the Town Board scheduled for Tuesday, May 6th, 7pm in the school library at the Community Center. Interested residents are being sought for a steering committee for site planning.

Volunteers are needed to help with recreation fields this summer (incl. baseball)

At the last meeting with the Town Board, information about possible financial scenarios and needs were discussed. The Board agreed to expend up to \$15,000 from the Community Center Capital Improvement Fund to further planning of expansion and improvements to the Community Center. Ways to involve the public were also discussed.

The BAT regularly meets the first Tuesday at 7pm in the school library at the Community Center on Ryan Road.

Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

(Official minutes by Planning Commission Secretary Jeanne Anderson are available at the Town Hall and on our Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org)

January 24th meeting. Members Chura, Green, Hendrickson, Kahl, Levanen and Miller were present.

Worden short term rental conditional use public hearing was held concerning property at 5249 Greenwood Road. Short term rental had gone on and there were some complaints. After considerable discussion, the Board approved a short term rental conditional use permit for 2 yrs with 11 conditions including quiet hours, 7-day rental minimum, screening, a local manager, etc. Our new Planning Director, Sue Lawson, reported. The area of impact designation for a conditional use application by Great River Energy for a communication pole was set at 1/2 mile. The budget for 2009 was discussed (set at \$16k, same as this year although revenue from permits has dropped). The Commission will work on planning in addition to zoning this year.

February 28th meeting. Members Green, Hendrickson, Kahl, Levanen and Miller were present.. Adam Hendrickson's term is ending and he was thanked and presented a plaque to mark his 6 years of service. The Commission asked Greg Schendel of Odyssey Development to conduct another Community Participation process regarding their, now, subdivision for Stoney Point. St Louis County and our zoning rules were explained and needs of the Commission were noted. A public open house for March 26th and public hearing on April 24th were scheduled. It was noted that the Planning Director does not vote at hearings. Communication agreements were adopted (see box).

March 27th meeting. Members Chura, Green, Kahl, Miller and Rufford were present.

Great River Energy communication tower (61ft wood pole) hearing was held with Peter Schaub presenting their community participation report (no concerns received). A motion to accept the conditional use was approved. Officers were elected: Dave Chura, chair and Michael Kahl, vice chair. Dave Miller will be the representative to serve on the Board of Adjustment.

Director's report: Erosion management delineation effort by North Shore Management Board, the ARDC effort to delineate "nodes" of population on the North Shore, and noted the State of the Coast conference May 1st. There is a collaboration of the Town Board and the School on developing a master site plan for the Community Center. It uses a Louisiana-Pacific \$75k grant to improve grounds, and help from the University of Minnesota *Center for Changing Landscapes*. School kids will be involved in the planning.

Ulanowski wants to split her property into 2 lots, creating one non-conforming lot. A variance hearing will be scheduled.

Bill Lannon and Paul Voge applied for the Planning Commission. The Town Board will interview them.

The Commission indicated an interest in scheduling a no-cost Community Alternative Dispute Resolution training workshop (set for Town Hall, 7pm, May 12th).

Stoney Point development — Commission needed information was listed. The Open House was well attended with many questions raised by residents and answered. Legal council will be asked to attend the public hearing.

Dodges Log Lodges is creating a Common Interest Community. There is concern that the property not be split up and that Township interests are maintained.

April 24th meeting. All members present.

Odyssey Development Public Hearing. The request for approval of a subdivision (Township input to St Louis County who handle approval of subdivisions) and 5 variances was presented and public testimony was received. After considerable discussion the Commission approved the 8-lot subdivision which meets Township zoning requirements. The variances needed were to clear shore land, grade the bluff to a 3:1 slope, and re-vegetate the area, plus a variance to site proposed homes to approximately 100 feet from the shore. Considerable discussion of the variance requests ensued. Ultimately the Commission denied the variance requests in a 5-2 vote. After other updating of coming issues, the meeting adjourned.

The Next Planning Committee meetings: (4th Thursday) May 22nd and June 26th at 7pm in the Town Hall.

Special hearings are posted at the Town Hall.

Residents are urged to attend these public meetings.

Township Meeting Etiquette — The Planning Commission adopted a set of agreements about respectfully communicating with each other. It emphasizes that we all have something to learn from each other and need to remind ourselves to listen respectfully — not interrupting, not judging someone's ideas or experience, sharing time and space equally, describing the problem or issue and not characterizing the person, and not making negative attributions about the beliefs, values and motives of others. It helps to remind ourselves of these agreements about how we prefer to communicate in Duluth Township meetings.

Note that there is a free conflict resolution training workshop presented by the *Center for Rural Planning*, for leaders and others in our Township on May 12th at 7pm.



ATTENTION PARENTS OF 3, 4 AND 5 YEAR OLDS

NSCS Pre-school is now taking registrations for 2008-2009. 1-day, 2-day, 3-day AM or PM classes are again being offered. Classes begin mid-September and end mid-May. A \$25.00 registration fee will hold a spot for your child. *Contact Kathy Johnson at 525-0663 ext 106.*

Summary of Town Board Meetings

(Official minutes by Town Clerk Ann Cox are available at the Town Hall and on our Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org).

February 14th meeting. All Supervisors present. The Treasurer reported an ending balance of \$751,380.60. Supervisors will meet with the Building Assessment Team (BAT) to discuss long range plans and options for financing at the Community Center building. Two applicants for Community Education were received. Legal advice will be sought on "green burials" at our cemetery. **Department Reports:** *Fire:* A FEMA grant for \$161,900 (5% match) was received for a new vehicle to replace our old "milk truck" tanker. *Road and Bridge:* The County was requested to include us in its class 5 gravel bid. This will result in a lowering of this part of our grading contract. After the spring road review the School District 381 Superintendent will discuss the North Bergquist road issue. *Planning:* Reorganization of the administrative staff and procedures is being discussed. The Valhalla Village project has been terminated. Stormwater duties will be moved from the Town Board to Planning. *Legal:* Met with Supervisor Cook and Planning Director Lawson on road ordinances and reviewed the tree harvesting contract at the Community Center site. A letter responding to Dodges Log Lodges indicated a PUD request is not needed if the cabins are never split into single parcels. *Community Center:* McCabe will do the limited timber harvesting as part of an educational project with the school. Lawn mowing and snow plowing will be managed and contracted by the NSCS. A site planning process is needed.

March 4th meeting with BAT. All Supervisors attended. BAT's activities were presented. Supervisor Mount presented information about the Community Center Capital Improvement Fund. Pay as you go rather than borrowing was favored to finance improvements/additions. Based on projections, approximately \$550,000 would be available for expansion with a continued reserve in the fund of about \$123,000. Given assumptions, this would allow for about 900 sq ft classrooms and some added storage. Two classrooms and storage are needed. We need to carefully plan. Expending up to \$15,000 from the Community Center Capital Improvement Fund to further plan for expansion and improvement of the Community Center was approved.

March 13th Board of Canvass meeting. Supervisors Cook, Mount and Dahl attended. The vote tabulation at the March 11th Township election was accepted.

March 13th meeting. All Supervisors attended. *Audience concerns:* Mr. Rajavouri's cattle have been out again. The Board will write a letter assisting Mr. Nesgoda on this continuing issue. *Treasurer:* ending balance \$744,808.21 **Department Reports:** *Police:* There were 54 events in February. *Fire:* Chief Engelson will contact Alden about their fire coverage share for their 2009 levy. *Roads:* The Gamble Road signs have been stolen. *Planning:* North Shore Management Board is working on an erosion hazards map for the shore. A master site development plan for the Community Center is being developed. *Community Center:* Timber project

is complete. NSCS was awarded a Louisiana-Pacific grant for about \$75,000 for projects on the school grounds. Abby Ferazzi has been hired as Community Education Director. A letter seeking bids for designs and conceptual plans for needs at the Community Center will be sent to architectural firms. Supervisors Meierhoff and Mount were asked to solicit grant funding to have the MN Center for Changing Landscapes help develop a master plan for the site. *Recycling:* Ice buildup by the shed is a problem and salt and sand are needed. WLSSD will be asked to raise the shed.

April 10th meeting. All Supervisors attended. There were no concerns from the audience. Treasurer: \$26,174.12 deposits, \$47,308.84 expenses, balance \$723,601.49.

Lake County Ambulance Service is seeking to create a special tax levy district so they can charge households an annual \$3-9/\$100k valuation tax for ambulance service. This would include part of our Township along an arbitrary line. They currently are paid mileage when they respond. Our options are to sign or not sign their resolution. The matter was tabled until May.

Department Reports: *Police:* New squad vehicle acquired. *Fire:* 1 medical call. Liability insurance will be examined regarding participation in the Two Harbors parade. *Roads:* Supervisor Cook will continue to call the County to order calcium chloride for our roads. *Planning:* Worden conditional use permit was granted, however there was a violation on another structure, a letter was written and they have not changed their web site. The Attorney will send Alan Nelson an enforcement letter regarding building a structure without a land use permit and apparent refusal to apply for a permit. A \$1,032 Coastal Program grant was received to purchase projection equipment for the Town. *Legal:* Work with Supervisors Cook and Mount on a draft road ordinance is proceeding. *Town Hall:* To support ride sharing, 4 places have been designated for ride share parking in the Town Hall lot (see article). Roofing bids are being sought. *Community Center:* Supervisors Meierhoff and Mount were empowered to sign with the Center for Changing Landscapes on developing a site plan. Funding is \$5k from the Coastal Program, \$3k from the Township and the balance from the Community Center fund. *Recycling:* DNR will send a letter requesting our south shed.

April 14th special meeting. Supervisors Dahl, Meierhoff, Mount and Tanner attended as did Planning Director Lawson and Planning Chair Chura. Applicants for the Planning Commission vacancy were interviewed. The Town Board hired Bill Lannon by closed ballot (3-1).

April 16th Program of Work meeting. All Supervisors attended. The meeting is designed to discuss work for the year and assign responsibilities (see page 7). Dave Mount was selected as Chair and Wendy Meierhoff as Vice Chair. This year primary and alternate assignments were made. Supervisor Cook will do the road inspection. Needs for the Community Center master site planning process were discussed.

**The Next Town Board meetings: (2nd Thursday)
May 8th and Apr 12th at 7pm in the Town Hall.
Residents are urged to attend these public meetings**

Duluth Township Information

Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804
Phone (218) 525-5705 (voice message),
fax (218) 525-3845, web site: www.duluthtownship.org.
or Email: TownHall@duluthtownship.org

Town Office Hours: Tues. and Wed. 8:30am-12am
Thursday 9am-12 and 4-6pm

Planning Office Hours: Secretary: Wed. 9:30-11:30am
Administrator Assistant: Wed. 3:30-6:30pm

Supervisors:

- Jeff Cook**, (2006-2009) 525-4010
or Email: JeffCook@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Road & Bridge, Police, McQuade Harbor, Board of Adjustment)
- Stephen Dahl**, (2007-2010) 525-4679 or
Email: SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Recreation Facilities, Duluth Assn of Townships, BAT, Community Center)
- Wendy Meierhoff** (2008-2011) **Vice Chair** 525-0263
or Email: Wendy@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Newsletter, Website, Community Education, Personnel, BAT, Senior Housing, Community Center)
- Dave Mount** (2007-2010) **Board Chair** 525-7961
or Email: DaveMount@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Town Board Chair, Town Hall, Personnel, Planning & Zoning, BAT, North Shore Management Board)
- Dan Tanner** (2008-2011) 525-4087
or Email: DanTanner@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Cemetery, Fire Dept, RSPT, MPCA, Annual SSSP)

Town Clerk: **Ann K. Cox** 525-5705 (Town Hall)
or Email: TownClerk@duluthtownship.org

Treasurer: **Janet Johansen** 525-5705 (Town Hall)
or Email: TownTreasurer@duluthtownship.org

Attorney: **Tim Strom** 722-4766 (office)
or Email: TownAttorney@duluthtownship.org

Cemetery: **Denise Connolly** 525-7161 or 525-1902
or Email: Cemetery@duluthtownship.org

Planning Director: Sue Lawson

Assistant Director: **John Kessler** 393-8500,
Email: JohnKessler@duluthtownship.org

Planning and Zoning Secretary: **Jeanne Anderson**, 493-8500
Email: PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org

Planning and Zoning Commission: **Dave Chura** (Chair),
Jan Green, **Michael Kahl** (Vice Chair), **Bill Lannon**,
Seth Levanen **Dave Miller**, and **Yvonne Rutford**
Email: PlanningZonng@duluthtownship.org

Peace Officers: **Chief Shawn Padden**,
Officers: Mike Peterson and Steve Peterson.
Emergencies 9-1-1, Messages 525-5705 or 393-8407
Email: DuluthTwpPolice@duluthtownship.org

Fire Department: **Chief Bob Engelson**, **Assistant Chief**
Will Hartman Email: FireHall@duluthtownship.org

Community Education Coordinator: **Abby Ferazzi**
Email: EducCoordinator@duluthtownship.org

Note: Where possible, email is forwarded to the person, otherwise it is sent to the Town Hall where it is picked up.

Township Calendar

See updates on www.duluthtownship.org.
Official calendar is posted at the Town Hall.

—MAY 2008—

- 6, Tue, 7:00 **BAT** committee, NSCS library meeting with Town Board on planning.
- 7, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meet, Town Hall
- 7, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- 8, Thu, 7pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
- 12, Mon, 7pm Conflict Resolution & Leadership Training session by CRP, Town Hall.
- 14, Wed, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 18, Sun, 4pm Clover Valley Locovores, (see article)
- 19, Mon, 6:30pm **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library
- 21, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** training, Hall #1
- 22, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
- 26, Mon, 11am **Memorial Day** Ceremony, Lakeview Cemetery on Old North Shore Road.
- 28, Wed 7pm **Master Site Plan** for Community Center/ NSCS School **Open House**, at our Community Center (see insert)
- 29, Thu, Office Closed.
- 31, Sat. NSCS School Auction

—JUNE 2008—

- 3, Tue, 7pm **BAT** committee, NSCS library
- 4, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's**, Town Hall
- 4, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
- 11, Wed, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 12, Thu, 7pm **TOWN BOARD**, Organization meeting, Town Hall
- 16, Mon, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library
- 18, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** training, Hall#1
- 22, Sun, 4pm Clover Valley Locovores,
- 26, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

—JULY 2008—

- 1, Tue, 7pm **BAT** committee, NSCS library
- 2, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meet, Town Hall
- 2, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- 9, Wed, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 10, Thu, 7pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall.
- 16, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** Training Hall
- 21, Mon, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library.
- 23, Mon, Deadline for July Newsletter
- 24, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
- 27, Sun, 4pm Clover Valley Locovores,

Township Recycling Center

North site – at the *Town Hall*, on *Homestead Road*
Staffing by **Carolyn Marino** and **Al Anderson**, **Marlys Livingston**, and **Kathy Peer** **Tuesday 7-11am, 2-6pm,**
Thursday: Nov-March 2-6pm, April-Oct 3-7pm
and Saturday 8-noon.

Below freeway curb recycling pickup service is now available.
(Drop off only during recycling hours)

Clifton Volunteer Fire Department

Bob Engelson, Chief

Annual officer elections were held: Bill Cox, President; Ann Cox, Treasurer; Sherry Rovig, Secretary; Bob Engelson, Chief; Keith Darsow, Assistant Chief; Will Hartman, 1st Captain; Neal Myrdal, 2nd Captain; Jerry Simmons, 3rd Captain. Everett Schwartz was voted a probationary member. He responds to our calls and helps out by marking driveways and directing traffic.

New Tanker Grant from FEMA — Much effort has been put into developing bid specifications for the new tanker. Bids will be acted on soon so that the vehicle can be ordered. We have a one-year limit to spend the grant funds.

Burning Permits required — You will need a burning permit if you need to burn brush/etc. Note that there is usually a period of time in the spring when there is a total burning ban due to dry conditions.

Volunteer Fire Fighters — The *Clifton Volunteer Fire Department* needs residents who would like to be a volunteer firefighter. It's a great way to serve your community. Call Chief **Bob Engelson**, 525-6819.

Police Department

Shawn Padden, Chief

New Police Vehicle — The new squad vehicle has been delivered and the old one is up for sale. If you are interested in the 2003 4wd 5.3L v8 Tahoe w/94k, call Shawn Padden at 393-8407.

Crime Alerts. Our Police Department maintains an **E-mail Crime Alert** service (it is also on our web site). To receive notices send your email address to PoliceOffice@duluthtownship.org.

The latest Crime Alert was about a series of burglaries along the shore in the Knife River area. Please report any suspicious activity.

Who to call: 911 for all emergencies

For Messages and non-emergency information:

Duluth Township Police: 393-8407 or 525-5705

St Louis County 911 office: 727-8770 (and to order replacement "fire number" signs).



Mailed to 935 Duluth Township homes and businesses. Copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send your comments and suggestions to the volunteer *Newsletter* editor, Don McTavish at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 or use the *NewsBox* on the Town Hall porch. The Newsletter is printed locally by Bob Sundstrom, **BB&K Printing**, and mailed for us by **UDAC**.

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

MAY 2008

Inside this Issue:

- Township **Calendar**
- What's Coming Up
- Community Center Site Planning
- Town Board & Planning Meetings
- Police and Fire Information
- "Planning Points" on zoning
- Community Services
- *Lost Logging Engine*
- Planning Secretary opening



Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

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If your name and address are in error or you know of someone who is not receiving a Newsletter, please send a note to the Newsletter Editor at the Town Hall (News box on the Town Hall porch). Extra copies are also available in the Town Hall.

You are invited

Community Wide Open House

Master Site Plan for

North Shore Community School / Duluth Township Community Center

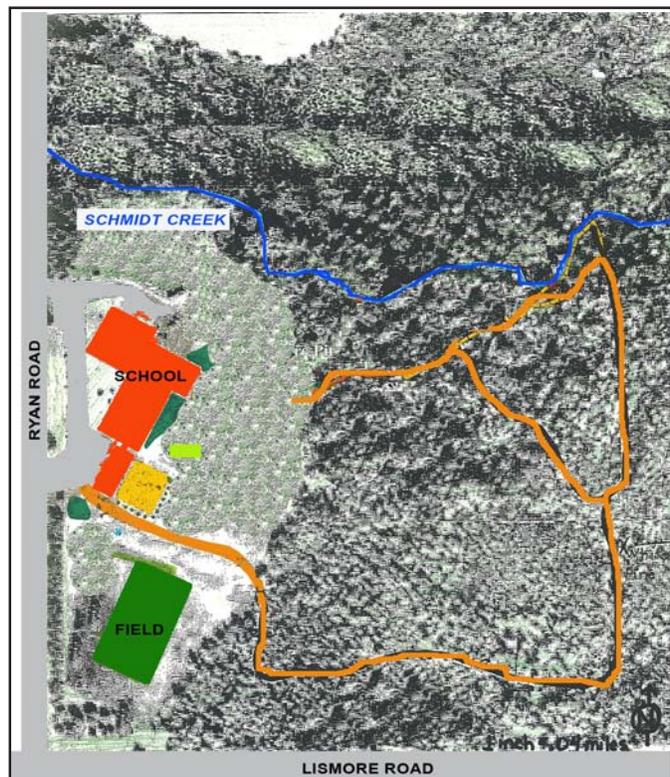
May 28, 2008, 7:00 PM

North Shore Community School

The *Duluth Town Board of Supervisors* in collaboration with the *North Shore Community School* is developing a Master Site Plan for the Community Center/School grounds.

The *purpose of the Open House* is to develop a plan for the development of the grounds that maximizes its value to the community as an educational, social, recreational, ecological, and sustainable resource.

The *purpose of the Master Site Plan* is to efficiently, effectively, and sustainably plan for the future of this valuable community asset.



We need your help, please.....

*Attend the Open House
and
share your ideas!!*

Volunteer to be appointed to the Steering Committee!

Site planning will start in May and is expected to be completed by September. Steering Committee members will be expected to attend four to five meetings, steer the design formulation in conjunction with the community-wide meetings that will be held, represent the community's interests, and recommend a preferred design.

If you are interested in being on the Steering Committee contact the Town Board by May 16th.

Email: townclerk@lakenet.com

Phone: 525.5705.

Muddy streams are not solely the work of Mother Nature

How well are we protecting northern Minnesota's water quality?

By Valerie Brady and June Kallestad, Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota Duluth (Brady is an aquatic ecologist and Duluth Township resident)

Can you imagine breathing air that's so polluted you can hardly see through it? You breathe in and bits of dirt clog your throat. In the dirty haze you miss the turn into the grocery store. Your house is covered in, and becomes filled with, dirt that settles over it.

That is what it's like for fish and bugs eking out a living in a muddy stream. Scientists call it "excessive suspended sediment" and this year's stormy spring just exacerbates the problem. Sand, silt, and clay from exposed soil and construction sites are common sediments that get into streams—especially during heavy rainfalls and spring snow melt.

Local aquatic ecologists are working to get people to understand their role in taking care of the streams, otherwise there's little hope to keep them clean.

Many residents live in northeastern Minnesota because of the beauty of the natural surroundings, but they don't realize that each person has an impact. As more and more people move into the area, there is more stormwater runoff from the land.

It seems strange that streams need to be protected from too much water, but the higher stream levels after rain storms cause clay stream banks to erode much faster than they would naturally. When forests are turned into lawns, roads, and neighborhoods, less rain soaks into the ground and more rain flows straight into the streams. Yes, even lawns create more runoff than forests. And climatologists are forecasting more and heavier rainstorms with high runoff over the next 30-50 years, which makes it even more important to watch what washes into the streams and Lake Superior.

So far, 12 streams flowing into Lake Superior from Minnesota's north shore have been designated as "impaired," many because of their excessive muddiness, or turbidity. And this number may increase as the problem is investigated on more streams.

Sediments are a natural part of streams and other water bodies. Even the least disturbed streams in undeveloped watersheds will run muddy when the water is high if they flow through areas with clay soils. However, excessive sediments in streams and rivers are considered to be the major cause of surface water pollution in the United States, followed by pathogens and nutrients.

What is the muddy water hurting?

Some insects and fish are visual hunters and the reduced clarity makes finding food more difficult for them. The visual cues of courtship and mating can also be affected and impair reproduction.

Fine particulates in the water can clog sensitive fish gills and scour the algal and microbial life on rocks. As sand, silt, and clay particles settle on the bottom, they can suffocate fish eggs and interfere with larval and adult fish and aquatic insect feeding activities. Spaces between rocks are filled by settling sediments reducing fish spawning areas and habitat for bugs.

Dark, muddy waters also absorb more heat from sunlight making the waters warmer, which is made worse by the hot water that runs off parking lots and roads, and by the removal of trees and plants along the stream banks. The beloved trout streams of the north shore are especially vulnerable to heat because trout are a cold-water species.

Okay, we want to keep our streams clean. What can we do? There are many things, but a few easy ones are listed here:

- Minimize erosion on land with responsible construction practices and landscaping—keep exposed dirt from running off construction sites and yards. Try to get dirt seeded quickly or cover it with plastic before it rains.
- Solid, impervious surfaces run warm, dirty water down ditches and straight into streams, so catch as much of it as you can off your roof and driveway before it gets to the stream with rain barrels and rain gardens that slowly infiltrate the water into the soil. Studies show that streams with more than 10 percent solid surface in their watershed are more likely to have degraded water quality and habitat.
- Don't sweep or dump dirt (or anything else) into the gutter or catch basins on your street. Sweep dirt and lawn clippings off your driveway and onto your lawn or into a trash can before they get washed away. Everything we put in the gutter or the ditch ends up in a stream.

How clean are the streams near your house? Take a walk after a decent rainstorm. If the water is more than just a little muddy, it's polluted with sediments. The more muddy—and the less rain it takes to make it muddy—the larger the problem. The good news is that we can all help protect the water quality from excessive rain runoff.

Read more about it at LakeSuperiorStreams.org.