

Conversation with the Mayor June 4, 2007

Vicky Daly

The Way it Works

Sometimes a reality check is in order and this is one of those times. Another way of putting it is 'this is the way it works - slowly.' What I am talking about is the bathroom complex at the marina and the terminal wall improvements and boat launch near the Route 21 bridge. We won't be using either one of them this year because working with grant monies is a slow and arduous process. Were it our money, things could go more quickly, but it is not and so we must realize the reality and adapt to the schedule as it evolves and be grateful that we have these tremendous assets, both economic and quality of life, coming to Palmyra.

For example, I received unofficial word of the grant awards in mid-November 2006. An official announcement came sometime later. The contracts by which we must abide were dated March 12, 2007. The first of the two, the Restroom project at the marina, was returned approximately two weeks ago. What was the hold up on our end? The contract required plans and cost estimates which we had to have produced by our Village Engineer. Each project has a time frame and the schedule for the Terminal Wall Improvements, etc. doesn't even start until August 2007. In that case, we are gathering information and fine tuning as much as we can, but we don't want to put any local money into the Terminal Wall project until after contracts are signed. Why? Because this is a matching funds grant and work done or funds expended before the contracts are signed does not count.

So, we - all of us - are working to do what needs to be done, step by step, to have these projects come to completion.

One other example: Peter Wiles, owner and operator of Mid-lakes Navigation, our neighbor in Macedon, and Dick Powell, owner of a similar tour boat company on Lake Champlain, went to the Inland Waterways Boat Show near London last fall. They were there representing CANAL New York, the Business and Marketing Alliance of which a number of Palmyra merchants and the Village itself are members. While there, they met Leo McNeir, travel writer. Two weeks ago Leo and his wife Cassandra, also a writer, explored the Western Erie Canal on a Mid-lakes hire boat. During that week they spent two days in Palmyra and found it delightful. The McNeirs were taken with the beauty of the village and the marina, the friendliness of the people and the history which is so uniquely ours. History trumps pretty and we have both. Leo will go home and write his article and people will read it and ask questions and then come. That's the way it works with collaboration and networking.

