

TOWN OF BERGEN

* ESTABLISHED APRIL 2, 1813 *

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GERALD WOOD

ASSESSOR
RHONDA SAULSBURY



SUPERVISOR'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2025

MEETINGS AND UPDATES:

- BBCA Trunk or Treat: I had the opportunity to assist with the town's trunk or treat booth at the BBCA's Halloween event on 10/18. Thank you to Teresa and Joel for taking the lead to set up and for the shared opportunity to pick pumpkins to give out. Thank you to Karen E for your help with the booth and for the hit of an idea to have a pumpkin patch. I sent a thank you to the Starowitz family for the donation of the pumpkins that the children were able to decorate and take with them.
- Parks – Robins Brook Playgrounds: Belinda, Teresa, Joel, and I met on 10/21 to review the estimate for playground equipment we received from Miricle Playground. It was agreed upon that we should start smaller with the amount of playground equipment to consider and have equipment (playground/swing) at two locations in the park. One of the locations would be by the pavilion and the other area could be in the front of the park. The group reviewed equipment from another company Pro-Playgrounds, that Teresa found. In follow up to our meeting I reached out to Pro-Playground and to Miricle playground to get prices for equipment and installation. Once we have the costs from both we can determine next steps and when to submit to the board for approval. We also discussed the potential for a dog park at Robins Brook Park. Based upon input from the Board, we are recommending a survey be completed to determine interest in a dog park. We also will be seeking the Board's thought on cameras for the pavilion and keeping the main gate unlocked at the park.
- Community Input on Future Development of Parks: To enhance our planning for the parks, I would like the support of the Board, Joel, and Teresa in hosting a community meeting with interested stakeholders to obtain feedback and solicit ideas for the future of Robins Brook, Drew's Nature Center, and the West Shore linear park. We could invite community members and at the meeting we would share what some of the thoughts are and obtain input. I would recommend the meeting be on 12/9 at 5 pm, just prior to the town board meeting.
- Drew's Nature Center: I was able to visit Drew's Nature Center when the BOCES Conservation Students were working on clearing trails and removing some of the invasive species. The students are enjoying the work and the main trail is looking better. As there is a significant amount of work left to be done on this project it most likely will most likely be a couple years in duration.
- Fire Department Mowing and Plowing- Intermunicipal Agreement: I received notification from the Chairperson of the Fire Department Board of Directors that they agree with the proposed intermunicipal agreement for the fire district to pay the town for the plowing and mowing of the fire hall property. The request for approval of this agreement from the Town is on the agenda for the 11/4/2025 meeting.

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- Library Reimbursement/Future Lease : On 10/27, Teresa, Belinda and I attended a meeting with Sally C, Library Board Chair, the Library Manager and two of the library board members to discuss the costs that town tax payers are paying for the operation of the library out of their town tax. I presented that we would be looking to have the library pay a higher rent to reimburse the town for library expenses, now that they are their own taxing jurisdiction. I presented the cost and the amount we would be looking for an increase in rent. The current lease between the town and library, requires the town to pay the identified expenses. However, the lease was written at a time that the town, through town taxes was funding the library. The members of the library board, indicated they would look for ways to reduce the expenses and discuss with the board if there is anyway for them to start paying more in rent to cover the expenses that the town has and is paying through the town budget. The library also inquired as to the wiliness of the Town to sell them the building. In response, I shared I would discuss this with the Board.
- NYS Association of Towns-Grant Workshop: On 10/29 I attended a grant workshop at the Byron Town Hall that was hosted by the New York State Association of Towns (AOT). The workshop focused on what is necessary in preparation to submit grants, to be the most competitive and, they provided information on available grants for various projects.

UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

- Park Rules/ Code- Thank you Councilperson Eley for providing your edits and thoughts on the draft park rules and town Code. If any other board member has comments please provide by mid Nov. I forwarded a copy of the daft town code that outlines the rules to our attorney for his review. Our goal is to finalize both the rules and code and hold the public hearing in Feb. of 2026
- Fire Department- Future Lease of Town Hall Space: To date I have not received a response to my correspondence to the Fire Department regarding a memorandum of understanding outlining key components of any new lease. I have reached out to them to see if they are interested in meeting to discuss terms of the lease effective 1/1/2029. Time is of the essence as if we cannot reach agreement the Town needs to make alternative plans.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

ERNIE HAYWOOD, SUPERVISOR
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