

# Town of Canosia Newsletter

Volume 24 Issue 66

Fall 2018

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## LAND USE PLANNING & ZONING CONSIDERATIONS

Canosia Township adopted its first Zoning Ordinance in 1976, about the same time that St. Louis County was beginning its efforts in regulating zoning. Since that time, our ordinance has continued to evolve in parallel with the county's efforts and we have amended the ordinance ten times to keep it current with the increasing complexity of federal, state, county and local changes.

We are one of five townships in St. Louis County that administers its own zoning. Our ordinance is required to be at least as restrictive as the County Zoning Ordinance so our ordinance is fashioned after the county ordinance with few exceptions that are unique in Canosia requiring more restrictive rules. The current Zoning Ordinance was adopted on January 1, 2017. The town board recently reviewed potential amendments that may be included in the next ordinance update. During the review, we asked what the pros and cons would be for the county to do our zoning as they do in most other townships. Ongoing legal fees for ordinance enforcement have been a major expense for Canosia.

The town board decided to explore this option further and obtain more information by inviting Mary Anderson, the St. Louis County Land Use Manager, to the September town board meeting to provide information on the benefits and the process to follow if we were to make such a change. Mary explained that the county neither advocates for or against Canosia rescinding their ordinance and allowing the county to administer the zoning, but she did provide some of the pros and cons for those present to consider. She provided the following:

- The county has two offices (Duluth & Virginia) with a staff of six full-time planners.
- Permits can be obtained on-line or through a paper process.
- Land use permits are issued from the Duluth office.
- The turnaround for land use permits is normally a couple of days.
- Conditional use and variance hearings are mostly held at the Virginia office because it is central to the county, but are sometimes held in Duluth if all the cases on that date are from the southern part of the county.
- County zoning services are provided at no cost to the township.
- The county has the same permit fees as Canosia currently.
- County administration of zoning avoids any perception of favoritism or neighbors bossing neighbors.
- Overlay districts can be established to provide special regulations if needed for townships, lakes, etc. if requested by the township.
- Canosia residents can serve on the County Planning Committee or the County Zoning Board of Adjustment.
- A Township can adopt its own zoning ordinance again if the need arises.

The town board wishes to continue to explore this option by getting input from Canosia residents about making this change. A public hearing will be held on October 30, 2018, at 7 p.m. at the Canosia Town Hall to consider rescinding our current Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan. A county representative will also be present to provide information and answer our questions. Please plan to attend to learn more about this option and provide your input. *(continued on page 2)*

## **SHOULD ST. LOUIS COUNTY ADMINISTER THE TOWNSHIP'S PLANNING & ZONING?**

**Let us know your  
thoughts!**

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

Tuesday, October 30  
7 p.m.  
Canosia Town Hall  
4896 Midway Rd.

**PLANNING & ZONING CONTINUED...**

(Contd. from Page 1) After receiving the public input and considering the evidence presented, the board must decide whether to keep our ordinance or accept the county zoning ordinance and comprehensive plan. If a decision is made to move forward with the township allowing the county to administer the zoning, the change could be in place for the 2019 construction season.

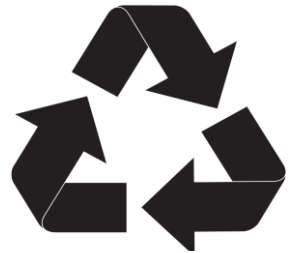
The board is not considering this change because what we have done in the past was the wrong thing. We have very dedicated residents doing a great job of serving our Township as the P&Z Director, P&Z Secretary, P&Z Commission members and Board of Adjustment members and the ordinance has served us well in the development of our town. We can be proud of how well our past and present volunteers have been able to learn and deal with routine and complex land use issues. But now we must consider whether the right thing for us, at this time, with our current needs, is to continue the extra expenses to duplicate the county's efforts or to allow the county to administer the zoning for our township.

- Kurt Brooks, Town Supervisor and P&Z Chair

**NEW RECYCLING OPTION!**

You can now recycle your **PLASTIC BAGS** at the township recycling shed! To determine if your plastic "film" items are recyclable, try this simple test: push your finger into it and see if it stretches. If so, we can accept it. This includes grocery bags, frozen veggie bags and packaging from items like toilet paper. One big exception to that rule: black garbage bags are just garbage.

Please make sure all plastic film items are clean and dry and all hard plastic handles or zip closures are cut off. **Our recycling center is open Tue/Thu 5 -8 p.m. & Sat. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

During first nine months of the year, the Canosia Volunteer Fire Department responded to 155 calls. This includes 107 medical emergencies within our township, 17 Canosia fire calls and 22 mutual aid fires. Thank you to all of our 20+ active volunteers! We are very lucky to have such a great group of highly trained professionals.

Thanks to an extremely generous posthumous donation from a Canosia resident, the FD was able to purchase two thermal imaging cameras, like the one pictured on the right.

These high-tech devices will assist the firefighters during both active fires and search & rescue efforts.



FD Thermal Imaging Camera

**MEETING DATE CHANGE**

The Canosia Town Board will hold its November meeting on Thursday, Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. instead of Wednesday, Nov. 7.

## ROAD REPORT

All of the scheduled Road Projects have been completed for 2018. Our gravel roads are in great shape heading into the fall and winter. 2019 will be another busy year in Canosia with the following Road Projects proposed and approved. South Pike Lake Road, Shady Lane, Holly Lane, and Spruce Lane are scheduled for a Scrub Seal in 2019.

In addition, Kehtel Road, Vaud Road, and Lakeway Drive will be striped in 2019. We will continue to monitor conditions of all gravel roads, adding gravel, grading and any other needed work to keep them in good driving condition. We will also be inspecting and potentially replacing culverts. This process will begin in the Spring of 2019.

Are there still things we can do to better serve our residents? Yes, always. We have met with the St Louis County Engineers and are working on a five-year program for road improvements moving forward. Please follow the developments on the Canosia Website. With that being said, we will continue to listen the concerns from our residents, and strive to make our roads safe for our residents.

Below is an email received from Victor Lund, St. Louis County Traffic Engineer, commenting on the progress Canosia has made with respect to our Traffic Sign Policy, Replacement of all Township Traffic Signs to meet the legal standard, and the effort we have taken to be proactive in our Township Road Program.

Thank You,  
Kevin L. Comnick Canosia Supervisor

KIND WORDS FROM  
THE COUNTY!

Over the past year, I have noticed that Canosia Township has made great accomplishments on the maintenance of its township roads by replacing its traffic signs, developing a traffic sign policy, and working with St. Louis County to perform preventative pavement maintenance such as chip seals and crack seals. I can say with confidence that Canosia Township has proven itself to be a leader in maintaining its roads for its citizens. I wanted to send you a quick note to encourage the Township to keep up the great work. I would encourage you to read this email at a Town Board meeting as a way of expressing my appreciation for the Township's leadership.

Keep up the great work!  
**Victor Lund, PE, Traffic Engineer**  
St. Louis County, MN

## AIS REPORT



It was another successful summer of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) inspections at Pike and Caribou Lakes. Our inspection program ran from the fishing opener until Labor Day. As you know, the program's goal is to increase public awareness of AIS. Hopefully this will help stop the spread of Pike Lake's zebra mussels as well as prevent other species from coming into our waterways.

The CD3 station at the Pike Lake landing (pictured left) saw significant use this summer as well. The company reports there have been "1,909 actions taken" by the public. The top three tools were the wet/dry vacuum, the air blower and the grabber.

## ELECTION NEWS!

The General Election is Tuesday, November 6. Polls at the Canosia Town Hall will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The following races will be on the ballot this year:

- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Senator (Special Election)
- U.S. Representative (District 8)
- Governor & Lt. Governor
- Secretary of State
- State Auditor
- Attorney General
- State Representative (District 3B)
- Judicial Offices (Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and 6<sup>th</sup> District Court)
- County Auditor
- County Sheriff
- County Attorney
- South Soil & Water Conservation District positions
- School Board (for both our Proctor and Hermantown ISD voters)



We are expecting a very large turnout on November 6. To avoid the crowds, consider **VOTING EARLY** via absentee ballot. It has never been easier. Minnesota residents have an incredible resource at their disposal: **MNVOTES.ORG** is a user-friendly website where you can register to vote, request an absentee ballot/check the status of your absentee submission, view your sample ballot, and learn more about the races and candidates. **You can also vote absentee in-person at the county courthouse in downtown Duluth.**



If you missed the October 16 deadline to pre-register, you are also allowed to register on Election Day, but it will take a bit longer. We are expecting a big turnout and traditionally, 10-20% of voters register that day.

Remember you will need to *re*-register if...

- You have not voted in over four years,
- You have moved since the last time you voted
- You have changed your name (gotten married or divorced)

The easiest way to register on Election Day, is to bring a current photo ID with your current address on it if possible. Otherwise you can use another type of photo ID (e.g. passport, old driver's license, tribal ID or student ID) *along with* proof of your current Canosia address (e.g. recent utility bill, phone or TV bill, credit card bill, mortgage statement, etc.) These can be a hard copy or displayed on your phone. FYI- property tax statements will not work as proof of residence.

If none of these options work, you can also bring another registered Canosia voter who can vouch that you live within our precinct.

Not sure if you are already registered? visit **MNVOTES.org**

**Please do not hesitate to contact the Township Clerk (218-590-6746), the St. Louis County Auditor's Office (726-2385) or the MN Secretary of State's Office 1-877-600-VOTE (8683) with any questions!**

## DILAPIDATED BUILDINGS, CARS, AND SOLID WASTE

Over the past three years there have been several requests from Canosia residents on what can be done about removal of burned out and dilapidated buildings, too many vehicles stored or excessive amounts of debris or solid waste stored on neighboring properties. The concern is that these conditions can be an unattractive nuisance where neighborhood kids might get hurt, they might present a safety problem for firefighters if called to fight a fire, they might attract rodents or they might lower the property values of neighboring properties.

The town board has had some success working with property owners to clean up some of these issues. Stored vehicle regulations are covered in the zoning ordinance and WLSSD has helped us to resolve some of the solid waste issues with their ordinance that covers our township. The removal of dilapidated, abandoned, or burned out structures or debris are not covered currently by any county, township or WLSSD ordinances. To deal with these issues the town may need to adopt an anti-blight ordinance of its own similar to those found in some townships and most municipalities. Having an ordinance of this type could potentially enable us to apply for grants to help residents correct these blight issues.

A draft anti-blight ordinance is in the initial stage of being developed by the board as a first step to deal with the removal of structures and debris that present a problem. We need your ideas and input on this. A copy of the draft ordinance can be found on our web page at [canosiatownship.org](http://canosiatownship.org). Please let us know your thoughts via email ([canosiatownship@yahoo.com](mailto:canosiatownship@yahoo.com)) or phone (218-729-9833).

## NOXIOUS WEED ALERT!

**HAVE YOU SEEN THIS WEED?**



We are noticing an increased amount of Japanese Knotweed growing throughout the township. These 10 ft. tall, bamboo-like weeds are destructive and tough...so tough they can actually withstand fire and grow right through asphalt.

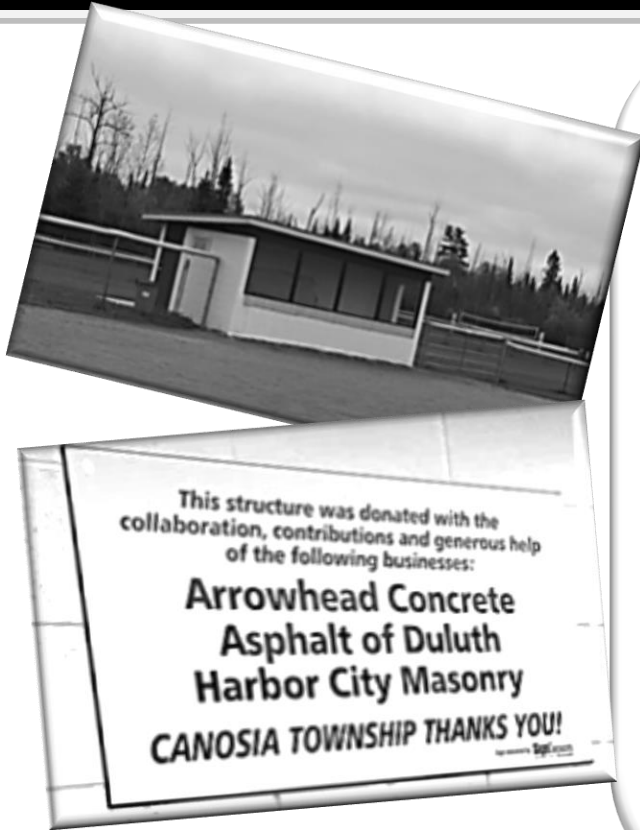
**Please note:** *chopping down knotweeds will only invigorate them.* If you have them on your property, please research the best processes and/or herbicides to get rid of them, and pay close attention to special lakeshore restrictions.

The Minnesota DOT, DNR, US Forest Service and the Duluth Cisma Stewardship Network all are good online educational resources.

If you need a good book, please stop by our Little Free Library located on the side of the town hall.



## REC AREA NEWS!



There was a lot of progress at the recreation area this summer. We are impressed and grateful for the generosity of the donors that enabled these projects.

The completion of the new dugout is the most notable development. The dugout turned out great and was built primarily by donation, saving the township thousands of dollars. We would like to thank **Harbor City Masonry** who arranged and accomplished the construction, **Arrowhead Concrete** who donated materials, and **Asphalt of Duluth** who donated the asphalt pad in front of the building. The sign posted on the building to thank these contributors was donated by **Sign Decisions**. Our recreation manager, **Mike Ellingson**, coordinated the work with these contractors. He also roofed and trimmed the dugout then painted it with the help of **Nels Swenson**.

We sincerely thank all these contributors for their involvement. The remaining \$6,000+ for expenses for demolition and gravel, electrical wiring, roofing, trim, and paint were funded by the money received from the Proctor Schools referendum.

Another development is the installation of electronic scoreboards for the two baseball fields. At the request of Proctor Baseball, the town board approved spending a portion of our Proctor School referendum money to purchase the scoreboards. Proctor Baseball coordinated the installment. Several of the power poles at the recreation area were also replaced by Minnesota Power at no cost.

Special thanks to all the following who contributed time, manpower and resources to the scoreboard project: **Parsons Electric, Kraemer Construction, Hartel's/DBJ, Halvor Lines, Lamar, Twin Ports Laborers Union (Local #1091), Arrowhead Concrete, Operating Engineers (#49), and Minnesota Power.**

The tennis courts look good, but the surface has developed unexpected cracks within a year after installation. Although they don't significantly affect use of the courts at this time, we are working with the contractor to have them repaired.

At the request of a young resident, the town board granted approval to Mike Ellingson to build a tennis practice wall at the east side of the tennis area. It was a great idea and patrons seem to be glad it will be available.

We are proud of the Canosia Recreation Area, we are grateful for the donations from our community, and are delighted with the number of people that use this community asset. We will continue to improve and upgrade this facility to make it even more popular for our residents. Thank you to all.

- Daniel J. Golen, Canosia Town Board Chairman





## HISTORICAL NOTES

This October marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1918 Forest Fire that devastated our area. The Canosia Township Historical Society has contributed the following article detailing the terrifying circumstances our residents endured during the fire.

### **AUTOISTS HIT ON PIKE LAKE ROAD, SCENES DESCRIBED BY EYE WITNESSES**

I, H. Filiatrault, and party consisting of Art Filiatrault, Victor Filiatrault, Floyd Fearer and Wife, Mary Regall, Raymond Sicard had a very narrow escape Saturday being caught in the fire near the Jackson School.

The party left here about 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon with two cars containing fire extinguishers and other equipment for the White Face River on the Miller Trunk road to fight forest fires. When they arrived at Twig, they found it impossible to get by as the fire at that point was at its height at the time. They remained at Twig and rendered all the assistance possible at that point and at 8 o'clock started back for Pike Lake. When they reached that point, Mr. Filiatrault concluded it would be best to get back to Duluth and started back, there being 4 cars following each other. Dr. Muirhead with a party of 4 people following them. The smoke being so dense that it was a case of following each other's tail light. One mile from Pike Lake they caught up with a truck and followed the truck. About one-half mile the other side of the Jackson school the truck went into the ditch and all cars following the tail light went into the ditch and landed right into a bed of fire. It was a case of when quick and cool headed action was necessary. Mr. Filiatrault turned

his car facing the embankment and all hands took hold of the car and pushed with all their might and get the car back on the road again and turned it round and headed towards Pike Lake. Then all passengers piled into Mr. Filiatrault's car and started on the return trip to Pike lake. They picked up a woman and five children at that point making their way back to Pike lake and also another woman with two children and made their way back to Pike lake with 20 passengers, one of whom was a soldier in uniform from the Twin Cities who had been in one of the other cars that went into the ditch.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Fearer and Mrs. Regalia left the car when it was back in the ditch and started to run back to Pike Lake but were afterward picked up about 200 feet, nearly exhausted. All three of them quite badly burned on the face, hands and limbs.

On arriving at Pike Lake, which Mr. Filiatrault figured that if they could make it, they would be perfectly safe, they found a number of other automobile parties who were there waiting for the road to be safe to travel, among whom were Dr. Johnson and wife, Dr. Kaake and wife and Mr. and Mrs. Fox.

Louie Anderson, who had been fighting fires at Twig earlier in the afternoon, organized the men at his place and brought into action every bucket, milk can, tub and vessel of every descriptor and got them filled with water

and distributed at every point around the building as well as the county tool house and stationed men at every point watching for and extinguishing sparks which were falling in great numbers as they fell. To this precaution is due the saving of the Anderson property as well as approximately 50 to 60 people who had taken refuge at that point. Through the night settlers, who had lost their all, kept coming in. Some quite badly burned and blinded from the smoke and fire. A number of trips were made with automobiles stationed there to the different localities and took people away from their homes and brought them into Pike lake. At 5 o'clock in the morning, conditions began to clear a little and different parties began to drive back to Duluth.

A peculiar circumstance occurred. When Mr. Filiatrault returned to Duluth at 5 o'clock in the morning, the car they had abandoned when they went into the ditch was not to be found. The following day when he was at Police headquarters he learned that two prisoners from the work farm had seen this car and got it out of the ditch, loaded two women and two children who happened to be at that point, picked up a purse they found on the road, came to Duluth and delivered the women and children as well as the purse to police headquarters and delivered the car there. No doubt the fact they did this saved the lives of the two women and children they brought in.

## **Canosia Township Newsletter**

Canosia Town Hall  
4896 Midway Road  
Duluth, MN 55811

### **TOWN HALL**

4896 Midway Road, Duluth MN 55811  
Phone/Fax: 218-729-9833

Website: canosiatownship.org  
Email: canosiatownship@yahoo.com

Official Posting Places:  
Town Hall and Intersection of Lavaque & Martin Roads

### **TOWN BOARD**

Regular meeting: first Wed. of each month at 7 pm

Dan Golen, Chair: 464-2365  
Kurt Brooks, Supervisor: 393-0304  
Kevin Connick, Supervisor: 590-6473  
Susan Krasaway, Clerk: 590-6746  
Cheryl Borndal, Treasurer: 729-9833

### **PLANNING & ZONING**

Regular Meeting: 2nd Wed. of each month at 7 pm

Tim Walburg, Director: 340-5924  
Call for building permits or P&Z questions  
canosiapz@gmail.com

### **PLAWCS**

Phone: 451-3310  
Email: plawcsclerk@gmail.com  
Website: www.PLAWCS.com

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT & BURNING PERMITS**

Gene Stevens, Chief: 729-6211  
Emergencies: 911  
Burning Permits: Tom Amendola 393-5533

### **OTHER**

Rec Area: Director Mike Ellingson: 260-5599

Historical Society: 729-9833, Regular meeting on the  
fourth Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

Recycling: Tues/Thu 5-8 p.m., Sat 9 a.m. – 5p.m.